



## Relevance of Current Affairs : An Experimental Study in Context of College Students

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### ABSTRACT

*Reading daily current affairs will help in gaining more knowledge and to know the news happening around us. It will be more important for candidates preparing for all the Government exams. It helps the students to get current information as well as to improve their thinking and observation skill. The study is aimed to understand the importance of current affairs among under graduate students. Primary data were collected through self made tool. Purposive sampling method is used. This study revealed that by continuous discussion based study of current affairs among students leads to positive impact in their academic performance and career building.*

### KEY WORDS

**Current Affairs, Government Exams, Academic performance.**

### INTRODUCTION

As we enter into an increasingly competitive approach to education, introducing students to current affairs has never been more vital. Perhaps driven by an ambition to prepare students for top universities, schools are often forced to streamline a student's studies such that they become young experts in the disciplines they excel in. A student aiming to study science at university, for example, is often blinkered from humanities subjects and computing qualifications. Conversely, those hoping to study history or politics are often directed away from science subjects towards a humanities based program of learning. This is, of course, in many ways essential to preparing children for rigorous university applications.

However, this desire to ‘streamline’ can come at the expense of a well-rounded approach to education. Whilst universities ostensibly desire dedicated students committed to their chosen field, they also require those students to have a sophisticated and broad attitude to learning. This means that students hoping to achieve highly must be able to make connections, both within their discipline and between others. Engaging with current affairs develops these skills and helps students to expand their perspectives beyond their curriculum. By guiding students towards long reads rather than snappy news digests, young people can engage with current events within a thoughtful and in depth framework that fosters critical and sophisticated thinking.

Current and Affairs are the two words which give an interesting name to the subject of study. Current means recent, day to day life and Affairs means events, issues and many others. In a single term, we can say current affairs are the day to day incidents and events around us. The growing importance of Current Affairs poses the question on the utility of exerting energy on updating oneself with news. The significance of current affairs is undoubtedly different for different people who fall in different age brackets, pursue different objectives and have different interests. However, it can be stated that all social beings are bound to be affected by Current Affairs in more ways than one. Hence, it is advisable that people sit up and take note of this rapidly growing area of study.

Current affairs generally contain news, information, awareness and various other things that are happening in the world. Current affairs are related to every day in the life. Current affairs cover topics like national, international, sports, business, education, appointments, agreements, obituary, science and technology, defense, politics, crime, and ethics so on and forth. It may be about rising onion prices, theft in somebody’s shop, or a terrorist attack. You may grasp the news from the television news hours, newspapers, Internet, news magazines, business magazines, radio, talk shows, and word of mouth from anywhere.

### **Some important features of Current Affairs**

**It’s a Part of the Syllabus:** Current Affairs is considered as a very important subject. For some students, this might be a difficult one without any limit of syllabus. However, those students who love to read news and podcasts would find it quite interesting. So, all in all, Current Affairs is the part of and altogether it can’t be ignored.

**Helpful in Interview also:** Current Affairs is helpful in the interview round as well. After clearing the initial phases of exam, students appear for the interview. The interview panel mostly asks questions related to current affairs and general knowledge. So, grabbing the information will prove useful in the interview round as well.

**Keep you updated with the Government policies:** Studying current affairs is also important for keeping the students updated with Government initiatives. To know the involvement of Indian bureaucracy and Government with the rest of the world is only possible through keeping an eye on it and being updated about the recent developments. The new policies of the Government, its major action on the international front, discussion upon strengthening the economy, etc are all important for this exam.

**Very important to do justice with your Designation:** Current Affairs is also very crucial for anyone to do justice with their job and position they are in. After being on the position of an administration, it’s very essential for anyone to know what is happening in the world and the country.

**For learning from Global events:** Reading current affairs is very important for such a dignified position because an administrator has to learn from the mistakes of others. Current happenings around the world teach us many things that help us to learn new things and get to know new inventions in the world.

**Helps in taking the Right Decision:** After being an administrator, the most important thing one has to do is taking the right decision in favor of the city and country. Administrator shoulders are burdened with multiple responsibilities which might be the question of life or death for someone. So, one wrong decision may spoil everything. Knowing about the global current happenings, an officer can take the right decision. The

position of an administrator is very crucial. To do justice with his roles and responsibilities, knowing about the happenings of the world is very important. For making the right and informed decision, he must keep himself updated with the current affairs.

**It's Easy:** Yeah, it's easy! Many of us might not agree with this but studying current affairs for exam preparation is very easy as compared to the other subjects. The reason is simple, all you need to do is watching the news, reading newspapers, listening to podcasts and all. There is no need to stick with the books for hours as you do for the preparation of other subjects. So technically, studying current affairs is easier than other subjects.

## Significance of Current Affairs

**Influence our Image:** While we are interacting or communicating with friends and teachers related to general topics it's very important that we must know about the happenings of the surroundings. If we don't know then we will not be able to comment or say our opinion regarding the matters. When we know the matter we can participate in the discussion and also say our opinion and all. When we share our ideas and opinion naturally people will show positive impact and they will count us in their discussions. Now we will get all information's and news by using technological devices and Smartphone's if we feel any doubt we can search in our phone and clear our doubts so it's very important to stay alert and to be up to date regarding news and other matters.

**Makes interaction effective:** It's very hard to continue the communication with colleague's friends and with teachers. Generally, a communication starts with current affairs and general knowledge when they share the same opinion or sharing opposite opinions the conversation starts. So to put our point and opinion it's very important to know about the particular matter. Without knowing the matter we can't pass our opinion. If we show interest in the particular matter it is natural that the conversation will be more interesting and it will help to build a good image and will help to improve our communicative skills. In professional interview if we are asked about current affairs we have to answer it if one don't answer it we will not be able to communicate properly and panelist will ignore such candidate. To maintain an intellectual talk in public we need to be alert about every matters and teacher likes such students who have wide knowledge about everything. It will help you to improve your academic performance too.

**To face Competitive exam:** After academic life, every student likes and have to face competitive exams. In which general questions and current affairs are asked frequently. If a student is thorough in his subject but doesn't have much knowledge about current affairs then he will not be able to attain a good mark in competitive exams. It's the responsibility of a good citizen to be aware of happening around him. If he is not showing his interest in such important matters then he will be considered a failure. Now in every competitive exam, current affairs are asked so students must be up to date with news to face competitive exams. Current affairs include every matter from local matters to international matters. Sports, cultural, educational science, biological, technological, territorial and up to terrorist attacks so students must aware of everything. So every matter is important as far as a student is concerned. In exam like Civil Service Exam above 60% questions are related to current affairs to check whether the individual knows anything about his or her country's every individual must know about his or her nation.

**Improve thinking skills:** Current affairs and news analysis help to enhance the thinking skill of the student. When we know basic information about the particular matter we will try to collect more pieces of information and knowledge regarding the matter. It will help us to think critically and encourages the students thinking skills. It brings new thoughts and freshness to one's life. It will increase the urge to live and to be unique. As a student in academic life students gets the opportunity to visit new places when we know some basic information about particular place naturally it will increase the curiosity of the students and they get the opportunity to share knowledge with other students and teachers which will help to develop the good image in front of others. Automatically it will encourage the student to learn new things more.

**Improve parent's child relation:** In the future, students also have to be parents and have to guide their child. When his or her child asks simple questions regarding their subject as a parent you must be able to answer their questions. If we are not able to answer historical or general questions then children will not give importance to your words in the future. But if we are knowledgeable we can answer their questions without any tension and this will enhance our image in front of our child. So being knowledgeable is very important to maintain a good image throughout our life.

**Excelling in Academics:** To begin with, our child will be expected to have matured enough intellectually and emotionally to begin to grasp the big picture, and their classes will increasingly reflect these expectations through readings and assessments that are linked to major political, economic or social issues. An essay question may require our child to discuss at length the pros and cons of digitalisation, or propose solutions for cyber-bullying, for example. Meanwhile, an English comprehension passage may be about the increasing popularity of e-commerce, and an oral topic may lead to the examiner asking your child for their viewpoints on a particular global issue, such as pollution, and substantiating their opinions.

**Developing Critical Thinking Skills:** Learning about current affairs also helps our child develop their critical thinking and resilience. Today's world is more interconnected than ever before, and will likely be even more so in the future. This means that, as our child grows older, they will find that understanding the world's 'whats', 'hows' and 'whys' becomes increasingly important in whatever they do. Why did this happen? What does this mean for my future? How can I best react or prepare for that future? These are the questions that a good grasp of current affairs will help them answer, and the ability to examine global issues critically and put them in context will only become more valuable over time.

**Future-Proofing the Child:** In a few years time, our child will have to make important choices about his or her tertiary education which will shape their professional careers in the decades to come, and understanding what is happening in the larger world around them will inform their decisions. For example, the ongoing tensions between the United States and China have major repercussions on a small country like Singapore and the livelihood of its citizens. Being able to understand these repercussions helps people identify opportunities and better plan for the future.

## Sources of Current Affairs

The study sources for current affairs can be divided into two categories- primary & secondary:

### Primary Sources

1. National newspaper such as The Hindu or Indian Express.
2. Government Monthly Magazines like Yojana and Kurukshetra.
3. Various Academy's Comprehensive Monthly Current Affairs Magazine.

### Secondary Sources

1. <https://pib.gov.in/indexd.aspx>
2. <http://newsonair.com/>
3. <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/>
4. Rajya Sabha TV Debates
5. India Year Book by publication division, Government of India (Yearly)
6. <https://www.prsindia.org/>
7. <https://vikaspedia.in/InDG>

## Objectives of the Study

A problem should be studied with some objectives. A researcher should know the objectives of his researcher. Hence, the objectives of the study can be more explicitly presented as:

- To compare the relevance of current affairs among (pre-test and post-test) college students.
- To compare the relevance of current affairs among (pre-test and post-test) male and female college students.

## Description of tool

A tool is very necessary for the effective measurement of any data. In this study Self-made tool is developed. The Self-Made tool has two parts: Pre-test tool and Post-test tool. Each tool consists of 8 dimensions. The Eight dimensions are:

- History
- Geography
- Polity & Constitution
- Environment
- Art & Culture
- Sports
- Science

## Books & Authors

Each dimension consists of 5 questions of one mark each. Total 40 questions are there. Scoring will be one mark for one correct answer and zero for wrong answer. Time allotted is 30 minutes for each test.

## Formulation of Hypothesis

Hypothesis is a tentative statement about the solution of the problem. Taking into consideration the objectives of the study the investigator has formulated the following hypothesis:

- H<sub>1</sub>:** There will be significance difference in relevance of current affairs among (pre-test and post-test) of college students.
- H<sub>2</sub>:** There will be significance difference in relevance of current affairs among (pre-test and post-test) male & female college students.

## Analysis and Interpretation

This part deals with the finding of the statistical process of data, their interpretation and discussion on relevance of current affairs in college curriculum. There is two hypothesis, the data collected from a college of durg district were tabulated according to different dimensions of current affairs and graphically analyzed.

## Hypothesis

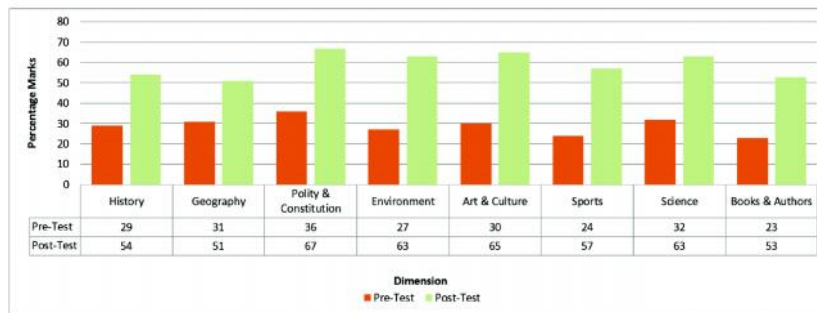
- H<sub>1</sub>:** There will be significance difference in relevance of current affairs among (pre-test and post-test) of college students.

To test the above hypothesis, data was collected and tabulated. The percentage of marks scored in different dimensions by students was graphically represented and tabulated below.

	DIMENSION (%)							
	HISTORY		GEOGRAPHY		POLITY & CONSTITUTION		ENVIRONMENT	
	PRE	POST	PRE	POST	PRE	POST	PRE	POST
MALE	26	52	24	52	44	72	30	66
FEMALE	32	56	18	50	28	62	24	60
TOTAL	29	54	31	51	36	67	27	63
	ART & CULTURE		SPORTS		SCIENCE		BOOKS & AUTHOR	
	PRE	POST	PRE	POST	PRE	POST	PRE	POST
	MALE	30	66	30	66	40	66	32
FEMALE	30	64	18	48	24	60	14	44
TOTAL	30	65	24	57	32	63	23	53

(Source: Primary Data)

**Graph No. 1:** The before treatment and after treatment score % of relevance of current affairs of B.Ed colleges students

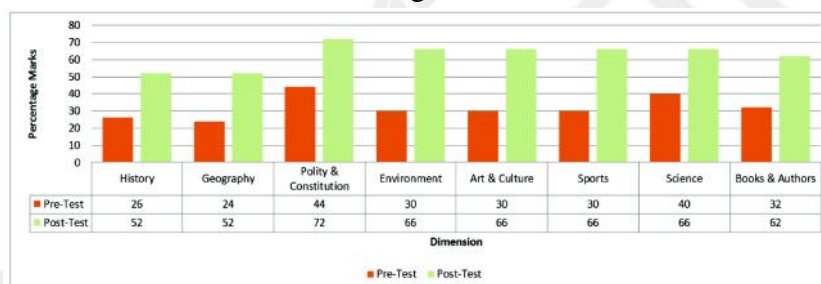


The above graph shows the comparison on pictorial view. The horizontal axis (x-axis) shows the different dimensions of current affairs taken and vertical axis (y-axis) shows the % of marks scored by students in pre-test and post-test. The graph shows that in pre-test students scored below average in most of the dimensions while in post-test they performed well in all the dimensions. Hence, the hypothesis  $H_1$  is accepted.

$H_{2.1}$ : There will be significance difference in relevance of current affairs among (pre-test and post-test) male college students.

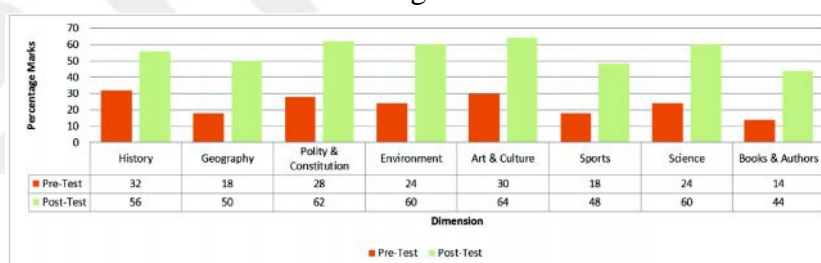
The below graph shows the comparison on pictorial view. The horizontal axis (x-axis) shows the different dimensions of current affairs taken and vertical axis (y-axis) shows the % of marks scored by male students in pre-test and post-test. The graph shows that in pre-test male students scored below average in most of the dimensions while in post-test they performed well in all the dimensions. Hence, the hypothesis  $H_{2.1}$  is accepted.

**Graph No. 2:** The before treatment and after treatment score % of relevance of current affairs of Male B.Ed colleges students



$H_{2.2}$ : There will be significance difference in relevance of current affairs among (pre-test and post-test) female college students.

**Graph No. 3:** The before treatment and after treatment score % of relevance of current affairs of Female B.Ed colleges students



The above graph shows the comparison on pictorial view. The horizontal axis (x-axis) shows the different dimensions of current affairs taken and vertical axis (y-axis) shows the % of marks scored by female students in pre-test and post-test. The graph shows that in pre-test female students scored below average in most of the dimensions while in post-test they performed well in all the dimensions. Hence, the hypothesis  $H_{2.2}$  is accepted.

## Delimitation of the study

After the hypothesis has been formulated the investigation is to look into the limitation of the study. Delimitation does mean to confine the study in certain limits ,keeping in view of time factor and available resources. In the present study, it is delimited in the sense that:

1. The study is limited to total 20 sample to conduct experimental study.
2. The study is limited to college students only.
3. For the current study total sample chosen were 20 which is based on low score of Pre-test to conduct an experiment.
4. The study is limited to Mansa College of durg district.

## CONCLUSION

Reading daily current affairs will help you in gaining more knowledge and you can know the news happening around you. It will be more important for candidates preparing for all the Government exams because now all the Government based competitive exams have a section on current affairs.

In this study, by conducting pre-test and post-test among B.Ed college students we concluded that after giving one month treatment all the students gained their knowledge in all different dimensions of current affairs, which shows that continuous discussion of current affairs makes students aware of our environment very well.

Discussions can be in various ways, like through seminars, poster making, debates, quiz sessions, speech etc. It is not necessary to always conduct a class and make students to listen and make them to cram the things, discussion is necessary among students in any forms. And also discussion makes things easy to remember because it includes connection with real things in surroundings, students can easily get connected.

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