



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH

IN APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Volume: 5 Issue: V Month of publication: May 2017

DOI:

www.ijraset.com

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International Journal for Research in Applied Science & Engineering Technology (IJRASET)

Intellectualizing School Children through Competency Training in C Programming

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Abstract: Skilling school children will complement them with disciplinary skills and knowledge. It will create opportunities' and skilled expertise in the field of Informational Technology (IT). The present study deals with SUITS (Schools-University-Industry-Tieup-Scheme), an award winning skill development programme in the world provided by IECD (Institute for Entrepreneurship and Career Development) in the academic year of 2016. The research design of the study is descriptive research by describing the characteristics of the competency of skill development programmes. 192 students are the respondents of the study. Purposive sampling method was used to collect the responses from the respondents through structured questionnaire. The major findings show that there are no significance associations among the personal profile and the competency variables of the study due to strong positive responses from the respondents. Through SUITS the students enrolled in C programming can be develop their mastering knowledge in other relevant computer programmes.

Keywords: IECD, SUITS, Skill Development, Competency Training, C programming

I. INTRODUCTION

Skill development to school children is the need of the hour for career development. A motivated teaching-learning institution satisfying their student's need and educate them with higher morale. There are number of educational institutions, schools, colleges and universities provided various skill development training for their students. By examining the skill gap in now-a-day skilled employment, they knew very well about the future needs and future requirement of employment in job markets. Participating of younger people make India as developed country. It makeover the students with critical thinking, innovation, creativity and better communication. Students are the gearing factors to support our country's economic growth in future decades.

Institutions like schools and colleges investing in initial skills will explore the differences in diverging development with their independent skills. It will flourish an educated pool of young people by preconditioning them with entrepreneurship skills and career development by addressing a quality education for them. Most of the young people skipping their school education and planned with basic employment to fulfill their family need, this will results in lack of skills and this future generation may suffers the same. To avoid this, the management of educational institutions should make their children participate in development training during their school education. UNESCO, (2017), reported that, supporting the school children by developing national policies, with encouraged stakeholder-ship of youth in country's development. This has been done by, capacity building programmes, edutainment training comprised with education and entertainment for school children, MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) of skill development, developing youth network with specific skills and establishing multilevel competition in global competition. Providing technical skills for children makes them entrepreneurs in developing their own mobile or android applications, writing game theories, virtual access programming and much more.

A. Organizational Profile and Study Area

IECD was established during the academic year of 2004 to 2005, in the founder- directorship of the corresponding author of this paper. By learning the skill gaps, the author has planned to eliminate the unemployment problem by providing guidance to the younger generation and entrepreneurial training programmes. IECD has been offering over 100 skill development programmes in 10 skill sectors and providing university convocation to the participants. The corresponding author of this paper have arranged a pilot project of providing computer science training to school children in the age group of 5 to 14. The respondents have been chosen from a local school of Tiruchirappalli only in Saturdays and Sundays. 54 school children have chosen as respondents and after the successful monitoring and evaluation of IECD experts committee headed by the corresponding author of the present study, found

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www.ijraset.com Volume 5 Issue V, May 2017 IC Value: 45.98 ISSN: 2321-9653

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that the entire project of providing computer programmes namely computer basics, office automation, logo programming, C and C++ programming to school children were very useful for acquisition of computation skills in systematic and scientific way.

In the year of 2009 SUITS was launched by IECD by implementing the programmes in 22 districts in Tamil Nadu. The school children enrolled under SUITS is provided with separate student's text book for their respective programmes, the instructors of the children too provided with teacher's handbook; SUITS also offers free training to in-charge staffs. They have conducted examinations periodically to assess the students, update model question papers with answer keys in IECD official website; the students can self-assess their ability through answering OMR sheets in the website. All the schools enrolled under SUITS are periodically monitored by the representatives of SUITS and its tie-up industries. They have been conducting theory and practical examinations in schools in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry states. The school children are honored with state-level award and price for outstanding school and students. All the students under SUITS are provided with convocation certificate after the completion of the programme. In the year of 2016 to 2017 SUITS was awarded by Unique World Records, Elite World Records, Asian Records Academy, Tamilan Book of Records and India Records Academy for its eminent skill development training for nearly 82,812 students in the academic year of 2016, which is an eminent achievement in the world through the corresponding author of this paper. The present study deals with the student enrolled in SUITS for C programming language in 192 schools in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. One student was selected from each schools through purposive sampling, in which homogeneous sampling methodology was followed while collecting the responses from the respondents at 192 schools in the study area.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Parthasarathy, et. al., (2017)

Examined that, the personal profile of the respondents in the skill development programmes positively correlated with the skill development training programme. It shows the involvement of the respondents in skill development training. **TamilNadu Skill Development Corporation**, (2016), explained that developing a youth with skills will results in developing the economic progress of the nation and societal development of them.

B. Sunitha Sangh and Srija A, (2015),

In their research explained that, providing short term skill development programmes will provides an opportunity to learn various courses. Through these programmes, they can achieve additional qualification concurrently during their school or college. **Matilda** Gosling and et.al., (2014), described about the skill assessment of employees in organizations that people with institutional support can be raised with individual skill development and they performed well in their workplaces. These can be done through forecasting the skill demand and implement sector oriented training in respective fields for the employees.

C. Nobel Social Educational Society, (2013),

Explained that educational institutions should provide skill development training through, allocating proper resources like teachers, teaching aids, learning handouts, practical aspects and so on. Aya Okada, (2012), reported that India should invest in training programmers for rural and semi urban youths, by motivating them with explaining our country's economic condition. This can be achieved through proper delivery of educational system through both secondary and higher secondary educations in Indian schools.

D. Muriel Dunbar, (2011),

In his research described that, the vocational and skill development training will improvise the economic status of their family, resulting in eliminating the shortage of skills in future. International Labor Office, (2010), reported that there are positive relationship among the employment supply and need in global market and updating operational knowledge of specified skills through simulation methods like online tutoring and presenting relevant videos. According to Lisa A. Burke and Holly M. Htchins, (2007), explained that through skill education, the skill will be transferring through, skill building, diversification of multiple skills, and so on.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research design of the present study is descriptive research, used to observe the responses from the respondents through standardized questionnaire organized by corresponding author of the present study. Here the authors followed naturalistic descriptive observation, which implies that, the respondents has been observed in their own educational environment, which provides the exact information through survey investigation. Sampling design of the study is Purposive sampling, in which

www.ijraset.com Volume 5 Issue V, May 2017 IC Value: 45.98 ISSN: 2321-9653

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homogeneous sampling methodology was followed while collecting the responses from the respondents. The respondents of the present study having specific characteristics and belong to the maximum age group of 13 years. A structured questionnaire was formulated with 3 factors namely, career development, opinion on SUITS and teaching-learning methods. Each factor contains 5 questions. Based on Likert's 5-point scale, the responses have been calculated through SPSS software. The calculations and results for chi square analysis, ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) and t-test are explained in this paper.

IV. PROBLEM AND OBJECTIVES

- A. To study about the personal variables of the respondents in the study area.
- B. To find out the distribution of responses of the competence variable of SUITS in the study area.
- C. To find out the association among the respondent's area of living and availability of computers at home.
- D. To find out the association among the respondents' parental education and availability of computers at home.
- E. To find out the association among the respondents' parental education and practice in the computer system at home.
- F. To find out the difference between respondent's gender and the competence variables of SUITS.
- G. To find out the variances between personal variables (respondents' class, area of living and educated parents) and the competence variables of SUITS.

V. HYPOTHESES

- A. There will be no significant association among respondent's area of living and availability of computers at home.
- B. There will be no significant association among respondent's parental education and availability of computers at home.
- C. There will be no significant association among respondent's parental education and practice at home.
- D. There will be no significant difference between respondent's gender and the competence variables of SUITS.
- E. There will be no significant variance among the respondents' class and the competence variables of SUITS.
- F. There will be no significant variance among the respondents' area of living and the competence variables of SUITS.
- G. There will be no significant variance among the respondents' educated parents and the competence variables of SUITS.

VI. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

A. General Findings

Table-1 Percentage Analysis showing the Frequency Distribution of personal profile of the respondents

| Personal l | Profile | Frequency | Percent |
|------------------|--------------|-----------|---------|
| | Male | 67 | 34.9 |
| Gender/Sex | Female | 125 | 65.1 |
| | VIII | 186 | 96.9 |
| Class | IX | 3 | 1.6 |
| | XI | 3 | 1.6 |
| | Rural | 115 | 59.9 |
| Area of Living | Urban | 66 | 34.4 |
| | Tribal | 11 | 5.7 |
| | Illiterate | 34 | 17.7 |
| Educated Parents | Upto HSC | 90 | 46.9 |
| Educated Farents | UG | 41 | 21.4 |
| | PG and Above | 27 | 14.1 |
| Availability of | Yes | 108 | 56.3 |
| Computer at home | No | 84 | 43.8 |
| Practice at home | Yes | 99 | 56.3 |
| | No | 93 | 43.8 |

Table-1 shows that 65.1% of the respondents are femaleand remaining 34.9% are male respondents. 96.9% of the respondents belongs to 8th standard, 1.6% belongs to 9th standard and 1.6% belongs to 11th standard. Nearly 59.9% of the respondents living in

 www.ijraset.com
 Volume 5 Issue V, May 2017

 IC Value: 45.98
 ISSN: 2321-9653

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rural area and 34.4% of the respondents living in urban and only 5.7% of the respondents belongs to the tribal area. 46.9% of the respondent's parents are educated upto higher secondary education, 21.4% of the respondent's parents are under graduates, 17.7% are illiterates and 14.1% are educated with post-graduation and above. 56.3% of the respondents are having computers in their home, hence they are practicing their practical exercises in home and 43.8% of them are not having, hence they can't practice at home.

Table-2 Distribution of Competence Variables of SUITS

| Competence Variables of SUITS | Statements | Strongly agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|
| | SUITS gives a better future | 109 (56.85) | 69 (39.9) | 4 (2.21) | 7 (3.63) | 3 (1.6) |
| | SUITS not enhancing computer knowledge | 32 (16.7) | 38 (19.8) | 14 (7.3) | 69 (35.96) | 39 (20.3) |
| Career Development | SUITS improves individual skills | 125 (65.1) | 59 (30.7) | 7 (3.6) | 1 (0.5) | - |
| | SUITS provides practical fluency | 133 (69.3) | 54 (28.1) | 5 (2.6) | - | - |
| | SUITS mastering other relevant subjects | 96 (50) | 82 (42.7) | 11 (5.7) | 2 (1) | 1 (0.5) |
| | Syllabus periodically completed by instructors | 137 (71.4) | 46 (24) | 8 (4.2) | 1 (0.5) | - |
| | Simple and easy tutoring | 145 (75.5) | 44 (22.9) | 3 (1.6) | - | - |
| | Fulfilling methodology of | 130 | 54 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| | instructors | (67.7) | (28.1) | (3.1) | (0.5) | (0.5) |
| Opinion on | Practical session provides more exposures | 114 (59.4) | 66 (34.4) | (3.6) | (1) | (1.6) |
| SUITS | Satisfied with examination | 120 (62.5) | 61 (31.8) | 10 (5.2) | 1 (0.5) | - |
| | Instructors support during practicals | 142 (74) | 48 (25) | 2 (1) | - | - |
| Teachin- | Adequate computer system for students | 95 (49.5) | 75 (39.1) | 18 (9.4) | 4 (2.1) | - |
| Learning Methods | Knowledge updation through assignments and projects | 105 (54.7) | 77 (40.1) | 10 (5.2) | - | - |
| | Understandable Teaching-Learning materials | 121 (63) | 59 (30.7) | 10 (5.2) | 2 (1) | - |
| | Insufficient practical hours | 58 (30.2) | 54 (28.1) | 28 (14.6) | 35 (18.2) | 17 (8.9) |

Based on the table-2, 56.85% of the respondents agreed that SUITS will better future for their future development, 35.96% of the respondents disagree about the variable, SUITS not enhancing computer knowledge. It reveals that through SUITS, students will be enhance their computer knowledge. Nearly 65.1% of the respondents strongly agreed SUITS have improved their individual skills. 69.3% of the respondents have strongly agreed that with the help of SUITS they were trained up fluently with computer typing and programming skills. 50% of the respondents strongly agreed that, SUITS helps them to learn other computer science subjects efficiently.

Nearly 71.4% of the respondents strongly agreed that their SUITS in-charge staffs are periodically completing their syllabus. 75.5% of the respondents are strongly agreed that their in-charge staffs instructing their syllabus through their effective presentation.

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 IC Value: 45.98
 ISSN: 2321-9653

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59.4% of the respondents strongly agreed that they have experienced more exposure in computer practicals through SUITS. 62.5% of the respondents strongly agreed that they are satisfied with the SUITS examination conducted by IECD.

74% of the respondents strongly agreed that, their in-charge staffs have supported a lot through practical sessions. 49.5% of the respondents strongly agreed that, the computers provided for their lab was sufficient for all of them to learn. 54.7% of them responded strongly agree that, they were very much privileged in C programming through the assignments and projects allotted for them by their in-charge staffs. 63% of them responds strongly agree that, the students handbook are very easy to learn and the incharge staffs are made their tutoring understandable through teacher's handbook provided for SUITS.

B. Hypotheses Related Findings

Table-3 Chi Square Showing the Association between respondent's Area of Living and Availability of Computer at home

| | Competence Variables of SUITS | | System av | vailability | Total | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|--------|--|--|
| | Competence | variables of SULIS | Yes | No | Total | | |
| | Rural | Count | 61 | 54 | 115 | | |
| | | % within Area of Living | 53.0% | 47.0% | 100.0% | | |
| | | % within System availability | 56.5% | 64.3% | 59.9% | | |
| Area of | | Count | 41 | 25 | 66 | | |
| 11100 01 | Living Urban | % within Area of Living | 62.1% | 37.9% | 100.0% | | |
| Living | | % within System availability | 38.0% | 29.8% | 34.4% | | |
| | | Count | 6 | 5 | 11 | | |
| | Tribal | % within Area of Living | 54.5% | 45.5% | 100.0% | | |
| | | % within System availability | 5.6% | 6.0% | 5.7% | | |
| | | Count | 108 | 84 | 192 | | |
| Tot | al | % within Area of Living | 56.2% | 43.8% | 100.0% | | |
| | | % within System availability | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | | |
| | χ2=1.42 and Sig=0.49 | | | | | | |

Table-3 shows that shows that Pearson's chi square value is 1.42 and its 2-tailed significant level is greater than 0.05. Hence there are no significant association between respondents' area of living and availability of computers at home of the respondents. Thus, the hypothesis-1 is 'accepted'.

Table-4 Chi Square Showing the Association between Respondent's Parental education and Availability of Computer at home

| | Competence Variables of SUITS | | | vailability | Total |
|----------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|-------------|--------|
| | Competence var | lables of SULLS | Yes | No | Total |
| | | Count | 17 | 17 | 34 |
| | Illiterate | % within Edu. Parents | 50.0% | 50.0% | 100.0% |
| | | % within System availability | 15.7% | 20.2% | 17.7% |
| | | Count | 42 | 48 | 90 |
| | Upto HSC | % within Edu. Parents | 46.7% | 53.3% | 100.0% |
| Educated | Educated | % within System availability | 38.9% | 57.1% | 46.9% |
| Parents | | Count | 27 | 14 | 41 |
| | UG | % within Edu. Parents | 65.9% | 34.1% | 100.0% |
| | | % within System availability | 25.0% | 16.7% | 21.4% |
| | | Count | 22 | 5 | 27 |
| | PG and Above | % within Edu. Parents | 81.5% | 18.5% | 100.0% |
| | | % within System availability | 20.4% | 6.0% | 14.1% |

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| | | / | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--|--|
| Total | Count | 108 | 84 | 192 | | |
| | % within Edu. Parents | 56.2% | 43.8% | 100.0% | | |
| | % within System availability | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | | |
| χ2= 12.420and Sig=0.06 | | | | | | |

Table-4 shows that shows that Pearson's chi square value is 12.42 and its 2-tailed significant level is greater than 0.05. Hence there are no significant association between respondent's educated parents and availability of computers at home of the respondents. Thus, the hypothesis-2 is 'accepted'.

Table-5 Chi Square Showing the Association between Parental education and practice at home

| | Competence Variables of SUITS | | | it home | Total |
|----------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|---------|--------|
| | Competence var | lables of SULLS | Yes | No | 10141 |
| | | Count | 12 | 22 | 34 |
| | Illiterate | % within Edu. Parents | 35.3% | 64.7% | 100.0% |
| | | % within Usage in Computer | 12.1% | 23.7% | 17.7% |
| | | Count | 46 | 44 | 90 |
| | Educated Parents UG | % within Edu. Parents | 51.1% | 48.9% | 100.0% |
| Educated | | % within Usage in Computer | 46.5% | 47.3% | 46.9% |
| Parents | | Count | 22 | 19 | 41 |
| | | % within Edu. Parents | 53.7% | 46.3% | 100.0% |
| | | % within Usage in Computer | 22.2% | 20.4% | 21.4% |
| | | Count | 19 | 8 | 27 |
| | PG and Above | % within Edu. Parents | 70.4% | 29.6% | 100.0% |
| | | % within Usage in Computer | 19.2% | 8.6% | 14.1% |
| | | Count | 99 | 93 | 192 |
| | Total | % within Edu. Parents | 51.6% | 48.4% | 100.0% |
| | | % within Usage in Computer | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| | | χ2= 12.420and Sig=0.05 | | | |

Table-5 shows that Pearson's chi square value is 12.42 and its 2-tailed significant level is equal to 0.05. Hence there are significant association between educated parents and practice at home of the respondents. It implies that respondent's educated parents can help their children to practice their C programming exercises at home. Thus, the hypothesis-3 is 'accepted'.

Table- 6 T Test showing Difference between Gender and Competency Variables of SUITS

| Competence Variables of SUITS | | Levene's Test for Equality of Variances | | t-test for Equality of Means | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| | | F | Sig. | t | df | Sig. (2-tailed) |
| Career Development | Equal variances assumed | .179 | .673 | .399 | 190 | 0.690 |
| | Equal variances not assumed | | | .393 | 129.513 | 0.695 |
| Opinion about SUITS | Equal variances assumed | .831 | .363 | 390 | 190 | 0.697 |
| opinion acoust 20112 | Equal variances not assumed | | | 400 | 145.070 | 0.690 |
| Teaching - Learning | Equal variances assumed | .196 | .658 | 045 | 190 | 0.964 |
| Method | Equal variances not assumed | | | 044 | 129.082 | 0.965 |

Table-6 shows that the 2-tailed significant value is greater than 0.05. It indicates that there is no significant difference between gender and competence variables of SUITS in the study area. Thus, the hypothesis- 4 is 'accepted'.

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 Volume 5 Issue V, May 2017

 IC Value: 45.98
 ISSN: 2321-9653

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Table-7 ANOVA Showing Variance among the Respondents' class and Competency Variables of SUITS

| Competence Variables of SUITS | | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----|-------------|-------|-------|
| | Between Groups | 12.449 | 2 | 6.225 | | |
| Career Development | Within Groups | 883.296 | 189 | 4.674 | 1.332 | 0.266 |
| | Total | 895.745 | 191 | | | |
| | Between Groups | 10.700 | 2 | 5.350 | | |
| Opinion about SUITS | Within Groups | 672.280 | 189 | 3.557 | 1.504 | 0.225 |
| | Total | 682.979 | 191 | | | |
| Teaching - Learning Method | Between Groups | 27.871 | 2 | 13.935 | | |
| | Within Groups | 938.796 | 189 | 4.967 | 2.806 | 0.063 |
| ivictilou | Total | 966.667 | 191 | | | |

Table-7 shows that the significant values of competence variables of SUITS are greater 0.05, hence there are no significant variance among the respondent's class and competence variables of SUITS. Thus, hypothesis-5 is accepted

Table-8 ANOVA Showing Variance among the Respondents' Area of living and Competency Variables of SUITS

| Competence Varia | bles of SUITS | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----|-------------|-------|-------|
| | Between Groups | 21.328 | 2 | 10.664 | | 0.103 |
| Career Development | Within Groups | 874.417 | 189 | 4.627 | 2.305 | |
| | Total | 895.745 | 191 | | | |
| | Between Groups | 15.494 | 2 | 7.747 | 2.194 | 0.114 |
| Opinion about SUITS | Within Groups | 667.485 | 189 | 3.532 | | |
| | Total | 682.979 | 191 | | | |
| | Between Groups | 8.057 | 2 | 4.028 | | |
| Teaching - Learning Method | Within Groups | 958.610 | 189 | 5.072 | .794 | 0.453 |
| | Total | 966.667 | 191 | | .794 | 555 |

Table-8 shows that the significant values of competence variables of SUITS are greater 0.05, hence there are no significant variance among the respondent's area of living and competence variables of SUITS. Thus, hypothesis-6 is accepted

Table-9 ANOVA Showing Variance among the Respondents' educated parents and Competency Variables of SUITS

| Competence Variables of SUITS | | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----|-------------|-------|-------|
| | Between Groups | 24.024 | 3 | 8.008 | | |
| Career Development | Within Groups | 871.721 | 188 | 4.637 | 1.727 | 0.163 |
| | Total | 895.745 | 191 | | | |
| | Between Groups | 20.229 | 3 | 6.743 | | |
| Opinion about SUITS | Within Groups | 662.750 | 188 | 3.525 | 1.913 | 0.129 |
| | Total | 682.979 | 191 | | | |
| Tanching Looming | Between Groups | .832 | 3 | .277 | | |
| Teaching - Learning Method | Within Groups | 965.834 | 188 | 5.137 | 0.054 | 0.983 |
| IVICTIOU | Total | 966.667 | 191 | | | |

Table-9 shows that the significant values of competence variables of SUITS are greater 0.05, hence there are no significant variances among the respondent's class and competence variables of SUITS. Thus, hypothesis-7 is 'accepted'.

www.ijraset.com Volume 5 Issue V, May 2017 IC Value: 45.98 ISSN: 2321-9653

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VI. CONCLUSION

Based on the analyses, it is concluded that, maximum respondents of the study area are class VIII students and majority of them are girls. Students from nearby villages utilizing their secondary school education and acquiring their skill development through SUITS. Though they are from rural background their parents are educated only upto higher secondary, who love to make their children educated and skillful in computer science field. Majority of the parents provided their children with a computer in their home and help their children to practice C programmes at home. This makes the children more convenient to perform well in practical examination.

The hypotheses related findings shows that, there are no significant association among the respondent's area of living and availability of computers at home, which shows that in spite of living in rural and tribal background, parents brought computers for their children to develop their computer learning skills. There are significant association among respondent's parental education parents and availability of computers at home. It implies that, parents of the respondents are educated secondary school and some of them area illiterates, hence they like to develop their children by providing valuable education and skills to them by proving computers for them, make them involved in SUITS for a better future. There is no difference between respondent's gender and competence variables of SUITS in the study area. There are no significant variations among the respondent's class and area of living with the competence variables of SUITS in the study area.

IECD provided separated handbook for students and in-charge computer staffs. It helps both of them to understand about the C language and scripting. It will improve their individual skill development and develop their ability in writing C language. Students can easily improve their career development through C language. By learning C language through SUITS, they learn to write C programmes for various application in their future career. C language is the base language for Linux operating system, to perform C++ and Java programming, neural network engineering, python programming, firmware development, GUI (Graphical User Interface) development, writing multi-threading programmes, network protocols, perl programming, to develop data structure, developing HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol), socket programming, shell scripting, developing dot net programmes, project development, to write coding for microcontrollers, writing prolog and ruby programming, writing softwares for PLC (Programmable Logic Controller) which is used in built-in-operating system, utilized in departmental store billing, EB billing, Bluetooth, motherboards, mainframe computers, etc., IECD provides an opportunity to encourage students with university convocation in their school level, make them feel more confident for future oriented goals. IECD also motivated them with gold medal for the toppers and selected best students by examining their performances. Students also experience better results in a short period of time through SUITS.

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