



## A STUDY OF THE EFFECT OF MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION ON STUDENTS' ANXIETY AT COLLEGES OF EDUCATION

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### Abstract

*Education and language are well connected and are inseparable components of each other. The former is not possible without the latter. Thus a careful decision regarding the medium of instruction in education with reference to the learners' development and learning competence is more crucial when it is being decided in country like India, which is totally diverse in nature. The medium of instruction makes the learning pattern simple or complex. The opinions of people in the country like India for the medium of instructions are confused. Generally people believe that the education given in second language is always hindering the learners' innate potentials but according to some educationists language is not a barrier in receiving education and students can easily learn different languages and use them for learning process. To ponder over this controversy and to evaluate the pros and cons of both views, the researchers conducted this research.*

**Keywords:** *Medium of Instruction, Students' Anxiety and Colleges of Education*

Education and language are well connected and are inseparable components of each other. The former is not possible without the latter. Thus a careful decision regarding the medium of instruction in education with reference to the learners' development and learning competence is more crucial when it is being decided in country like India, which is totally diverse in nature. The medium of instruction makes the learning pattern simple or complex. The opinions of people in the country like India for the medium of instructions are shaky. Generally people believe that the education given in second language is always hindering the learners' innate potentials. This has been a major reason to conduct the research.

**Mother Tongue as the Medium of Instruction :** India is multilingual country. In India different languages are spoken in different states. There are 22 languages recognized by the Constitution of India, of which Hindi is the official national language and a primary language of 30% of the people in the country; the other languages are Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu. In addition, there are 844 different dialects used in various parts of the Country. English often forms the most important language for national, political, and commercial communications. Every state has colleges having different medium of instructions for example, Gujarat has Gujarati, Maharashtra has Marathi, Tamil Nadu has Tamil, Kerala has Malayalam, Rajasthan, M.P, and U.P has Hindi, Assam has Assamese, Goa has Konkani, Punjab has Punjabi, and West Bengal has Bengali language as the medium of instruction. As the researchers, study center was Anand District, the Medium of Instruction in most of the colleges here is Gujarati.

**English Language as the Medium of Instruction :** Colleges having English language as medium of instruction are

found throughout the country. As even after independence, it was viewed by leaders and educationists that knowing and using English language will be an additional advantage for Indians in modern competitive but globalised world. The following reasons are given by Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad (1974) that English language is an international language, link language, important for social mobility, essential for personal growth and development, essential for personality development, essential for higher studies, library language, has wide and rich literature, essential for getting better jobs. That's why there are more and more colleges having English as the medium of instruction. English is the language of rationality not emotion. Lord Macklay has started English during (1835). Till freedom all were studying English for higher education. And even after freedom we are still using English language. The parliament has also recognized English as official language in addition to Hindi. English has become the status symbol as all desire to send the children to English medium school in order to have proficiency in English language. This language attracts people because of the wealth of literature and knowledge. People who go abroad to study can only have English as medium of study.

**General Anxiety :** The National Anxiety Foundation (2005) in Lexington, Kentucky, stated that everyone has or will experience anxiety at different stages in life, and that it can be quite normal in certain instances. People face a lot of stress in life. This causes a lot of anxiety. Stressful conditions cause anxiety and stress related situations. Individuals suffering from anxiety learn to manage it well; however, managing anxiety sometimes causes anxiety. Anxiety affects our lifestyle and our whole self. Anxiety causes a lot of influence on how we behave, and manifests with many physical symptoms. Anxiety causes fear. Anxiety causes fear about something we do



not know.

**Students' Anxiety:** Student age is considered as synonymous of care free stage where students are not worried about any problem but they have to concentrate only on studies but due to rat race of competition, this has changed. Now students have multiple pressures. They have pressure of preparing and performing well in the examination which creates many psychological problems and causes stress and anxiety. Now-a-days students do not study for pleasure and for developing their mental and moral standards but merely to pass the examination. There have been thousand of causes when students committed suicide as they were not able to handle the pressure caused by parents, teachers or peers.

**Medium of Instruction:** Medium of Instruction means the language through which all the subjects are taught. In a multilingual country like India there are various mediums of instructions used to give education. Mostly medium of instruction is either the regional language (e.g. Gujarati, Marathi, Tamil, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit) & English. Hindi is also medium of instruction at some colleges. Regional languages being mother tongues are easy to learn and learners find easy to express themselves, Whereas English language has its own advantages but sometimes learners face difficulty in learning and expressing themselves in that language.

**Colleges of Education:** A college of Education means the college which prepares teachers. Colleges offering P. T. C, B. Ed. and M. Ed. courses are colleges of education.

**Students' Anxiety:** Anxiety means some sort of tension in mind due to which a person is not able to adjust with the environment properly. Now-a-days students suffer from various types of anxiety such as anxiety related with exam, completion of the course, performance in the class, peer pressure, parent pressure, teacher pressure. Some level of anxiety is good as it motivates the students to do well whereas high level of anxiety may create imbalance and affect students' performance.

#### **Objectives**

To study effect of proficiency in medium of instruction in learning content.

To study effect of medium of instruction on students' anxiety at colleges of education.

To study impact of medium of instruction on students' anxiety during delivering lessons.

To study impact of medium of instruction on quality of interaction.

To study impact of medium of instruction on confidence level of students at colleges of education.

To study students' anxiety related with exam and students relation with medium of instruction.

#### **Research Questions**

What is the role of medium of instruction on students' anxiety? How does medium of instruction affect anxiety level of students during delivering lesson? How does medium of instruction affect confidence level of students during delivering lesson? How does medium of instruction affect interaction of students during delivering lesson? How does medium of instruction relate with the fear of students from exam?

**Delimitation :** The study is delimited to two teacher education colleges who offer B.Ed. programme in Anand District, affiliated to the Sardar Patel University only. They are M B Patel College of Education Vallabh Vidhyanagar (B.Ed. General Gujarati Medium) & Waymade College of Education Vallabh Vidhyanagar (B.Ed. (Advanced) English Medium. Both the colleges offer different B.Ed. programme i.e. B.Ed. General and B.Ed. Advanced.

**Significance :** In multilingual country like India, problem of medium of instruction is major problem because every state wants to have its regional language as the medium of instruction. Whereas some nationalist argues Hindi, being the national language should be the medium of instruction. Educationists having faith in globalization and technical development advocate that education received through English medium can lead to faster and more rapid growth. The researchers had selected this topic because the researchers wanted to know effect of medium of instruction on students' anxiety at colleges of education. Though there have been separate studies on medium of instruction and anxiety yet there have been not many studies to explore the relation between anxiety and medium of instruction.

**Research Design:** The present study is a descriptive survey study. The Student-teachers of Anand District of the academic year 2011-2012 constituted the population of the study. The student-teachers of Waymade College of Education (English Medium College) and M B Patel College of Education (Gujarati Medium College) of 2011-12 batch was the sample of study were selected by Waymade College of Education that have its medium of instruction in English. Waymade college of Education has student-teachers from different region having different language such as Telugu, Malayalam, Panjabi, Haryanvi, Gujarati, Hindi and English. This college offers B.Ed. Advanced programme so the numbers and types of assignments are quite challenging. M B Patel College of Education is one of the oldest government aided teacher education college in Vallabh Vidyanager with 200 student-teachers from different socio economic background. For the present study the researchers prepared questionnaire for student-teachers and questionnaire for teacher educators to know the level of anxiety among student-teachers and observation schedule for observation of the student-teachers during practice teaching and while attending the class.



**Data Collection:** The researchers studied the books, prepared the tools for data collection and, validated the same. The researchers started the data collection in the month of December 2011. The researchers administered the questionnaire to B.Ed. student-teachers and teacher educators at both Waymade College of Education (English Medium College) and M B Patel College of Education (Gujarati Medium College) and observed the B.Ed. student-teachers teaching lessons. For that researchers went with student-teachers during their practice teaching programme. In the present study researchers also observed the student-teachers while attending the class or participating in classroom. Their expressions, mental/psychological presence, and confidence were observed.

**Data Analysis:** After collecting the data, the researchers analyzed and interpreted through using content analysis, and frequency and percentage.

### Findings

Language plays a vital role to present content as it brings confidence and makes content presentation effective.

Student-teachers of English medium college suffer from more anxiety than Gujarati medium college student-teachers as they commit mistakes in classroom instruction, not able to express personal problems with peers and teachers, have inconsistency in use of language, request the teacher educators to repeat the points.

Student-teachers of Gujarati medium college are more confident in delivering the lesson with appropriate body language. They present appropriate facial expressions, establish rapport before students, give good examples, use appropriate classroom language, manage class well, write appropriately on black board without mistakes, use different teaching aids, and give classroom instruction properly. In comparison to this English medium college student-teachers are lack in these skills.

Student-teachers of Gujarati medium college are better in classroom interaction than English medium college classroom, as they participate more in classroom discussion and don't feel nervous while teacher educators asks questions. Even they are able to discuss academic & personal problems with teacher educators and with peers. While the student-teachers of English medium comparatively seem incompetent.

Student-teachers of Gujarati medium college are full of self confidence. They have pleasing expression, consistency in language, give quick response, have appropriate body language and walk in around the classroom properly.

English medium college student-teachers have more fear of exam as more English medium college student-teachers forget known answers in exam.

**Conclusion:** Researchers have carried out a research and tried to evaluate the effect of medium of instruction on student-teachers' anxiety. Student-teachers are going to be teachers and if they suffer with anxiety while performing

the academic duties then the learning will be complicated and may not be taken place. Generally we believe that to get proficiency over second language and to study in the second language is a challenging task for the learners to be competent or proficient teachers or in other words we can say that the nervousness, anxiety fear confusion, complexity will be increased. Here the researchers have found the result that the student-teachers of Gujarati medium college are more competent in teaching and on all the other professional commitment then the student-teachers of English medium. Now, it is the challenge for the trainers of the English medium college how to overcome such situations. The researchers have tried to do study with sincerity & commitment. They have tried to do it without any bias & prejudices.

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