

Loyola prof devises 'innovative' test for English

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CHENNAI: Shifting away from the standardized paper and pen testing, a faculty member of Loyola College has come up with 'innovative testing methods' of English language skills for students.

This method, having been successfully implemented in the department of English at Loyola College, employs documentaries, newsletters, and comic strips to assess the chief skills of English and its sub-skills.

The research was carried out D.Christina Sagaya Mary, Assistant Prof. of English, Loyola Arts and Science College, under the supervision of K.S Antony, Associate Prof. of English, Loyola College. Mary has also obtained a patent number for the testing methodology.

"While the core skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are tested through the regular method of testing, it is very easy for children to learn certain answers or memorise passages. This is not possible when it comes to employing creative methods. The pen and paper style certainly has its benefits but we feel these additional methods of testing should be incorporated as part of the testing process," she said.

Often understanding does not take place unless students are placed in a situation where they have to interact with others rather than reading text content and filling in grammar workbooks, Mary said.

The focus is more on testing students on their narrating technique, dialoguing, coherence and vocabulary and the concept of continuity.

The testing pattern will have its own rating scale

"This kind of testing does not create any space for rater bias. The system of learning needs to be decentralised. It is very individualistic and eliminates rote learning. Here the learner becomes the centre of the testing system ," she said.