

## The Role Of Language And Education

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### Abstract

This paper attempts to unfold the role of language in education. Language being a comprehensive and powerful means of linguistic communication, it plays vital role in the process of education. Whatever interactions, deliberations, transfer of information and knowledge takes place is through language, There are non-linguistic forms of communication but they are complementary to language. Basically education is a type of formal communication and language finds itself fit to render it. At each stage learning and teaching process becomes concrete due to language. As education inculcates different values in students, Those shared values are precisely realized due to language. Thus language is not only means of transfer of ideas, thoughts, knowledge but also a means to realize it Correctly. In addition, it has been observed that language has remained an important factor in the human development, especially educational development. It is also observed that educational process becomes more effective if it is rendered through mother tongue.

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**KEYWORDS :-**Language , Education, Relationship

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### Introduction :

Language is distinct ability of human being. Due to language, human being is distinguished from other animals. Education plays very important role in human life. Language plays very important role in education.

### What is Language?

Language is not only a means of communication but also a powerful medium of communication. Language and education are closely related to each other. It is very difficult to define the concept of language. However various researchers and scholars have defined the concept of language and so some definitions of language can be given as follows

“Language is the expression of ideas by means of speech sounds combined into words. Words are combined into sentences, this combination reflects thought” ;  
“Language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which a social group cooperates”.

Different system of vocal communication constitutes different languages. No two people speak exactly alike, Language is species-specific. Other members of animal kingdom have ability to communicate through vocal noises and not by language. Speakers are able to convey their emotional attitudes and feelings towards person or persons due to language only. Transmission of culture and thoughts is possible due to

language only. Though language plays very important role in education, for maintenance of language, literacy is not essential because even illiterate people also can use language.

### **Role of Language in Education:**

Language occupies important place in the history of human development. Whatever development man has made is due to language. Man has been considered to be a unique creature because of language. Language is not a set of mere signs and sentences, words but a gamut of impressions too. Language is not instinctive. But man acquires it through formal and informal efforts which include social interaction, family interactions and education etc. That is why language is social institution.

Education is a learning process. It includes both formal and informal education which can be imparted through proper language only. Language is important in countries, whether country adopt a capital intensive or a labor intensive approach to economy, whether it is a democracy or dictatorship, Language is of much importance. In a multilingual, multicultural society, Language can be a source of weakness as it may divide and isolate one group from another. It can also be a source of strength, representing diverse manifestation of one underlying culture. Language like any other subject can be a burden but when acquired it enriches the mind beyond any individual subject, as it provides better understanding of the people and universe using it. These facts are to be considered while examining the role of language in education.

Language and education are closely related to each other. Education inculcates different types of values, impressions. Language plays an important role in transferring these values into students. Primary education forms the foundation of life. Primary education through the mother tongue is a constitutional obligation in India. Indian constitution in its Articles 29 and 30 confers a fundamental right on a group of citizens, having their own distinct language and script, to protect that language and script and for that purpose to establish and administer separate educational institutions of their own. Primary education is required to be given in mother tongue with which a child is well acquainted. It is also accepted by educationist, psychologist, linguists that the interest of the child is the center of primary curriculum which must ensure identity affirmation, harmonious cognitive growth and lay the foundation for learning for individual, community and national development. In a multilingual society, with multiple streams of mother tongues and home are languages different from school languages. It is all the more important that the linguistic experience a child brings to the school be considered as the foundation for building further competencies in language communication and cognition. Unfortunately there is little awareness of this problem and consequently little research and investigation in language as a factor in us equal opportunities, drop out, wastage and stagnation in education.

Language plays very vital role in primary education and so primary education must be given in the language which a child can grasp and understand easily. Primary education must be given in regional language. It has been supported by UNESCO in its report in 1974. Research has shown that language competence is cumulative and any weakness in the early childhood language experience shows up in the higher stages of education.

Language teaching is equally important at secondary and post secondary stages too. There is no awareness of the difference between a language as a subject and a

language and as a medium. Teaching a language, Teaching about language and teaching through language must be distinguished. In India there is conflict between different languages, particularly in Hindi, English and other Indian regional languages. Many arguments are advanced in favor of and against Hindi language. It is the language of widest communication in India where both the union as well as states are multilingual. As in any multilingual state the dominant state language stands as the identity token for that state, Hindi stands as national identity token. That the Hindi area spread over six north Indian states provides better economic opportunities to Non-Hindi speaker in comparison to any other Non-Hindi language which is restricted to one state. So in any scheme of education due weightage must be given to Hindi. English language is also of much importance for education. Worldwide knowledge is available in English language mostly. So there are many groups which argue for dominance of English as a medium of education over Hindi and other languages. It is to be noted that without improving teaching methods use of either Hindi or English Language is not sufficient. It is often argued that no Indian language can match the output of English books and therefore, English Education is superior. It must be understood that the vested interest of the entire English speaking world is behind the production of English books. In the Indian context, the frequency and range of use of English books in comparison with books in Indian languages is so low that the number of books produced become meaningless. In any case, if English is the window to the world of knowledge, then in the Indian context it should not be learnt to know merely the foreign culture, but learnt as a medium of expressing and interpreting the diverse culture obtaining in this country, and to translate knowledge obtained through English into ones own language.

Many linguists argue that India is an agricultural country, the pace of life is relatively static and 90 percent of population is rural population. Therefore one language is sufficient for the bulk of this country. But it may be submitted that this view is very static, anti-development and anti-national. Another view favors the two language formula. It is said that in the Hindi region a person can manage with Hindi and English. The education therefore must be given in Hindi and English language. But these views cannot be supported. It is not impossible to learn one language other than one's own for identifying oneself with an entity which is larger than one's community or state. It is therefore assumed that there is a great need to learn Indian language. Each language speaker has an option to choose the language which he needs to learn. According to this three language formula, education at all the levels must be given in three languages at proper levels, Hindi, English and importantly regional language. Indian languages must be given priority in education. Anti-Hindi and Anti-English movements have weakened the foundation of education in the country and hits the weaker sections of society. Along with Indian regional languages Hindi and English language must be used properly as medium of education.

Cultural transmission is an important aspect of education. There cannot be education in real sense without cultural transmission. Indian culture and heritage cannot be learned without learning of Indian languages like Sanskrit, Pali and Urdu. Education may be given by using these languages in order to understand culture and heritage which is available in the form of old literature in Sanskrit, Pali and Urdu language.

We cannot ignore the fact that almost all regional languages are barely adequate to meet the challenges of medium of instructions for professional courses. All the

professional courses like engineering, medical, law, management etc. are available in English language. Use of English language as a medium of education cannot be opposed, but due consideration must be given to understanding and grasping of English language by poor and backward people. Due to lack of proper resources they are not able to take education of high qualities which is imparted in English language. Therefore there is urgent need for undertaking a nationwide program for rejuvenating regional languages. The fact that most of the regional languages are on the death bed due to extreme use of English. It cannot be ignored. There is a need for concerted efforts on the part of philologists, linguists, intelligentsia, media, academicians, artists, writers and governmental agencies to develop new relevant vocabulary to impart professional education in various regional languages. Research findings have revealed that education through mother tongue has proved beneficial to students in the sense that the learning through mother tongue improves the grasping power of students; The subject knowledge is well communicated It leads to the curiosity and creativity in students, It contributes to raising the educational standards and spread of education.

### **Conclusion :**

Language is not only a means of communication also a powerful medium of instruction. Language and education are closely related to each other. To cope up with new technology & science regional language should be used. This will help to increase the status of higher education in a better way. Education inculcates different rules of values, impression. Language plays an important role in transforming these values into students. If these values are imparted through regional language, It will be more effective and beneficial to students. If we wish to create a strong and wise generation and nation the education through regional language is essential. Language is so important in educational process that it helps us to create new thoughts and ideas. It also helps us to express our thoughts, ideas through language. Therefore, Language and education are inseparable.

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