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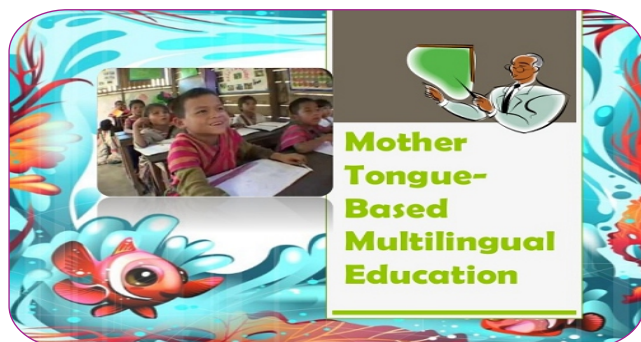
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THE IMPORTANCE OF MOTHER TONGUE IN EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT :

Language is a key that will open all entryways of human advance. In each stroll of life, the man feels a most extreme need of language. None can manage without a satisfactory dominance over the language-oral and also composed. Language assumes essential part in concentrate any subject whether it be scholastic, specialized, proficient or professional. The whole advance of a country depends especially upon the general accomplishment in language, since it accommodates a satisfactory and powerful instrument of communication.

KEYWORDS : language-oral , scholastic, specialized, proficient.

INTRODUCTION

In school the point is to furnish the youngsters

with such learning encounters as would be valuable and order to them in their future occupations. These encounters are accomplished best just when there is effective vehicle of language, in light of the fact that a large portion of the learning depends on perusing, talking, composing and examining. In the school educational programs additionally, the language assumes the most indispensable part. Keeping in mind the end goal to empower the kids work effectively utilizing every one of their aptitudes, language is required to instruct and the mother tongue the first and from the earliest starting point of their learning. It can possibly be comprehended the accomplishment of numerous an expert identity which is for the most part due to the intense and noteworthy language. Indeed, even in simple issues, the aftereffect of good language is experienced.

The teaching of the mother tongue was the most 'ignored element in the Indian education. In the post-free period the significance of the mother tongue has been completely recognized. The individuals who are sincerely keen on education comprehend the imperative position of the mother tongue throughout everyday life. Mother tongue has assumed its legitimate position as a subject of study, medium of guideline, articulation, aptitude, communication and as a methods for culture. Gujarati is the mother tongue of the general population of Gujarat and it is imperative for an assortment of reasons counted by W.M. Rirburn :1

..... this is the most important subject in the curriculum, and that therefore its teacher is the most important teacher in the school; which will educate the Universities to make passing in the mother tongue compulsory in the matriculation examination.

Really the mother tongue is the basis of all work that is done in all classes where it is the medium of instruction. It is more than just one of the subjects in school. X quote below from The Hadow Report and what is said about English applies, in India, to the mother tongue.

At the same time English should not be treated as an isolated subject confined to certain definite periods assigned to it in the time-table. In every branch of the curriculum pupils should be

trained to express their ideas, either orally or in writing, in accurate and appropriate language. It will, therefore, be advisable to exercise a careful supervision over the use of English in every subject.²

Sampson³ says :

“It is true then, that we cannot have true education in our schools, until the mother tongue is given its rightful place in the curriculum and in the life of the pupil....”

Ballard⁴ says that

“The mother tongue is important because: Thought and language are inextricably linked together. For if thought and inner speech are so closely interwoven that they grow and decay together, we cannot cultivate one without cultivating the other. And training in the use of the mother tongue - the tongue in which a child thinks and dreams - becomes the first essential of schooling and the finest instrument of human culture.”

It is, therefore, of the greatest importance for the pupils to get a firm grounding in their mother tongue and at the same time they are given a firm grounding in their intellectual life. And the next importance of the mother tongue is that it is the medium by which thought both by speaking and writing is communicated.

Stressing the importance of the mother tongue, W.M. Ryburn further says :

“Before a child can realize the fullness of life in all its aspects, and before he can use the powers that God has given him, he must be able to use his mother tongue, which is the tool that is absolutely essential in all kinds of work. In other words no child can grow up to be a good and useful citizen unless he has been properly educated in the use of his mother tongue, and in the appreciation of all that he can gain through knowledge of his mother tongue. All the virtues that are necessary in a good citizen, clear thinking, clear expression, sincerity of thought and feeling and action, fullness of emotional and creative life, all these things can be properly cultivated and developed only if sufficient attention is paid to the foundation of emotional and intellectual life, the mother tongue.⁵”

And the mother tongue is at once a tool, a source of joy and happiness and knowledge, a director of taste and feeling, and a means of using the highest powers that God has given us, where we come closest to Him; that is, our creative powers.

Dr. Zakir Hussain⁶ observes the importance of the mother tongue;

“It is a natural outlet for expression of the child’s aesthetic sense and appreciation”

A well designed school curriculum in the mother tongue will serve two high objectives that have a bearing on the effectiveness of all programmes of education. One is that the course in the mother tongue, more than perhaps any other subject in the curriculum, could introduce the pupil to the joy of learning. The gravest error that the ordinary school makes is that it takes no notice of the joy of learning. It may be, with great profit, born in mind what Ben Jonson⁷ said in the sixteenth century:

“A youth should not be made to hate study before he knows the causes to love it, or taste the bitterness before the sweet; but called on and allured, entreated and praised: yea, when he deserves it not.”

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