



Bilingualism (Global Gujarati Medium) as the Medium of Instruction: A Study

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Abstract

The world is moving fast so as the wheel of Education. We witness a lot many changes in education in last decades. Changes in education have brought many innovations in Education. The one change which has also impacted a lot in society and culture is the medium of instruction from the mother tongue to English. In the whole educative process, the medium of education instruction is very important to decide the effect of education on a child. All educationalists and wise people of the society are always in favour of Mother tongue as the medium of instruction. But as the wheel of Education has been moving fast, this becomes a debatable issue in the educative process. The mother tongue is replaced by English being an International language. The number of English medium schools are increasing so rapidly that it has questioned against the Gujarati Medium Schools in Gujarat. The craze for English medium schools is common in educated and illiterate people. Global Gujarati Medium has come up with the solution of this. Here in GGM, a child learns through Gujarati, its culture and also higher level English which is taught in English medium schools. So both the purposes are served. In this paper, the researcher has studied the Global Gujarati Medium Model which was implemented in 2016 in a group of schools in Surat.

Key words: Bilingualism, Global Gujarati Medium, Medium of Educational Instruction

Introduction:

Education plays very important role in the building of any Nation. To say Education is very important is actually an understatement. It is the most powerful weapon with which the society can be changed drastically. That is the reason Education is given at most importance in any point of time in the history of human being. The world is moving fast so as the wheel of Education. We witness a lot many changes in education in last decades. Changes in education has brought many innovations in Education. The one change which has also impacted a lot in society and culture is the medium of instruction from the mother tongue to English. In the whole educative process, the medium of education instruction is very important to decide the effect of education on a child. All educationalists and wise people of the society are always in favour of Mother tongue as the medium of instruction. But as the wheel of Education has been moving fast, this becomes a debatable issue in the educative process. The mother tongue is replaced by English being an International language. The number of English medium schools are increasing so rapidly that it has questioned against the Gujarati Medium Schools, in Gujarat. The craze for English medium schools is common in educated and illiterate people. To save Gujarati as a language and as a subject, the Government is doing hard work and has implemented its language policy which says;

- Irrespective of the board, including the CBSE, ICSE, IB, CISEC or IGCSE, teaching Gujarati will be mandatory for every school in the state. (<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/gujarati-language-becomes-compulsory-in-schools-of-gujarat/story-NIi0Hla0Sg3mExYEb3ELGM.html>)

- English subject will be taught in all streams from Classes 1 to 3. While the language will be orally taught in Classes 1 to 2, Class 3 students will have an English textbook. The subject will be taught with the help of words and pictures. (<https://news.careers360.com/gujarat-government-makes-english-compulsory-for-classes-1-3-in-gujarati-medium-schools-jitu-vaghani>)

- The level of Gujarati will remain same in Gujarati as well as in English Medium schools.

The new education policy -2020 has also emphasized on the teaching of mother tongue and bilingualism in education.

4.12. As research clearly shows that children pick up languages extremely quickly between the ages of 2 and 8 and that multilingualism has great cognitive benefits to young students, children will be exposed to different languages early on (but with a particular emphasis on the mother tongue), starting from the Foundational Stage onwards. All languages will be taught in an enjoyable and interactive style, with plenty of interactive conversation, and with early reading and subsequently writing in the mother tongue in the early years, and with skills developed for reading and writing in other languages in Grade 3 and beyond.

4.14. All efforts will be made in preparing high-quality bilingual textbooks and teaching-learning materials for science and mathematics, so that students are enabled to think and speak about the two subjects both in their home language/mother tongue and in English.

(https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/NEP_Final_English_0.pdf)

With the Government of India and Government of Gujarat, there are some educationalists who are worry about the situation of Gujarati/ Mother tongue in education. They are trying to find ways to save Gujarati language and its culture. Dr. Raees Maniar , Psychologist and Dr. Meetaben Vakil, Principal, Bhulka Vihar School are such educationalists who are in search of the solution of this burning and debatable problem. And they have come up with GGM- Global Gujarati Medium as a solution to this.

Global Medium was introduced for the first time in Bhulka Vihar School Surat, in the year 2015 as a pilot project. Its main intention was to save and give Gujarati Medium students a platform for the English Language. It has emerged as a very successful medium for students. Today it has got recognition as 'BILINGUAL MEDIUM' all over Gujarat !!! Gradually 29 schools of Surat joined it.

Words Defined:

Words used in the research are very important, particularly when there is the research in the system of education. Here each word has specific meaning which needs to be understood in order to understand the research problem and its solution. Moreover, it gives the readers clear understanding about the context in which the word is used in the research. Key words used in the present study were as follow:

Bilingualism:

Bilingualism is the ability to communicate in two different languages. Bilingual education is the use of two different languages in classroom instruction.

(<http://www.healthofchildren.com/B/Bilingualism-Bilingual-Education.html>)

Bilingual education is the process of teaching students using two languages. (<https://www.educationcorner.com/k12-bilingual-education.html>)

Global Gujarati Medium:

Global Medium was introduced for the first time in Bhulka Vihar School Surat, in the year 2015 as a pilot project. Its main intention was to save and give Gujarati Medium students a platform for the English Language. It has emerged as a very successful medium for students. Today it has got recognition as 'BILINGUAL MEDIUM' all over Gujarat !!!

(<http://bhulkavihar.com/?p=3219>)

Medium of Education Instruction:

A **medium of instruction** (plural: **media of instruction**, or **mediums of instruction**) is a [language](#) used in teaching. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medium_of_instruction)

A language used in teaching. It may or not be an official language of the country. (<https://www.igi-global.com/dictionary/medium-of-instruction/33445>)

The medium of instruction is the language used by the teacher to teach. (<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/medium-instruction>)

Objective:

- To study the concept of Global Gujarati Medium.
- To study the model of Global Gujarati Medium.
- To study the advantages of GGM.
- To study the challenges of GGM.

Question:

- What is Global Gujarati Medium Model?
- How is it implemented? What are the phases of it?
- What are the advantages of Global Gujarati Medium?
- What are the challenges of Global Gujarati Medium?

Importance of the study:

- This study will be helpful to the Government of Gujarat, Educationalists, Principals, Teachers, Parents and Students to understand the concept of Global Gujarati Medium.
- It will throw light on the advantages of Global Gujarati Medium.
- It will also be proved important to understand the Global Gujarati Medium as the third alternative for parents and society.
- It will be useful to understand the challenges while implementing it.

Research Method:

As this study falls under the area of Qualitative research, the content analysis method was used. Content analysis is defined as a procedure for the categorization of verbal or behavioural data for the purpose of classification, summarization and tabulation.

Sample of the Study:

Sampling poses the most complicated problems in the method of content analysis. The researcher selected the articles, website prepared for the GGM, and reports on GGM prepared by third party survey committee and the Gujarat Government committee which have required data.

The Collection and Classification of Data:

The adequate data were collected to carry out the analysis and derive conclusions. The researcher went through the reading of the articles, website prepared for the GGM, and reports on GGM prepared by third party survey committee and the Gujarat Government committee twice.

Analysis of the Data:

The researcher had adopted the method of content analysis. According to the method, following stages of content analysis were utilised in the study.

- (A) Thought Analysis
- (B) Concept Analysis

GLOBAL GUJARATI MEDIUM MODEL

Bilingual media serves two goals simultaneously.

- Glory of mother tongue – preservation of tradition and culture
- Mastery of a world language – the right path to development

Bilingual media can be divided into four stages

Phase 1 – Standard 1 2

Introduction to English through listening.

An introduction to prime numbers and glossary in a math environment.

Rest of the study according to current Gujarati medium.

Phase 2 – Standard 3 4 5

Bilingual Books of Mathematics and Environment. Classroom language mainly Gujarati medium – gradually starting to understand these subjects in English as well.

Rest of the subjects according to present Gujarati medium.

Phase 3 – Standard 6,7,8

Bilingual Books of Mathematics and Science in Class 6 and 7. Gradually, these two subjects are sufficient for the increasing use of the English language. Only English books for Maths and Science in class 8. New English as a Language 2 Higher Level books will be coming from time to time. Rest of the subjects are according to current Gujarati medium

Phase 4 – Class 9, 10

English Books of Mathematics and Science.

New English as a Language 2 Higher Level books will be coming from time to time.

Rest of the subjects are according to current Gujarati medium

Bilingual Medium : Methodology and Implementation

At present private schools are allowed to operate voluntarily, with approval. Going forward bilingual medium will be implemented for children of selected government schools of excellence in Gujarat. This system will be introduced in the first-second standard with immediate effect. If the school is ready, this method can be implemented in the third standard this year as well. Private schools can also take permission and start implementation in this way. This medium will not be applicable to the children who are currently studying in the fourth standard or above. These provisions will apply vice versa as the newly admitted students move to the next standard.

3.1 Phase 1 – First and Second Standard

In the first and second standard, education will be given according to the current 'Pragya' method using the mother tongue. There will be only two changes.

A. Modification 1

Non-formal teaching of English will be done in the order of Listening-Speaking-Reading-Writing. In government schools in first and second standard, mainly state-provided audio-video learning teaching materials, English lab, special experts appointed per district in required number, visiting English teacher and current Pragya class language teacher to make English listening and speaking fun and active for the children. will be experienced.

The main focus will be on listening and speaking simple English sentences. Teaching early English reading skills will be started informally based on games, pictures and learning materials. English writing will not be introduced in first and second grade. One hour per day will be allotted for English teaching through all these methods. This facility is for government schools. Training literature etc. will be shared with private schools.

b. Change 2

At this stage, children will be taught mathematics and environmental subjects in the mother tongue only. They will be introduced to English terminology while teaching. A glossary for the same will be provided as teaching aids.

3.2 Phase 2 in third to fifth grade

3.2.1.

English subject reading and writing will be started from third standard. New textbooks of 'English Second Language (Higher)' will come. Which will be of a higher level compared to the current Gujarati medium books. These textbooks will be slightly easier than English first language textbooks.

Much of the teaching of English will still be activity based and conversational. This will be accomplished with the support of state-provided audio-video learning teaching materials, English labs, as many experts as required per district, special teachers and existing language teachers. This facility is for government schools. Training literature etc. will be shared with private schools. Other training systems and resources will have to be put in place.

Books on Mathematics and Environment/Science and Technology will be bilingual from Class III onwards.

3.2.2.A

Initially, in the three years (3rd, 4th and 5th standard) while teaching mathematics and environmental subjects, Gujarati language will be used more and English terminology will be perfected. Definition etc. Definitive, determinative sentences will be gently introduced to the child in English. Mother tongue will be used liberally to explain concepts. These two subjects will gradually increase the use of English in these standards. 20 percent marks in the assessment in mathematics and environment subjects in class III and IV will be allocated to questions related to bilingual terminology. The language of the rest of the subjects will be Gujarati. In these two subjects in fifth standard, 20% of the questions will be on questions related to bilingual terminology and 20% of objective questions (answer in one word, fill in the blank, connect the words, etc.) will have to be written. Remaining descriptive answers should be written in Gujarati. Subjects except mathematics and environment will be taught through Gujarati medium.

3.3 Phase 3a – Sixth and Seventh Standard

Maths and science books will be bilingual Now there will be English on the left and Gujarati on the right. The use of English in the classroom will be increased in these two subjects. Gujarati will be used exclusively for reference and communication. In sixth and seventh standard, objective questions (one word answer blank, conjunctions etc.) worth 50 per cent of the tests will be written on paper. Remaining descriptive answers should be written in Gujarati.

Use new textbooks of English as a second language (Higher) to teach English in sixth, seventh standard. Much of the teaching of English will still be activity-based and conversational. Subjects except mathematics and science will be taught through Gujarati medium.

3.4 Phase 3B – In Class VIII

Maths and science books in eighth standard will be in English. Gujarati language can be freely used for communication and communication in the classroom. Use of new ESL (Higher) textbooks for teaching English in class VIII. Much of the teaching of English will still be activity based and conversational. Subjects except mathematics and science will be taught through Gujarati medium.

3.5 Phase 4 – In ninth and tenth standard

Mathematics and science books in ninth and tenth standard will be in English. Gujarati language can be freely used for communication and communication in the classroom.

Use of new ESL (Higher) textbooks for teaching English in class VIII. Much of the teaching of English will still be activity-based and conversational. Subjects except mathematics and science will be taught through Gujarati medium

Major observations:

1. Teaching of Mother tongue

Through Global Gujarati Medium, the culture and Gujarati as our Mother tongue will be saved. As we witness, there are parents who actually want their children to study in Gujarati Medium but seeing the increasing importance of English in the world, they select English medium. But GGM has come up with the solution of this. Here in GGM, a child learns through Gujarati, its culture and also higher level English which is taught in English medium schools. So here both the purposes are served.

2. English teaching

In GGM, a student will learn higher level mother tongue and Higher level English. So, as far as English subject is concerned, a student will learn it as if it is taught in English medium schools. Moreover, Maths and Science will be gradually taught in English, so the command over English language will be increased which will be helpful in higher studies.

3. Professional development of a student

Our higher education is in English. So the students who study through Gujarati Medium will surely face problems in higher studies for their smooth and fast development. GGM helps a student in higher education and professional development.

4. Can avoid English Medium

Most of the educationists are in favour of Mother tongue as a medium of instruction. English as a medium of instruction is psychologically very harmful to the growth and development of a child.

5. Helps to save Gujarati language and culture

GGM helps us to save Gujarati language and its culture. The number of Gujarati medium schools are decreasing day by day which affect our Gujarati culture, too. Culture can be preserved in a language. GGM will be a good option as a medium of instruction for the parents .

6. Multilingualism :

A human being is capable of learning many languages. So, this approach is in favour of this natural instinct of a human being to use a language.

Challenges:

1. Competent teachers:

GGM requires a teacher who has a command over both the languages- Gujarati and English. To prepare such efficient teachers is a difficult task.

2. Text book:

At initial level, GGM requires a text which has all terminology in English. And at its later stage, it requires a text having both the languages. It is a difficult task to prepare such a text book in both languages.

3. Gujarati Language:

Here a teacher has to take care that a student should not learn English in the sake of Gujarati. A student's Gujarati should be affected by the use of English in the classroom.

4. Training

For the success of GGM, a model should be explained thoroughly to the principals, teachers and all the stakeholders who are involved in the model. Proper training of teaching in bilingualism should be provided to the teachers.

5. Assessment:

GGM requires a new assessment method. So the authority has to change the existing assessment method and replace it with the method which can assess the students studying in bilingualism. The language for written and oral exam should be discussed and decided.

Conclusion:

GGM is the solution for the problem of increasing English medium schools in the society. Surely, it can never be the option for Mother Tongue. But it will definitely work as a third option for the medium of instruction. The implementation of this medium will ensure the preservation of our culture and language. It also helps a student for his professional development and in higher studies. So, GGM can be seen as the best option for English Medium school .

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