English is a growing global language and getting to be the universal medium of connection across all the countries. Statistics show only about 30% of Indian population speak English. Students are admitted from various strata of society, the overarching theme being their intelligence. However, one of the important criteria for student admissions has been English medium education base. This study compares and reports the English-speaking skills and communication fluency of a group of 40 students from convent and non-convent background who are pursuing various engineering degrees at VIT University, Vellore and how the English language labs of VIT University has developed various courses and programs to bridge the gap. This has been gathered by one to one interactions with students as well as conducting group written assessment tests.

Creative way of learning English:
One of the creative, easy and faster ways to learn English is to watch English movies be it American or British. Given a recommended list of movies below. Also gives a very important lesson that no matter what, if you set your mind you can gain proficiency and fluency in English.

My fair lady – An age-old classic, many easy dialogues with tongue twisters.

The king’s speech – what better way to learn pronunciation and couple of exercises thrown in to master the fluency along with the king.

Notting Hill – Learn differences between American and British accents.

METHODLOGY
Sample Group: Engineering Freshmen

Sample Size: Twenty students from the convent educated and twenty from non-convent educated were identified. First an assessment which included three tests on English followed by an interview was done. The test was for half an hour and the interviews took about 15 – 20 minutes each to be able to give the students time to write and share.

A) Test: A test has been conducted on the two groups consisting of 20 students each. The test was for 50 marks and they were evaluated on three different criteria:
- Written test (25marks) based on writing a composition on a random topic, filling the blanks with the suitable preposition and correcting the sentences
- Public speaking test (15marks) to check their confidence and fluency of the language
- Communication skills (10marks) to check their listening and communication skills

Graphical Representation of the Results

Review of English Literature
Origin of English in India:
Our mother language being Sanskrit, if it was left to Vasco Da Gama, we would all have been speaking French today but thanks to the British colonizers, of course all the torture and shortcomings, brought the Queen's English to India. Many of the Indian men and women marrying the British gave birth to the Anglo-Indian community. The educational institutions set up by the English nuns and fathers hired these Anglo Indians to teach at schools thus further evangelizing the language while ensuring the right accent. One of the early pragmatic reasons to learn English in British India was it opened posts in the Supreme court of Calcutta. One of the other reasons was it gave access to European Science.

It is estimated that the number of people who converse in English over the world is about two billion and increasing at a rapid pace. UN has recognized five official languages and English tops the list. English has evolved to be the language of Science and Technology. In India, with the numerous languages we speak across different states, English serves as a link language in the country.
Students come with diverse English ability levels:
Many students felt that their city, family, friends, school, and college influenced their English skills.

Students increasingly show affinity to learning and honing their Business English skills to compete:

All the students irrespective of their backgrounds were motivated and encouraged and understood the importance of fluency in English in today’s world. They were appreciative of the VIT English language lab and the professors were committed to increase the standards of English fluency in students.

Students agree that fluency in English is important in today’s world:
From the answers given by the students the importance of mastering English to be able to gain edge in the global scenario was important.

Non-convent educated students agree that it is embarrassing to speak English amongst other English-speaking students and professors:
Due to the lack of conversations in English among friends, in school, at home the confidence levels are much less and hence students hesitate and feel embarrassed to communicate in English at the university.

Some feel shy of their accent which is very locally defined from their city of origin or their mother tongue:
Some of the students are aware and feel embarrassed of the local accent they carry when they speak English as it is obvious.

VIT English language labs a Boon:
Students are encouraged and motivated by the English professors of VIT English language labs as just not courses but are various applied methodologies such as language learning software, Pronunciation kit, Communication kit, etc., to teach and boost confidence.

Top key reasons on importance of fluency in English as listed by the students interviewed:
Global Business Language: Wider communication, interaction and cultural unity.

Students acknowledge English as the business language and all its benefits of learning and having fluency.

VIT Student Exchange Program: Gives them the required impetus to apply and fare better for the VIT Student exchange program.

Better employment opportunities in India and Global.

IOT is the new age interconnection and networking of almost any device to make life very simple. To be in the forefront of IOT and bag good projects by students, English is a must to be able to understand customer requirements and meet the deliverables.

Wide research and literature access.

Social media interaction.

CONCLUSION
The intent of this study was to investigate and understand the English fluency of students from different educational backgrounds and cities. Shinie Antony in the book Indian English provides a guide to pronunciation and grammar, also slang and sayings4. This read will help students understand exactly where they are making errors while speaking. Their comfort and

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willingness to learn the language. It is undeniable that fluency in English is required to give the necessary confidence and standing in the institution and society.

The VIT English language lab is focused on the fluency, vocabulary and grammar, diction and to some degree orthography. It is highly recommended to understand the student before mentoring. Understanding student profile will be very useful because the concerned faculty will have a thorough understanding of the student before he/she begins to train5. Post this VIT labs provide the necessary tools and guidance to gain confidence and represent the individual self. They firmly believe that developing teacher student networking, enhances professional development and employability and propelling students towards the adventurous growth of globalization and be an integral and important part of the global workforce. Also creates a positive impact on college reputation. With the interventions provided, the progress is laudable in English proficiency and improves fluency greatly among the students.

REFERENCES
1 Chaise LaDousa, Hindi is our ground, English is our sky: Education, Language and Social Class in Contemporary India, pp. 33, 69.
3 Forbes Magazine – The problem with The English Language in India, 2014