



ATTITUDE OF PARENTS TOWARDS PRIVATE TUITION: A CASE STUDY

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Abstract

The present study attempts to explore the attitude of parents towards private tuition and its causes, effectiveness of private tuition and the problems on the lives of parents. From the result of the research the causes of increasing trend of private tuition are – overcrowded classroom and lack of individual attention in the school, heavy stress on academic performance, frequent bandhs, general strikes or blockade and other social issues, ineffective classroom teaching and rigid curriculum, examination oriented school culture, influence of family members, relatives and friends, an alternative means to help weak children, insufficiency of academic guidance for the future in the family, to keep children gainfully occupied in their studies and means for minding children and keeping them attach with their books. While studying the problems of private tuition in the lives of the parents, the problem are – large amount of money spend on children's private tuition, socially accepted culture to improve the learning and academic performance, wealthy households are capable of spending more money than poor households and has created a serious socio-economic division in the society, put parents in the society into financial burden and exhaustion, parents to pay less attention to their professions as they are confined in attending their children in private tuition centres on daily basis, resulted a negative backwash in the society by robbing the thinking power, creativity and problem solving skills of the children, parents are compelled to send their children to private tuition under the pressure and influence of their family, friends and relatives, parents as a whole are not proportionately benefitted in terms of the results of their children academic performance as to the money they have spent on private tuition and spending most of the time in attending children private tuitions affects physical and mental health. The findings may help to improve the present education system and to enable eradication of private tuition in our society.

Keywords: Parents' attitude, private tuition, factors of private tuition, problems of private tuition, Imphal, Manipur.

Private tuition has now become a global phenomenon and has been establishing globally a trend parallel to the formal school education. Most parents think that tuitions keep children busy and provides flexible time for the weak students to clear their doubts, improve students' academic performance, help the students to prepare themselves for examinations and entrance for professional courses and also for higher studies. In some cases, parents are not happy about sending their children to private tuition, but they know that, without that stimulus, their children will be losers in race. Nowadays, parents considered and also convinced that private tuition is a good investment. They feel that without private tuition, their children would be left behind, and the parents strongly believed that levels of education are closely linked to level of future learning. Parents tolerated private tuitions because of the benefits of high scores in examinations. And in some families where parents are uneducated and children are the first generation learners they viewed private tuition as a means to fill the gap to educate their children as they thought school learning is not enough for their children. Not all parents are in favour of private tutoring. Those who are poor find it expensive, others think that the child becomes tired or has little time for extra-curricular activities. Some parents also have the view of complete ban on private tuition. Over the years, the spirits of competition among the students have increased intensely. The spirit of completion has been exacerbated by the mismatch between the number of aspirant and the limited seats available at the higher levels of academic ladder and job opportunities, thus necessitating private tuition. Consequently, students of all types – weak, average and bright have taken recourse to private tuition for different reasons. However, the specific reasons for private tuition are varied and encompass educational, social, cultural, economical and psychological aspects. Private tuition has also successfully found its ground in Manipur as an extension of the growing global phenomenon. The tutoring industry has becomes

an expanding source of employment as well as a way for many mainstream school teachers to earn supplementary incomes. At the same time, private tutoring has been a welcome opportunity to increase the income of the formal private school teachers, whose salaries have been seriously eroded. In the case of government teachers in the state irregularities of salary have affected the moral of the teachers in our state. Private tuition is now much less about pupils who are in real need of help that they cannot find in the school, but has become much more about maintaining competition advantages of the already successful and privileged. It also represents a significant financial investment by families to their children's education in the state, with the majority of students having tutoring at some point during their careers. There are many reasons for the rising demands for private tuition to complement the public and private schooling system. The demand factors include demand for places in prestigious schools, ineffective teaching-learning process in the mainstream schools, large school class sizes, general strikes bandhs, blockades or class boycotts by student bodies or cease work strikes by teachers and lack of individual attention and pressure. The supply factor includes low salary and morale of teachers, teacher regulation and peer pressure. Private tutoring is not always effective in raising academic achievement and in some school students commonly skip classes or sleep through lessons just because they are either tired excessive external study or students take the regular classroom teaching for granted. This means that the shadow education can make regular schooling less efficient. Teacher who spends more time focusing on private tuition than regular classes can cause greater inefficiencies in the mainstream school system. Situation in which teachers provide extra private tutoring for pupils for whom they are already responsible in the public system can lead to corruption, particularly when teacher deliberately teach less in their classes in order to promote the market for private tuition. The culture of spoon feeding is robbing away the

thinking power of our young students. This slowly cultivates a mindset of dependency among young students which they cannot think of solving any problem without teacher's assistance. The National Curriculum Framework of 2005 had adopted a constructivist perspective. In the teaching which aims at developing learners who construct their knowledge themselves, for the learners it is learning for construction of knowledge, and for the teachers it is teaching for construction of knowledge. So, the present education system need to change in the constructivist view of learning. Private tutoring is defined as fee-based tutoring that provides supplementary instruction to children in academic subjects that they study in the mainstream education system. The study primarily focuses on tutoring lessons for children or adolescent paid for by their households or parents, so private tutoring can clearly be considered to be a form of private education. The present study aims at exploring a little more the phenomenon of private tutoring, the causes for taking private tuition, the effectiveness of private tuition and the problems of private tuition on the lives of the parents.

Objectives of Study

To find out the opinion of the parents for the causes of increasing private tuition in Manipur. To find out the opinion of the parents on the effectiveness of the private tuitions in improving the academic performance. And To find out the problems on the lives of the parents caused by the increasing trend of private tuition in Manipur.

Method of Study

The present study was conducted through survey method of research on the simple random sampling of 100 parents who came to guard their children from selected 10 (ten) tutorial centres of Imphal – East and West districts of Manipur. The sample comprised of 10 parents from Gurukul tutorial centre, KeishampatHodamLeirak, 10 COMET tutorial centre, Keishampat, 10 MECI tutorial centre, KeishampatThokchomLeikai, 10 Lamjingba tutorial centre, Lamphel, 10 KIMES tutorial centre, Singjamei, 10 Panacea tutorial centre, Checkon, 10 Shine tutorial centre, Wangkhei, 10 Social Science tutorial centre, SoibamLeikai, 10 ESPM tutorial centre, WangkheiAyangpalli, 10 Spice tutorial centre, Checkon, Imphal. The tools for the study were used questionnaire which was developed by investigator himself keeping into account the various aspects of private tuition. The data are interpreted in term of percentage.

Result and Discussion

1. Causes for Increasing Trend of Private Tuition

Table – 1

Sl. No	Causes	Number	Percentage
1.	Overcrowded classroom and lack of individual attention in the school	91	91 %
2.	Heavy stress on academic performance	63	63 %
3.	Frequent bandhs, general strikes or blockade and other social issues	75	75 %
4.	Ineffective classroom teaching and rigid curriculum	79	79 %
5.	Examination oriented school culture	61	61 %
6.	Influence of family members, relatives and friends	58	58 %
7.	An alternative means to help weak children	57	57 %
8.	Insufficiency of academic guidance, for the future in the family	68	68 %
9.	A way to keep the children gainfully occupied in their studies	55	55 %
10.	Means for minding children and keeping them attach with their books	71	71 %

(N = 100), While studying the causes of increasing trend of private tuition in Manipur, it was found that 91 i.e. 91 % of parents agreed that overcrowded classroom and lack of individual attention in the school is also cause for rising the demand for private tuition. 63 i.e. 63 % agreed that the heavy stress on academic achievement of their children is the cause for the trend of private tuition. 75 i.e. 75 % of the parents agreed to the statement that frequent bandhs, general strikes or blockade and other social issues are the cause of increasing trend of private tuition. 79 i.e. 79 % of the parent agreed that ineffective classroom teaching and rigid curriculum are the cause for the trend of private tuition. 61 i.e. 61 % of the respondents agreed to the statement that examination oriented school culture is the reason to seek for private tuition. 58 i.e. 58 % of the parents agreed that their family members, relatives and friends influence them to sent their children for private tuition. 57 i.e. 57 % of the parents responded yes to the statement that private tuition can be an alternative means to help the weak students. 68 i.e. 68 % of the parents agreed that insufficiency of academic guidance for the future career is the cause for seeking private tuition. 55 i.e. 55 % agreed that they sent their children to private tuition to keep them gainfully occupied in the studies. 71 i.e. 71 % of the parents agreed that it serves as means for minding children and keeping them attach with their books.

2. Effectiveness of Private Tuition

Table – 2

Sl. No	Effectiveness	Number	Percentage
1.	Improve academic performance	88	88 %
2.	Help to revise and understand lessons and deepen knowledge	82	82 %
3.	Provide flexible time and individual attention to improve weak subjects	62	62 %
4.	Help academically sound and successful children to maintain their competitive advantage over others	76	76 %
5.	Help prepare Well for the competitive exams, entrance exams (Medical, Engineering and other professional courses) and for higher studies	83	83 %
6.	Kind of educational investment to gain benefits in the future	66	66 %
7.	An alternative means to supplement learning beside school classroom teaching	72	72 %

(N = 100) In the aspects of the effectiveness of private tuition, it was found that 88 i.e. 88 % of the parents agreed that private tuition help their children to improve the academic performance. 82 i.e. 82 % of the respondents gave their positive response that private tuition help them to revise and understand their lessons and deepen their knowledge. 62 i.e. 62 % of the parents agreed that private tuition provide children a flexible time and individual attention to improve the weak subjects. 76 i.e. 76 % of respondents agreed that private tuition helps academically sound and successful children to maintain their competitive advantage over others. 83 i.e. 83 % of the parents agreed that private tuition help the children in preparing well for the competitive exams, entrance exams (Medical, Engineering and other professional courses) and for higher studies. 66 i.e. 66 % of respondent agreed that private tuition is a kind of educational investment to gain benefit in the future. 72 i.e. 72 % of the parents agreed that private tuition is an alternative means to supplement learning beside school classroom teaching.

3. Problems of Private Tutorials on the Lives of the parents

Table - 3

Sl. No.	Problems	Number	Percentage
1.	Large amount of money spent on children's private tuition	89	89 %
2.	Socially accepted culture to improve the learning and academic performance	90	90 %
3.	Wealthy households are capable of spending more money than poor households and has created a serious socio-economic division in the society	92	92 %
4.	Put parents in the society into financial burden and exhaustion	91	91 %
5.	Parent of pay less attention to their professions as they are confined in attending their children in private tuition centres on daily basis	90	90 %
6.	Resulted a negative backwash in the society by robbing the thinking power creativity and problem solving skills of the children	89	89 %
7.	Parents are compelled to send their children to private tuition under the pressure and influence of their family, friends and relatives	76	76 %
8.	Parents as a whole are not proportionately benefitted in terms of the results of their children academic performance as to the money they have spent on private tuition	68	68 %
9.	Spending most of the time in attending children private tutorials affects physical and mental health	73	73 %

(N= 200) While studying problems in the lives of the parents through the private tuition, it was found that 89 i.e. 89 % of the parents agreed that large amount of money is spent on children private tuition. 90 i.e. 90 % of the parents agreed that private tuition has become a socially accepted culture to improve the learning and academic performance. 92 i.e. 92 % of the parents agreed to the statement that wealthy households are capable of spending more money than poor households and it had created a serious socio-economic division in the society. 91 i.e. 91 % of respondents agreed that private tuition has put parents in the society into financial burden and exhaustion. 90 i.e. 90 % agreed that they pay less attention to their professions as they are confined on a daily basis to attend their children in private tuition centres. 89 i.e. 89 % of the parents agreed that private tuition resulted in a negative backwash in the society is robbing the thinking power, creativity and problem solving skills of the children. 76 i.e. 76 % of respondents agreed that they faced heavy pressure from their family, friends, and relatives and are compelled to send their children to private tuition. 68 i.e. 68 % of the parents agreed that as a whole are not proportionately benefitted in terms of the result of their children academic performance as to the money they have spent on private tuition. 73 i.e. 73 % of the parents agreed that spending most of the time in attending children private tutorials affects physical and mental health.

4. Educational Level of the Parents

Table - 4

Educational Level	Number of Parents	Percentage
Undergraduate	23	23 %
Graduate	34	34 %
Post-graduate and above	43	43 %
Total	100	

(N= 100) From the above table 4, it shows that 23 i.e. 23 % of the parents of the students are under- graduate. 34 i.e. 34 % of the parents of the students are graduate. 43 i.e.

43 % of the parent are post –graduates and above. It can be therefore interpreted that most of the highly educated parents send their children for private tuition.

5. Professional Level of the Parents

Table - 5

Professional Level	Number of Parents	Percentage
Government Employee	53	53 %
Private Sector Employee	22	22 %
Business	25	25 %
Total	100	

(N= 100) From the above table 5, it is found that 53 i.e. 53 % of the parents of the students are government employees. 22 i.e. 22 % of the parents of the students are private sector employees. 25 i.e. 25 % of the parents are doing business. It is therefore interpreted that maximum number of government employee parents send their children for private tuition than private sectors and business parents.

6. Economic Status of the Parents

Table - 6

Income Level of the Parents in a year	Number of Parents	Percentage
1 Lakh – 2 Lakh	13	13 %
2 Lakh – 3 Lakh	16	16 %
3 Lakh – 5 Lakh	17	17 %
5 Lakh and above	54	54 %
Total	100	

(N= 100) From the above analysis of the economic status of the parents who send their children in private tuition, it is found that 13 i.e. 13 % of the parents' income level is 1 Lakh – 2 Lakh rupees in a year. 16 i.e. 16 % of the parents' income level in 2 Lakh – 3 Lakh rupees in a year. 17 i.e. 17 % of the parents' income level is 3 Lakh – 5 Lakh rupees in a year. 54 i.e. 54 % of the parents' income level is 5 Lakh and above rupees on a year. It can be therefore interpreted that parents earning annually an income of 5 Lakh and above send their children for the private tuition more than the parents earning less income.

Conclusion and Suggestions

While studying the causes for increasing trend of private tuition, the highest number of parent consider that overcrowded classroom and lack of individual attention in the school is the cause for increasing trend of private tuition in Manipur. Ineffective classroom teaching and rigid curriculum is the second rank for cause of the parents seeking private tuition. The teachers are focusing more on private tuition rather than classroom teaching. And the present curriculum does not provide knowledge useful to children's future career. In the third rank is the frequent bandhs, general strikes or blockade which is used as a means for any demand of the social issues to the government which become the cause of increasing trend of private tuition in Manipur. Private tuition serves as means for minding children and keeping them attach with their books is cause for trend of private tuition. Insufficiency of academic guidance for the future career of the children is the cause for seeking private tuition. Many of the parents consider that heavy stress on the academic performance of the children is a cause of private tuition. Examination oriented school culture is also cause of the increasing trend of private tuition. Influence of family members, relatives, friends and the society are the cause for sending the children to join private tuition. An alternative means to help the weak students which in



turns increases the demand for private tuition. They send their children to private tuition to keep them gainfully occupied in the studies. While studying the problems of private tuition on the lives of the parents, it was found that the parents faced problem due to investment of large amount of money on children's private tuition. Private tuition has become a problem as it has become socially accepted culture to improve the learning and academic performance of the children. And it also implies that it will largely affect the functioning of the mainstream school system and it will also affect the learning process of the students. Majority number of parents agreed that problems in the lives of the parents is due to the reason that wealthy households are capable of spending more money than poor households and has created a serious socio-economic division in the society. It means that this will bring about an educational inequality and social inequality issues. Private tuition put parents in the society into financial burden and exhaustion. Private tuition which has led parents to pay less attention to their professions as they are confined in attending their children in private tuition centres on daily basis. It has resulted a negative backwash in the society by robbing the thinking power, creativity and problem solving skills of the children. Parents as a whole are not proportionately benefitted in terms of the results of their children academic performance as to the money they have spent on private tuition. Spending most of the time in attending children private tuition affects physical and mental health of the parents.

Based on the Above Situations, it is Suggested to Eradicate Private Tutorials in our Society: The present education system need to change in the constructivist view of learning. In the teaching which aims at developing learners who construct their knowledge themselves, for the learners it is learning for construction of knowledge, and for the teachers it is teaching for construction of knowledge. Teacher must realize that knowledge / concepts learned today should change to modify tomorrow. Therefore, they do not stress on memorising the facts by students but help teachers to nurture students as independent thinkers and constructors of knowledge. The role of teacher change from 'transmitter' of knowledge to facilitator' of knowledge construction. They must employ a range of strategies to support individual student's understanding by problem – based activities. Teachers must not be grafted on traditional methods of teaching; these need a change in the culture – a set norms, attitudes, beliefs and practices that constitute constructivist culture. Learning is not a passive receptive process but is instead an active meaning making process required to solve meaningful problems. So, students should take the responsibility of their own learning. They must construct knowledge and should not receive knowledge as passive learners. It is to suggest to the parents and the students that private tuition is not the only means to guarantee the academic improvement and higher performance. Because private tuition cultivate a mindset of dependency and culture of rote learning. So, parents and students should aware of disadvantages of private tuition. Teachers must not be commercialized instead they should be dedicated to their teaching profession, in their mainstream school education. It is also suggest that students, parents and the government should promote the learning in the school rather than those in the private tuition

centres. They should aware that the learning which the private tuition provide is incomplete. It undermines the all round education as provide in the schools. This serious issue of growing demand of private tuitions has to be emphasized by the policy makers intervening on curriculum, teachers salary structure, pedagogical development, evaluation system etc., and to think what can be executed for the slow learners. In the present education system curriculum should be based on constructivist. In the constructivist curriculum emphasis is given on the individual learner as an important role in determining what will be learned. Government should framed a policy like remedial classes for the students in the schools. It should be made compulsory implementation and monitored the working of its policy for the welfare of the students, parents and the society as a whole.

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