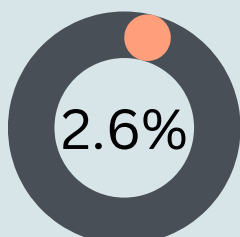


OBSTACLES FACED BY FEMALE MIGRANTS LEARNING L2

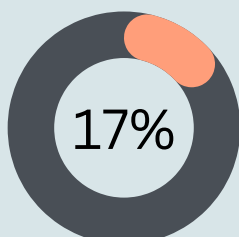
Scope

In 2021, the government of Canada admitted 198,476 female immigrants as permanent residents¹. However, the number of women who do not speak English or French is unequally distributed amongst the immigrant classes, where women who do not speak English or French are in a more vulnerable position.

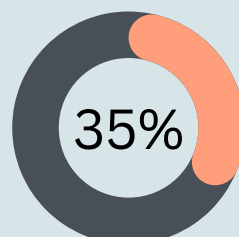
The percentage of migrants who do not speak either English or French¹



Economic



Family



Refugees and Protected Persons

Consequences of not Having Fluency in English or French²

1

Migrants faced difficulties accessing timely and appropriate medical care for themselves and their families.

2

They reported experiencing a felt sense of isolation in daily life because of their struggles in completing day to day activities.

3

Language barriers within the workplace contributed to unequal power dynamics, which enabled mistreatment.

4

Migrants faced difficulties supporting their school-aged children because of their inability to converse in the dominant language.

Barriers Preventing Language Acquisition²

Financial constraints directly reduced the feasibility of language classes due to difficulties coordinating classes with work and childcare responsibilities

Cultural differences in the household and employment expectations of women by family members and in-laws created obstacles to L2 learning

The distance between language classes and home combined with the accessibility of transportation

The loss of eligibility for Language Instruction for Newcomers (LINC) classes and the lack of knowledge about them

A Potential Mobile Application Solution

Specialized Employment Language Learning App³

- University researchers developed and piloted a blended language learning app that was tailored to the customer service industry for migrants currently in a pre-existing employment program
- The mix of face-to-face and mobile app based modules enhanced the flexibility of the program
- Learners developed context specific and language based skills in predetermined scenarios
- Answers given by the learner were available to the volunteer teachers, who could then tailor future face-to-face sessions to address specific areas of struggle



The use of specialized employment-based language learning apps would help migrant women overcome economic, transport, and childcare barriers that prevent them from learning English or French, while developing employment specific skills.