

Mother Tongue as a Medium

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ABSTRACT

Use of mother tongue as a medium of instruction or as a language instruction is very important factor in primary education. Language instruction is a basic requirement for all types and levels of education. Education of a child begins through language and continues through language. To make learning effortless and natural, the child should be taught through the language he is familiar with in the language through which he forms concepts, through which he can think creatively, and which helps him in socialization. Instruction in mother tongue helps in his search for self-affirmation, establishes group identity, meets the natural urge for cultural rootedness and helps to avoid fanaticism. It brings the child into harmonious relationships with his environment and maximizes the opportunities offered by the early learning experiences. So it can be said that, unlike all other subjects taught in schools which are concerned with that aspect only, mother tongue is concerned with almost every aspect and need of human life.

Key words: mother tongue, language, instruction.

Introduction

Mother tongue as a medium of instruction plays an important role in primary education. It helps in making language acquisition very effective. To make learning effortless and natural, the child should be taught through the language he is familiar with in the language through which he forms concepts, through which he can think creatively, and which helps him in socialization. Instruction in mother tongue helps in his search for self-affirmation, establishes group identity, meets the natural urge for cultural rootedness and helps to avoid fanaticism. It brings the child into harmonious relationships with his environment and maximizes the opportunities offered by the early learning experiences. There is clear difference in language acquisition in schools applying mother tongue as medium of instruction and English as a medium of instruction. If you analyse methods, approaches in both type of schools according to past researches mother tongue as a medium of instruction made clear cut difference in comparison to using foreign language as a medium of instruction. Here in the present research article the researcher present a survey based on effectiveness of mother tongue: Gujarati language as a medium of instruction in primary education which made difference in language acquisition in comparison of English as a medium of instruction in private English medium schools run in Gujarat state.

Statement of the problem

Effectiveness of mother tongue: Gujarati language as a medium of instruction in primary education in Gujarat state.

Objectives of the study

- To observe classroom ambience of primary education in Gujarat state.
- To prepare opinionnaire to collect opinions of teachers working in Government primary schools.
- To analyse the collected data and interpret the data.

Research methodology

The researcher has applied survey method as research method.

Tool of the study

An opinionnaire prepared by the researcher.

Sample

To collect opinions related to use of mother tongue as medium of instruction the researcher gave opinionnaire to 100 primary teachers working in Government primary schools.

Data collection and interpretation

The researcher prepared an opinionnaire to collect opinion of teachers working in Government primary sector. They have been teaching students using mother tongue as a medium of instruction. He gave 100 teachers opinionnaires and collected the data. He interpreted the collected data and derived findings of the study.

Delimitation of the study

- The study was delimited to Gujarat state only.
- The survey method used to collect the data.
- 100 teachers working in Government primary schools in Khambhat and Tarapur taluka in district Anand gave their opinions.

Major Findings

- Most of teachers opined use of mother tongue: Gujarati proved effective in comparison of using foreign language as medium of instruction.
- Most of teachers gave their opinion in terms of using mother tongue: Gujarati in classroom made teaching- learning process effective.
- While using mother tongue as medium of instruction the classroom ambience remain natural and students are learning with keen interest.
- The way of teaching and students' language acquisition remain more effective in the classroom where mother tongue: Gujarati has been used as medium of instruction.
- Teachers were in support of using mother tongue: Gujarati in Gujarat state at least in primary level. They gave their affirmation in support of great personalities also learned in their mother tongue. e.g. Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam etc.
- Use of mother tongue as a medium of instruction proved effective and natural classroom atmosphere. In such classroom students ask questions to teachers and share their problem easily and without hesitation.
- Students felt relax and freedom in teaching -learning process.
- In support of psychological facts, students felt freedom and they opined what they feel easily.
- Students liked the classroom ambience and they could enjoy their childhood in their classroom and school as well in comparison with remain present only physically in school where medium of instruction is different.
- Students shared their ideas easily and freely.
- Teachers and students felt relaxed in classroom.
- Use of teaching learning material in classroom while using mother tongue: Gujarati as a medium of instruction proved effective and students' level of understanding classroom instruction proved high level.

Conclusion

In the present survey type research work, the researcher gave opinionnaiers to 100 teachers working in Government primary schools in Khambhat and Tarapur taluka, district Anand, Gujarat state. The present survey proved effectiveness of using mother tongue: Gujarati as a medium of instruction in primary education in Gujarat state in comparison to foreign language as a medium of instruction in primary education. Findings of the study showed effective use of mother tongue.

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