



## PARENTAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENGLISH AS A MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO JORHAT DISTRICT

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**Abstract:** This study has been undertaken to study the attitude of parents towards English as a medium of instruction. This study was conducted on 100 parents of Jorhat district of Assam. Simple random sampling is used to select the sample from the population. Descriptive survey method is used in this paper. A self-made attitude scale was used to collect data.

**Keywords:** Attitude. The medium of instruction, parents.

### I. INTRODUCTION

In the present study, the researcher studied the attitude of parents' towards English as a medium of instruction. It is very important to understand what kind of attitude the parents' have towards English as a medium of instruction. India is a multilingual country and there is so many linguistic groups exist. Some controversies are going on regarding the medium of instruction. From the British colonization, India emphasizes English learning, but some of the Indian people don't accept this. For that reason, the medium of instruction is still not in a stable position in India. So it is necessary to know the parental attitude towards English as a medium of instruction so that some policy can be made regarding that issue.

The researcher investigates the attitude of male and female parents, urban and rural parents towards English as a medium of instruction, because parents' attitude is very important. Choosing a medium of instruction is affected by the attitude of parents'. The attitude of parents may differ from male to female or urban to rural. So that it affects the selection of medium of instruction is different from one to another.

### RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

The researcher wants to research parental attitude towards English as a medium of instruction for these following reasons.

1. Assam appears to be a mini India with her diverse population and linguistic as well as ethnic groups. As in other parts of the country, a tendency has grown up here in this state also to get everybody's dialects as the medium of instruction in the educational institutions and becomes successful but it creates problem to the uniformity of medium. Apart from this, some people want uniformity of medium through English. So it is necessary to know the parental attitude towards English.
2. All dialects of Assam have not occupied the status of the medium of instruction. If a child gets school education they face trouble in Higher Education because higher education has been given through English in India.

Under such circumstances, a comprehensive, elaborate study and scientific analysis are needed which will involve not only conceptual analysis regarding the medium of instruction but also a good acquaintance with the problem of education of the state. Therefore the researcher decided to take the present study to study the parental attitude towards English as a medium of instruction. It will make the policy implementers know about the effectiveness of English as a medium in the educational system.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To compare the parental attitude towards the medium of instruction in respect to Rural and Urban
2. To compare the parental attitude towards the medium of instruction in respect to male and female

### HYPOTHESIS

1. There is no significant difference between the attitude of urban and rural parents regarding the medium of instruction.
2. There is no significant difference between the attitude of male and female parents regarding the medium of instruction.

**METHOD USED:**

For the present study, 'Descriptive Survey Method' is applied to the study the parental attitude towards English as a Medium of Instruction and depending upon the objectives of the study, these methods seem to be appropriate.

**POPULATION**

The population comprises all the parents from upper primary to secondary class students' living in urban and rural areas of Jorhat subdivision of Jorhat district.

**SAMPLE:**

For the present study, a sample of 100 parents 50 from urban and 50 from a rural area consisting of 25 male and 25 female has been taken from both the areas. For selecting the required number of sample the investigator adopts 'simple random sampling'.

**TOOL USED**

For gathering data for the present study the investigator used the tool named "Attitude scale to study the parental attitude towards English as a medium of instruction" which is a self-constructed tool and constructed by the investigator.

**DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION:****Objective No.1 Compare the parental attitude towards English as a medium of instruction in respect to Rural and Urban**

**NULL HYPOTHESIS-** There is no significant difference between the attitude of rural and urban parents regarding the medium of instruction.

Residency of Parents	N	Mean	SD	t-value	df
Urban	50	90.2800	14.01026	1.057	98
Rural	50	87.7000	10.07978		

**\*Not significant at 0.05 level of significance**

Based on the table, it is found that the mean score of urban parents is 90.28 and rural parent is 87.7 with SD score of urban is 14.01026 and rural is 10.07978. It shows that t-value calculated for the attitude of the urban and rural parent towards English as a medium of instruction comes out to be 1.057. The table value of 't' is 1.980 with 98 degree of freedom which is more than the calculated value at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis "There is no significant difference between the attitude of rural and urban parents regarding the medium of instruction" is not rejected. Hence it can be said that there is no significance difference between the attitude of rural and urban parents regarding the medium of instruction. They both have approximately similar kind of attitude towards English as a medium of instruction.

The result revealed that there is no significant difference between the parental attitude towards English as a medium of instruction based on urban and rural.

- The probable cause of having a similar attitude towards English can be awareness. There are some awareness programmes held in both urban and rural area. All peoples are aware of the need for education. Parents from both rural and urban area don't want to keep their child in a strict boundary. They want their child to explore the world and gain more knowledge about it. It is possible with English learning because English is an international language. Through English people can communicate with peoples from every corner of society.
- The parents from both rural and urban area have an approximately similar attitude towards English as a medium of instruction. As we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. At present, as India believed in globalization and the citizen of India has developed their attitude towards internalization. The light of knowledge has thrown all part of India. Urban as well as rural people also develop their attitude towards globalization. Therefore, there is no significant difference between the attitude of rural and urban parents towards English as a medium of instruction.
- Another reason might be westernization. Westernization is the process of adapting the western culture; because of the influence of westernization both rural and urban parents consider English as a better medium of education. Parents think that the English language can make their child familiar with western culture, which helps in westernization.

**Objective No.2 Compare the parental attitude towards the medium of instruction in respect to male and female.**

**NULL HYPOTHESIS-** There is no significant difference between the attitude of male and female parents regarding the medium of instruction.

Gender of Parents	N	Mean	SD	t-value	df
Male	50	87.42	11.89081	1.290	98
Female	50	90.56	12.44442		

**\*Not significant at 0.05 level of significance**

Based on the table, it is found that the mean score of male parents is 87.42 and female parent is 90.56 and SD score of the male is 11.89081 and female is 12.44442. It shows that t value calculated for the attitude of male and female parent towards English as a medium of instruction comes out to be 1.290. The table value of 't' is 1.980 with 98 degree of freedom which is more than the calculated value at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis "There is no significant difference between the attitude of male and female parents regarding the medium of instruction" is not rejected. Hence it can be said that there is no significance

difference between the attitude of male and female parents regarding the medium of instruction. They both have approximately similar kind of attitude towards English as a medium of instruction.

The result revealed that there is no significant difference between parental attitudes towards English as a medium of instruction based on gender (male/female).

- The both male and female have an approximately similar attitude towards English as a medium of instruction. The reason behind that may be the influence of the patriarchy system in our society. Female parents simply accept the opinion of their husbands towards English medium. So, there is no significant difference between the attitude of male and female parents.
- Another reason might be the development of education. Now a day's both male and female get equal priorities in the field of education. Because of having similar modern education, both male and female parents are having a positive attitude towards English as a medium of education. Therefore, there is no significance difference between male and female parents.
- To some extent, we have seen that in a contemporary situation, all interviews for the job, viva, and competitive exams are mostly conducted in English. To crack these competitive exams, interviews student should be competent enough in English. Thus parents are concern about their child's future. So for the security of their child, all parents irrespective of gender (male or female) have a similar attitude towards English as a medium of instruction. Therefore, there is no significant difference between male and female parents towards English as a medium of instruction.
- Another reason might be that, the impact of westernization. Westernization influences both the parents. As a result of which parents' wants to give education to their child in English. They believed that the English language can lead their child to the enormous field of western knowledge, which a native language can't. So, both male and female parents have a similar attitude towards English education.

Therefore, there is no significant difference between male and female parents towards English as a medium of instruction.

## CONCLUSION

After the present study, the researcher can conclude that English as a language stands profoundly substance in almost every institution especially, in higher education. Parents of contemporary time show great interest in the English language; as this language is used in much of our works in our day to day life. Nevertheless, we cannot ignore the importance of our root language as it is the base of one's own culture but to program properly in our socio-academic life English stands with utter importance. Nowadays it is seen that much of the educational institutions has English as its medium of instruction and every child of those respective institutions have to abide by the medium of instruction. The present study also revealed that some parents are much attached and have the conservative nature of sticking to their culture root. But with the growing time and the development of science and technology they have realized that the English language not only helps one to understand the English literature and bring in the confidence of their children to face the world at large and they have also seen that it is the English language that helps one to connect with the nook and corner of the world.

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