



To Study the Parents Attitude towards Medium of Education in Gandhinagar District

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Abstract:

Frequently, parents of children are faced with a difficult question: what should be the medium of instruction for their children in education. Most of the parents who want to give a good educational base to their children prefer the private schools where the medium of instruction is English. Here researcher tried to find out parents attitude towards medium of education in Gandhinagar district.

Keywords: Attitude, Education, Medium

1. Introduction

India is a country with too many languages with some being state specific and others National. English has now become sort of our national language, a connecting language for the whole India. Education in English is spreading around the world, not only as a foreign language subject, but increasingly as a language of learning as both local and international schools implement English medium teaching across the curriculum. This development offers opportunities for students to develop academic English and facilitate studies abroad, but may also threaten national languages and cultures (Kirkpatrick 2011).

On the other hand we have our Mother tongue languages which teach the kids about our culture, about our past. The Right to Education Act (RTE) recently passed by the Central Government has recommended that the medium of instruction at the primary level should be the regional language of the state in which the schools exist.

2. Objectives of the study

1. To examine the attitudes of parents towards medium of education of their children in Gandhinagar district.
2. To examine whether there exists a significant gender difference in attitudes of parents towards medium of education of their children in Gandhinagar district
3. To compare the parent's attitude belonging to Gujarati and English medium's students towards medium of education.
4. To compare the parent's attitude belonging to rural and urban area's towards medium of education.
5. To examine whether there exists a significant difference with reference to educational qualification of parents towards medium of education of their children in Gandhinagar district.

3. Hypotheses of the Study

There is no significant difference in the attitude of parents towards medium of education with respect to the following variables.

- a. Gender (male/female)
- b. Medium of Instruction (Gujarati and English Medium)
- e. Locality of the parents (Rural/Urban)
- f. Educational qualification of the parents (below graduate / graduate)

4. Population and Sample

All the parents of Gandhinagar district were considered as a population of the study. Random Sampling method was used to select the samples. 60 parents (include both gender) are selected from different part of Gandhinagar district used as the sample for the present study.

5. Limitation of the study

Present study is delimited to Gandhinagar city only.
Present study is delimited to Parents of secondary students only.

6. Tool Used

Likert type of attitude scale designed with the help of experts and self constructed attitude scale was prepared to measure attitudes of parents to measure medium of education. The five point scale consists of 28 test items with 14 favorable and 14 unfavorable statements against five different responses viz "strongly agree" (SA) "Agree" (A) Undecided (UD), Disagree (DA) and "Strongly Disagree" (SD).

7. Scoring Procedure

A score of '4', '3', '2', '1', and '0' are given to the responses of the sample in the given order for the favorable statements and they are reversed for the unfavorable statements. The grant score was used to interpret the overall attitude of the parents.

8. Result and Discussion

The data collected from the sample are statistically analyzed by using appropriate statistical technique.

Table 1. Shows the attitude of parents towards medium of Education related to their demographic variables

Variables	Sub variables	N	Mean	S.D.	t-value	Significance or not
Gender	Male	22	57.91	35.82	2.88	Significant
	Female	38	52.44	30.67		
Medium of Instruction	Gujarati	31	50.65	26.11	2.113	Significant
	English	29	56.08	35.13		
Locality of the parents	Rural	19	59.23	35.53	3.651	Significant
	Urban	41	49.58	28.55		
Educational Qualification	Below Graduate	30	55.31	27.51	1.595	Not significant
	Graduate	30	49.65	30.40		

From the above table it is observed that there is a significant difference at 0.05 level in the attitude of the sample towards medium of education with respect to Gender, medium of education, Locality of the parents. Educational qualification of parents does not have significant impact upon the attitude of the sample towards medium of education.

9. Important Findings

Male students have high attitude towards English than female students. (Mean value male: 57.91, Female: 52.44). Male parents are positive towards mother tongue as a medium of education. Most of mothers favour English as a medium of education. English medium's student's parents have high attitudes than Gujarati medium student's parents. English medium's student's parents are more positive towards English as a medium of education. Urban area's students parents have high attitudes than rural areas students parents. Urban areas student's parents are more positive towards English as a medium of education.

10. Educational Implications and suggestions

Since a larger majority of children go to local schools, the medium of instruction should be mother tongue. The mother tongue can be the primary medium up to primary levels. The students can be given the options to learn from a teacher or school either teaching in the mother tongue or teaching in the English language.

It is also recommended that learn in a language in which most comfortable for students as well as their family to understand. The reason behind this is if students are studying in their own language then any family members can help in study.

Parents could take guidance for their children which are the better medium of education and they can solve their admission related problems.

Parents could know advantages and disadvantages of English as a language and medium of education and they can take necessary actions/steps to gain higher scholastic achievement for their children.

A teacher should adopt innovative teaching strategy to improve both the language to their professional development and growth.

By adopting mother tongue as a medium of education, conceptual learning can be possible. This research will help to convince those parents who are blind follower of English medium education.

11. Conclusion

In the present study most of the parents are positive towards mother tongue should be as a medium of education. As a measure of natural justice, the education standard should be kept at the same or similar level throughout the country. Thus, the Mother tongue as well as English both languages are important, only the point to note here is that, the application. One should learn or complete his/her basic studies may be up to 10th or S.S.C. in mother tongue with English as one of the compulsory language. Then onward if one wishes to go for professional life or career, he should choose English so as to move forward.

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