

On-Site Education of Practical Languages for Area Studies

Report in 2012

— Hindi, Center for the Study of Developing Societies, India, Term(2 July. 2012 -
1 October. 2012)—

Year of Enrollment: 2012

Graduate School of Asian and African Areas Studies

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On My research theme and/or Language Training

My research topic is Child Development Service scheme in India which provides a comprehensive service of health and education for mothers and children under the age of six living in disadvantaged areas, such as slums and rural areas. This Scheme started with 33 projects in 1975, and now 6908 projects are implemented in the whole country. However, various problems as regards the scheme have been pointed out, such as no-installation of toilets and non-implementation of the non-formal education plan. There is not only quantitative expansion of child care centers in recent years. NGOs provide some of the services in order to improve the quality of service and work in cooperation with the state government. My research theme is to find out what roles intermediate groups, such as NGOs, play in the child development scheme for children to secure welfare and education.

Features of the Language

Hindi is used as an official language in India and is also the language used in everyday life in the northern and central India. In the slums of three cities that I have investigated, Hindi is used as a common language by migrants from various areas in India, Bangladesh and Nepal. Therefore, Hindi is an important language used by people in various classes and regions.

Contents of the Training

In this language training, I formed a plan with a focus on improving listening and speaking skills. In Delhi, I was taught Hindi for two hours from 6p.m. on weekdays from local college students. The contents were learning of basic grammar and pronunciation with focus on basic conversation needed in everyday life, such as how to bargain with a Rickshaw driver. In relation to the acquisition of pronunciation, I stored the voice of college students in the recorder and I practiced pronunciation by imitating the intonation and re-listening to the recording many times. In addition, I was also learning practical knowledge, such as when to use English words.

In Kolkata and Mumbai, I was taught Hindi for two hours almost every day from 6p.m. by a tutor. In parallel with learning grammar and pronunciation, I did a practical listening training in the form of question and answer, using the words and the phrases that I learnt during the day. On the basis of it, I practiced using these words and phrases immediately in the following day's interviews. In addition, I also practiced listening and

speaking as much as possible whenever there was a chance to use in Hindi such as the occasion when I dined with NGO's staff during the research.

Memorable Experience in the Term

The child center, which provides child development services, is also the place for meetings of women's organizations in the community. When I sat in the meeting, they were putting their fingerprints on a notebook. I asked the staff of the NGO and he answered that "this is an attendance book, they can't write their names".

I realized that basic education has not spread when I saw the situation. I had the experience to witness how important it is to provide opportunities to learn how to write.

Self-assessment of the Extent of Achievement

In this language training, my target was to improve listening and speaking skills. With respect to listening, I feel that I could improve this skill to a good extent. I was not able to understand what they were talking about at all when I first landed there, but after the period of study, I was able to understand at least some of what they were saying. With respect to speaking, I became able to express myself and ask questions.

I was able to improve certain language skills in this way. However, the fact remains that I'm in the elementary level because I can't ask difficult questions. Therefore, I believe that it is necessary to continue further study in the future.



【Child Care Center in Delhi】



【Reporter and Tutor】



【Women's Group in Community】