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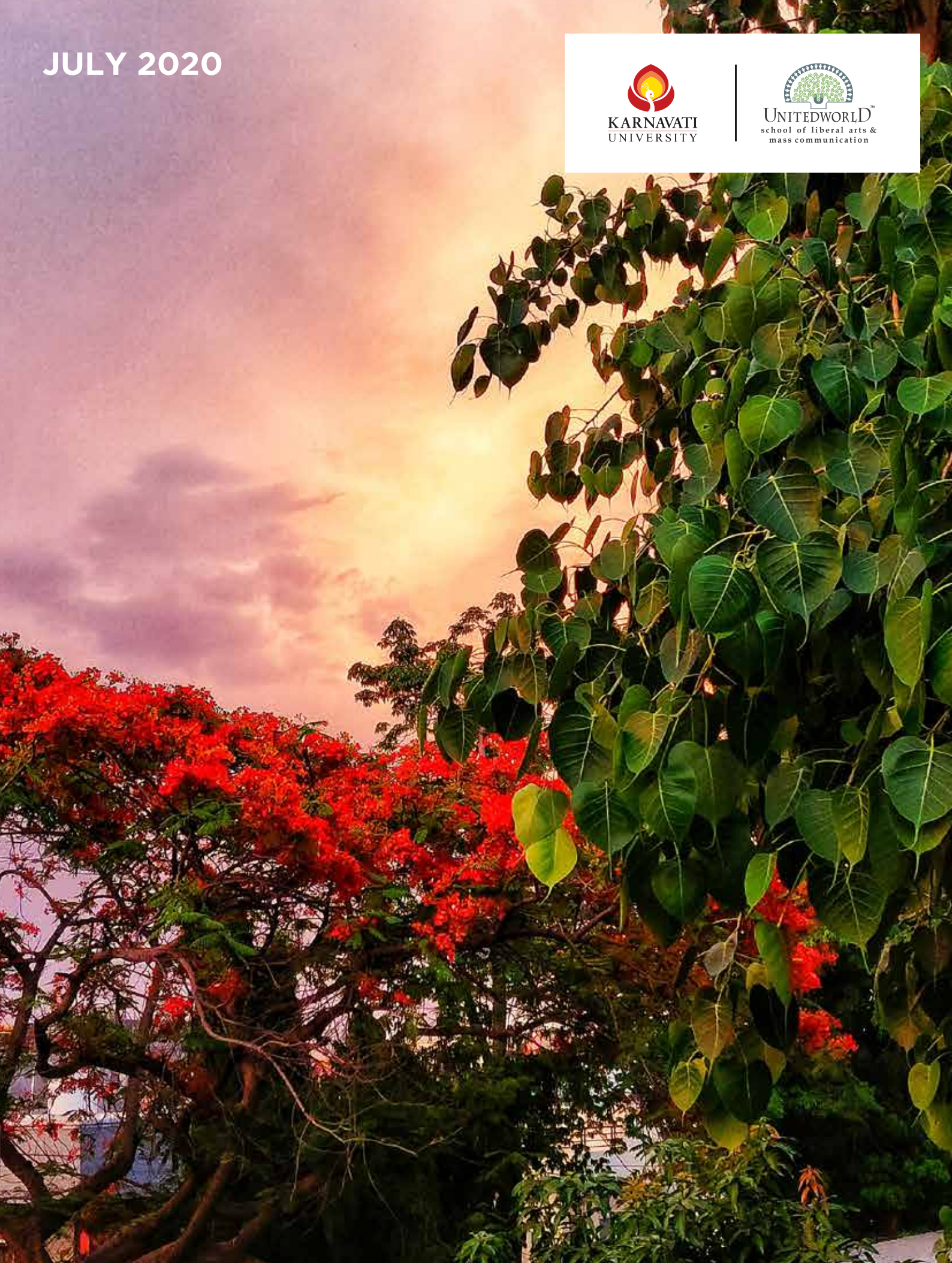


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THE SALT RIDE: THE BEGINNING

By, Arvind Kumar,
Assistant Professor, USLM

It was on December 17. We were all set and entire the logistics issues -- like hiring of the cycling, checking of fitness of the cycles, escorts vehicles, route maps, night halts -- were well-taken care of. However, the grand opening of the ride was marked by inaugurating a school equipped with a library facility, named 'Balvatika' for underprivileged children at the Gujarat International Finance-Tech (GIFT) City in Gandhinagar. It was the NGO GoDharmic's 50th such facility set in India.

I normally go to sleep within five minutes of myself retiring to bed, but it was not the case the night before the ride was to start. Maybe because I was overexcited or I was eagerly looking forward to starting pedaling. My flight of thoughts was taking me here, there, and everywhere. The alarm woke me up at 4:30 am and in the next 30 minutes, I was cycling -- not before having a good look at my four-year daughter deep in her sleep -- to Gandhi Ashram. In the next 15 minutes, I met with all the (International) team members, who were cycling towards the Ashram from GoDharmic's office, along the way near Old Vadaj crossroads and reached the main gate of the Sabarmati Ashram.

Janardan from Nepal.



We flagged off from the Ashram couple of minutes past 6 am from the Gandhi Ashram's main gate amid loud cheers and all smiles pouring in family, friends, and morning walkers and joggers around the Ashram.



For me it was first of its kinds where I was to ride alongside a team, comprising people joining from various regions of India (Sonal Desai, Ahmedabad; Tarun Dhabaliya, Mumbai; Larice, Chandigarh and myself from Bihar), NRIs (Hemal and Ajay Randerwala and 65-year-old Manhar uncle all from London) but also from United Kingdom (husband-wife duo Les Male and Karen Les and David Brooks, all from London, UK) and

One of the famous sayings goes, 'Well begun is half done' but it was not the case with us. As we barely had started, one of the cycles broke down and the cyclist fell down, but luckily escaped unhurt. We had a couple of backup bikes, in anticipation, to take care of these kinds of situations. We all were going in a single file tailing each other, keeping ourselves between escort vehicles at the front and safety vehicle at the back. Following the paths travelled (Dandi Path) by Gandhi with 78 of trusted volunteers, our destination for the day was at a hotel in Nadiad.

We reached to Dandi Path Yatri Niwas in Navagam — Gandhi and his team had taken its first-night halt here after leaving Ahmedabad on March 12, 1930 — on the iconic Salt March in little over two hours after cycling 30 km. And what a grand welcome it was. People decked with drum were beating Garba beats and all of us broke into impromptu Garba swings which went for a while. People in Gujarat are well known for Garba swings, but foreigners (Karen, Les, and Janardan) swinging to Garba tunes was something astonishing for the onlookers. Thereafter, we all were welcomed with garlands of pure cotton threads, made by spinning Gandhi Charkha, at the entrance of Gandhi Library at the Yatri Niwas. We were served tea and biscuits for breakfast. We stayed there for a while thereafter and then moved on with our journey. What struck me the most about the village is that the villagers still carried on with the Gandhian value and ideology! Nowhere in the village could we either spot any tea stall or any pan masala/gutkha shops. And as per the villagers, it's their conscious decision not to have these things in there so as maintain a healthy way of living.

Soon after starting from the Navagam, the initial indications of the problems started to creep in as most of the team members were sitting the saddle after a very long time. Some were finding it difficult to keep up with the team. However, we all made sure no one was left far behind. And our beloved Manhar uncle, riding like a pro, was proving to be the source of inspiration to those finding difficulty in keeping up with the energy and commitment needed to successfully complete the ride. One of the most common problems was uncomfortable sore around the lower back, as the majority of the rider was not used to long riding rigors.



However, braving all the issues and difficulties, the team, seemingly all tired up after riding 60 km, reached to the hotel in Nadiad in the afternoon. I was sharing the room with Manhar uncle. After stretching myself for about five minutes, I quickly went to the washroom to take a warm water shower. The 10-minutes of the shower took away the tiredness and minor niggles I was having. Soon after, I, along with Manhar uncle, made our way to the dining hall for lunch.

The eye-catching aesthetics of the dining hall was decked with all kinds of cuisines from one end to another with dining tables placed in the middle. I had more juice, salads, and fibers to make sure my body gets what it needs the most to manage the more rigorous day ahead. While dining sitting across, we all

brought up our kind of opinion, though, experience, problems, issue, and lessons learned on the first day of the trip. This helped us know each other a little better and also seemed to bond well together as a team, which started the Dandi Path journey merely 10 hours ago.

In the evening, after resting for a while, we all went to the very old and famous Shree Shantram Mandir, known for its architectural aesthetics and humanitarian endeavors. However, what attracted me the most that there is a Hanuman temple, in the temple campus, where hymns of Ram Dhuni never stop. And it's all by devotees and visitors alike. Even some of our team members took round to it. From there we went to Shri Atmasiddhi Shastra Rachana Bhoomi, a must-visit place in Nadiad.

We returned to the hotel, had our dinner, and went back to our respective rooms. But before retiring to bed, I, as well as Manhar Uncle, packed our bags, checked our belongings in order to avoid an early morning hara-kiri as it was an early start the next morning. It was midnight by the time I went to bed. My heart was filled with gratitude.

A PLACE WORTH TALKING ABOUT

By, Srotaswini Bhowmick,
Senior Manager-Academic Administration & Assistant Professor, USLM



Being part of a Liberal Arts institution, we often discuss about places where we can take our students for an excursion for their holistic development.

Barefoot College, located in Tilonia, Rajasthan, is one such place. It is an organisation that specializes in low-cost technology solutions for poverty eradication, village development and women empowerment. It was built, and is run, by illiterate or semi-literate villagers, from India and trains students, mostly women, from over 100 countries all over the world.

The courses include, among other things, how to conceive, design, install and operate solar-based energy solutions for villages without electricity. Inspired and conducted by strictly Gandhian principles, it offers no degrees, but empowers students through skills and confidence. Since 1970s, it has been a marvel to management and development sector experts, on how to successfully empower rural communities with skills based on a curriculum distilled from their own traditional knowledge and wisdom.

A visit to Barefoot College, I believe, would ensure an unforgettable learning experience for the Liberal Arts students. First and foremost, it will offer them an exposure to the wonderful and humbling reality that basic lessons in science and technology can be learnt, mastered and taught by poor men and women without conventional education. It will offer a particularly strong experience of how to work as a team. Stories of how tens, and then hundreds and then hundreds of thousands of rural men and women understood that their collective improvement is dependent on large-scale teamwork and coordination are certainly going to inspire students to appreciate the value of teamwork.

It may also offer a lesson on how to operate a sustainable enterprise with a small budget, and on how to manage human resources in the most effective manner. Our future is not going to be smooth without a systematic foundation in conflict resolution and arbitration, based entirely on methods that are rooted in local heritage.

(Image courtesy the Barefoot College website)

THE START

By, Kanishk Tejura,
Sem-3, USLM



“KiNGPiN PRODUCTION” is an initiative and start-up by Kanishk Tejura.

My production house offers photography, short films, documentaries, editing (photo & video) services. I started my journey by filming and advertising, which included long ads and even short ads.

I am recently working on a project in collaboration with a very renowned broadcasting company from England on a royal historic documentary.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I got this idea of developing my skills which then led to my own production house.

1st COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENT

“First commercial advertisement was when my family and friends gave me a chance to showcase my work.”

It all started when I posted my first advertisement kind of video with some coffee beans, a mug, a glass, and water with a volunteer. I talked to one of my elderly friends.

“How’s this? I have made this?” I asked. And that’s where I got a chance for my first commercial Ad of Go 2 Stationary Mall, which is also situated in Porbandar. It took me eight days to get it on all social media platforms.



After posting it everywhere, I felt the necessity to give a name to my production house. I was talking to one of my friends and suddenly she said “KINGPIN”. I asked what it meant! Actually, it means a main or large bolt in a central position or a person that is essential to the success of an organization or operation.

I soon introduced the name “THE KiNGPiN PRODUCTION” in my works. It then became a separate identity.

THE STRUGGLE

There were many problems. Coming up with an idea and naming it start-up it not just that!

One needs to be consistent with what one is doing. It’s then that one can be recognized and her/his work can reach people.

“CONSISTENCY” is key to start or work on any project, be it a start-up or anything. I



also faced challenges. Challenges about equipment, fee, budget, and social status. But if one really digs deeper, these are not challenges but excuses. I realized this after talking to my friends and family about this. But then somewhere down the line, some misconception by others was stabbing my mind. Usually, people who pursue Mass Communication are known as REPORTERS. This is totally FALSE and the same happened with me. It irritated me and to change the perception I added Media Production to my start-up's name. To my detractors, I am now easily able to explain what is media and how broad it is.

And something that started as a mission became a passion.

THE FIRST STEP TO SUCCESS

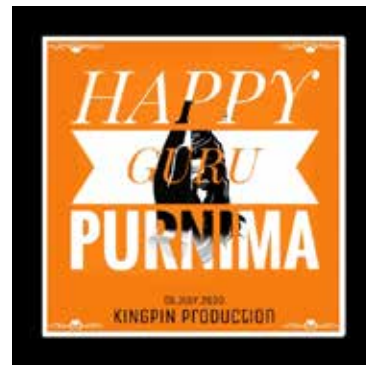
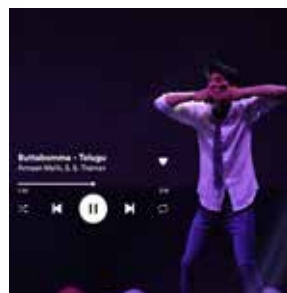
I have made 4 advertisements and currently working on films and documentaries.

I have my 5 clients standby (due to pandemic) all over Gujarat, including educational institutions, pharmacy companies, and more.

I am very happy that with simple ideas and constant determination towards my work, I am able to get this recognition and reach the public expectation with my own struggle and talent.



WORK WALL



USLM HOSTS A WEBINAR ON THE JOURNEY OF ANKUR JAIN, A COVID-19 SURVIVOR

At a time when the entire globe is reeling under the impact of Covid-19, the United World School of Liberal Arts and Mass Communication (USLM), Karnavati University, took the lockdown as an opportunity to have an intense discourse on the Covid situation. The department conducted a webinar on "The Journey of Covid-19 survivor: Dos and Don'ts" on July 3. Noted journalist from British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) News Gujarati, Ankur Jain, who had also tested positive for Covid-19, was the speaker of a webinar. The online talk was part of a series of webinars conducted by USLM for their annual event "Out of Syllabus."

Many students and faculties attended the webinar. Ankur briefed all of the participants about the challenges he faced as caught the infection. He elaborated on how he felt after getting infected, how the people around behaved with him, the support which he got from his organisation and family, the importance of taking care of one's health, the role of a journalist in the Covid era and how fake news revolving around the pandemic should be curbed.

Ankur Jain, who is a Service Editor in BBC News Gujarati, narrated how he overcame the situation and what it meant to be a journalist in such a time.

With remarkable aplomb, Jain shared that once he experienced the symptoms of the infection, it took five days for him to get the result, which turned out Covid positive, and another 24 days to recover.

Jain said he isolated himself at his home and his sister supported him. He spent time in insulation by binge-watching content on Netflix, and Amazon. That was also the time Jain tackled the personal challenges, with his father being in coma and wife pregnant. Since he was worried about her condition, he did not tell his wife about the test result.

He emphasized taking care of immunity, sanitization, and avoiding outside food, although he finds it safe. Another thing that can have an adverse effect on an individual's mindset or health is fake information on WhatsApp. He said one must refrain from it.

Ankur took questions from the participants. Answering a question on the state of journalists during Covid-19, he said that journalists take risks with their lives and report important information from around the world to the public.

When asked about the social stigma related to Covid-19, he replied, "People watch you in a very weird way and it's just like other people are wearing black and white and suddenly, you're wearing red."

Jain shared his experiences with full energy, delight, and excitement. He made the participants aware of all the steps to follow during this situation, suggesting that no one should panic, and always consult a doctor. One shouldn't take the matter in his or her hands. Jain was proud that he recovered and is now a Corona Warrior.

A SAMPLE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

By, Preeti Nakhat,
Assistant Professor, USLM



RESEARCH TITLE:

Challenges faced by vernacular medium students in speaking and learning English; Strategies on improving command over English

INTRODUCTION:

Languages play an indispensable role in day-to-day communication. There are multitudinous languages worldwide. However, India has 122 major languages and 1,600 other languages. Apart from the main languages, they are four-folded dialects across the nation. The national language is Hindi and primary education around the nation use to be in Hindi or the vernacular languages until years ago. English used to be introduced in higher education then.

Likewise, Germany has one major language, that is, German spoken and used by 95% of the population with four minority

languages and several dialects. The medium of education is widely German. Nevertheless, English, the global and most widely used language has gained acceptance over the years. Many people are well-versed with English and have a flair for it. On the contrary, many others face challenges and have a tough time learning it. As it is the global language, non-native English speakers are expected to learn it to survive in the competitive world. Improper knowledge of the language, less exposure to it, inappropriate amenities could lead to an exacerbation. It is of prime importance that learning English is systematic and in a correct manner. English can make the life of people very easy in pursuing education, browsing the internet, communication at work, dealing with foreign delegates, and travelling, among other things.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:

The prime purpose of the research is to investigate the challenges faced by non-native speakers of Germany and India while communicating in English. It also aims to bring out strategies for adolescents on improving and being better at English.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

Research on the topic and especially this domain is crucial for a few stakeholders, students, adolescents, non-native English speakers, TESOL teachers, and non-native English teachers. The study not only focuses on the challenges faced by adolescents in Germany and India but also paves the way to strategies to improve it globally. It is pivotal as English is the global language and it has become a pre-requisite for everyone.

OBJECTIVES:

- To identify the challenges faced in speaking English in Germany and India.
- To identify if parts of speech, articles, tenses are the barriers in speaking and learning English.

METHOD:

To analyze the challenges and provide solutions to speaking and learning English, a qualitative case study research method will be employed. The adolescent population of Potsdam city, Germany, and Ahmedabad city, India will be part of the study.

Detailed interviews will be conducted with pre-set questions and several universities in both the countries will be approached for the same. The sample population of the research will be approximately 100 non-native English adolescents, 50 from Germany and 50 from India.

RESULTS:

Verbatim in-depth analyses will be done based on information gathered from the participants and comparative results will be discussed further. The results will be based on the challenges faced by Indians and Germans.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The results will be most beneficial to the policymakers around the globe in formulating better strategies and process towards integrating English as a language from the initial years of schooling.
- The results will be helpful to non-native speakers around the globe.
- It will be useful for English tutors/trainers as well as the learners.

KITCHEN DIARIES

By, Devanshi Upadhyay,
Sem-3, USLM

I developed a huge interest in cooking when I was in Class IX. Since then there hasn't been a single time that I went into the kitchen and was bored or not in a mood to cook. Cooking has always been very close to my heart and it helps me to stabilize myself at times. It is like an escape for me from the world. Whenever I am super excited, overjoyed, upset, angry, or anxious, my kitchen helps me to calm down and be at peace again. What I personally feel is that cooking is something where you need a lot of focus and concentration and when I am in the kitchen I cut myself off from the rest of the things going back in my mind.

The aroma of sweet and savory, sour, and spicy fascinates me to experiment with them.

I not only love to cook but I am also fond of having food and that's where I discovered that I am inclined towards cooking.

Usually, I cook on weekends because going to college daily makes it a little difficult for me to cook daily. But this lockdown gave me a lot of time to try multiple cuisines, experiment new dishes, learn some traditional recipes from my mother and fuse them with mine.

I even learned how to cook with fewer ingredients and without cooking gadgets.

I always wanted to be a better cook than my mother but I realised that it's next to impossible, but now finally when everyone appreciates my food, including my mother, I really feel happy and content.

My lockdown experience has been more of a culinary experience and I can say that it is the best time that I shared with my kitchen.





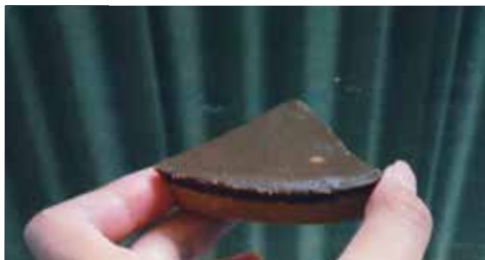
CHEESE POPPERS

INGREDIENTS

Boiled potatoes - 3
Diced onion - 1 small
Grated garlic - 4 clove
Chopped chillies - 2
Grated cheese - 200gms
Crumbled bread - 5 to 6 slices
Salt as required
Black pepper
Oregano
Mozzarella cubes
Cornflour
All purpose flour
Breadcrumbs
Oil for frying

RECIPE

Take 3 boiled potatoes and grate or mash them into a big container. Now add the diced onions, grated garlic, chopped chillies, grated cheese and crumbled bread to it. For seasoning, add salt to taste, black pepper and oregano. Make a sticky dough out of it. Grease your hands with a little bit of oil and take a small amount of dough. Make a ball out of it, flatten it and put the mozzarella cube in it. Make a ball out of it and keep it aside. In a bowl make a paste of flowing consistency, of cornflour, all-purpose flour and water. Dip the cheese ball into the corn flour paste and roll them over breadcrumbs. Fry them at medium flame till they get golden brown. Serve hot with tomato ketchup or any other dip.



Karnavati University
907/A, Urvasad,
Dist. Gandhinagar-382422
Tel: 079 3053 5083, 3053 5084
www.karnvatiuniveristy.edu.in/uslm

