

## Education in Mother Tongue

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### INTRODUCTION:

Gandhiji was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1869 in Porbandar. He was the father of India, the leader of the independence movement and a famous educationist. It can be said from his thoughts about the education given by him that Gandhiji was also an ardent educationist.

Things like basic education, new training, practical education, all-round development, education in mother tongue etc. are seen in Gandhiji's philosophy of education. Gandhiji advocated imparting practical education to children along with book knowledge. He taught social transformation through Hans, Head and Heart (3H) education.

The ideas of such eminent educationist Mahatma Gandhi on education have been given a place in the National Education Policy-2020. One of the most important of them is "Education in Mother Tongue".

The new National Education Policy-2020 has been approved by our Union Cabinet on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and one of its aims is education in mother tongue is expected. So here we will see Gandhiji's thoughts on mother tongue education in the context of New National Education Policy-2020.

### Enlightenment and Expression through Mother Tongue:

A child can understand and think well in his mother tongue. Then can better convey the acquired knowledge in the mother tongue itself. When a child hears or thinks in another language, he first translates it into his mother tongue and then understands it. So the process of gaining knowledge and understanding slows down. It only involves the process of understanding words and arranging words. But the process of understanding its heart does not take place. So, true knowledge cannot be acquired.

In the classroom, the teacher teaches and the student learns, besides, the child creates knowledge by himself after getting education, like after learning poetry, the student can understand the gist of the poem instead of just memorizing it. After that, only if one can write poetry, one can be said to have gained knowledge in the true sense. Similarly, Gandhiji believed that creation of knowledge can always be done better in the mother tongue. Knowledge means to think in terms of gist, understanding the difference, predicting etc.

**Gandhiji's thoughts on Education in Mother Tongue:**

1. Modern National Education Policy-2020 emphasizes in compulsory education of three languages. It incorporates Gandhiji's educational ideas of teaching in the mother tongue as a medium of initial education. According to Gandhi, education in mother tongue is as important as mother's milk for a child. That is why disrespecting mother tongue is equal to disrespecting mother.
2. A good mother tongue development requires love for the mother tongue. We have to get education in our mother tongue and improve the mother tongue so that we can express our thoughts in our languages. It is our duty to formulate the language.
3. Only through mother tongue education can the gap between the educated class and the common class be reduced. If nationalism is to be maintained in the youth of the people, they should receive all the education, both downward and upward, only through their mother tongue.
4. Any man or woman can attain the full development of his mind only through the mother tongue, and those who do not agree with this idea are betraying their mother tongue.

**Some measures derived from Gandhiji's philosophy of education for the achievement of the objective of the new National Education Policy-2020 regarding mother tongue are presented here.**

1. Gujaratis who know English, knowingly or unknowingly, should not use English in mutual dealings.
2. Whoever has a good knowledge of both English and Gujarati should put the useful good books or ideas in English before the people in Gujarati.
3. In this sense, educational institutions should prepare textbooks.
4. Wealthy men established schools of education through Gujarati in various places.
5. The practice that only those who know English can get a good job is to select the shift workers based on their qualifications without language discrimination.

**CONCLUSION:**

Thus the ideas presented by Gandhiji's in his philosophy of education strongly support education in mother tongue as opposed to English or any other foreign language. It can be said that education through mother tongue is the foundation of their basic education. He has also spoken about 'Tribhasa Sutra' and one language of the nation i.e. Hindi. Hindi is better than Hindi. But the exchange is for the transaction of the country. For character development, he has considered mother tongue as the best medium. Here his ideas and methods of implementation of mother tongue are presented which can be very useful in the purpose of the New National Educational Policy related

to mother tongue and only through that the education becomes easily available, equal and quality for all which is its main goal will also be achieved.

## References:

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