

Research Article

The Linkage of Official Language and Medium of Instruction in Work Efficiency of Government Employees -A Study

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ABSTRACT

One of the biggest challenges that the state of Tamilnadu facing today is the growing pressure on higher education. The poor knowledge of English which is still the medium of instruction in many colleges creates problems of communication understanding and adjustment of the campus environment. Most of the students are attracted by mother tongue, i.e regional language instruction for higher studies.

The study is very limited to focus on the role of the medium of instruction reflects in the work efficiency of Government employees. The study shows that mother tongue as well as English can be used as administrative language for increasing work efficiency in Government departments.

Keywords: Official Language, Medium of Instruction, Work Efficiency, Government Employee

INTRODUCTION

It is an irony that "learning stops, once a person secures a good job with a five figure salary with perks". The medium of instruction has an inevitable role in the work performance of employees in Government. Administrative language for a state is mostly of regional in nature. Not going in to depth, the study attempts to explain how the regional language as medium of instruction related to efficiency in work performance.

BACKGROUND

Tamilnadu is a larger state when compare to neighbouring states. The state has recorded impressive achievements in both social and economic development during recent periods. Government employees efficiently contributed for a large extend in all sectoral development.

PRESERVATION OF LANGUAGE

There is a concern about the disappearance of languages all over the world. Languages cannot be preserved by making dictionaries of grammar. Languages live if people who speak the language continues to live. So we need to look after the well being of the people who use those languages, which means we need a micro level planning or development model where language is taken as one factor.

DECLINING OF LANGUAGES

Today in India people are trying to move away from their cultural identity. They are trying to conceal their cultural identity thereby giving up their language. Whenever people move from one place to another for their livelihood they carry their language for a while. But the second generation or subsequent generation, no longer feels their earlier language say mother tongue.

LANGUAGE DOMINATION

India is a country with a linguistic diversity. The Indian education system offers primary education in mother tongue in government schools, particularly in rural areas. This may lead to language barriers for rural children in accessing English based education. It poses a challenge to the educators and policy makers for overcoming the language barriers. English medium education is on the increase on the side, whereas mother tongue is being treated as secondary on the other side.

DATA SOURCES

Primary data has been made by collecting information through questionnaires and personal interviews consisting of A,B,C & D group employees. Secondary data was collected from books, records and other documents. The study area is limited to the Tamilnadu Secretariat. The sample size is one hundred. The data so obtained has been processed and analysed to give useful inferences which are given below:

Table 1**Percentage distribution of respondents on medium of instruction in education**

| Medium of instruction | Number of respondents |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| English | 68 |
| Mother tongue/Tamil | 32 |
| Total | 100 |

It is observed from the table I that 68% percent of the respondents prefer English as medium of instruction at education level, whereas 32% of the respondents wanted to have mother tongue as medium of Instruction. English is found to be a dominating language as far medium of instruction is concerned.

Table 1**Percentage distribution of respondents on official language**

| Official language | Number of respondents |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| English | 33 |
| Mother tongue/Tamil | 22 |
| Both English and Tamil | 45 |
| Total | 100 |

The table2 revealed that 33% of respondents are in favour of English as official language whereas 22% of respondents insist Tamil as official language. The notable point is that 45% of respondents expressed the view that the official language can be both English and Tamil.

It is inferred that the highest number of respondents wish to have both English and Tamil as official language.

FINDINGS

Studies reveal that for government offices especially in secretariat English medium of instruction is more appropriate whereas for dealing issues the knowledge of mother tongue is found to be very essential.

English should continue along with regional language as official language. English cannot be displaced easily. Development of a common language like English is essential for the unity and integrity of nation and networking of different nations, which results in reaping the benefits of globalization.

It is evident that rise in the level of education brings a rise in the efficiency of all factors of production. The existence of such a productive and skilled workforce will catalyse development in Tamilnadu.

India is a multilingual, multi-religious and multiracial sub-continent and Tamilnadu remains as an inseparable component of the federal structure of the Nation. English a link language should have a considerate place in the work performance of the government employees.

CONCLUSION

English is the medium in which international scholarship may participate. Without English the access to the world literature is very limited. However Mother tongue has been found to be the best medium of acquiring knowledge. Mother tongue as official language helps for the development of critical thinking and can develop analytical skills.

However it is true that official language cannot be fully either on regional language or on English. Within the state government departments the regional language may be used as official language. English becomes more effective viz in undertakings /boards /corporations/ inter-state communications/ government of India communications/international relationships.

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