

THE BENEFITS OF EDUCATION IN MOTHER TONGUE

Akhmadova Maftuna Ibodullo qizi
Saydulloyeva Tamanno Xayriddinovna
ZARMED University

Abstract: Education in the mother tongue plays a crucial role in cognitive development, academic achievement, and cultural preservation. This article explores the advantages of learning in one's native language, including improved comprehension, better problem-solving skills, and enhanced emotional connection to learning. It also examines the impact of mother tongue education on literacy, creativity, and social integration. By comparing mother tongue-based instruction with foreign language-based education, the paper highlights the importance of linguistic identity and offers recommendations for policymakers and educators to promote effective language policies.

Keywords: mother tongue, education, cognitive development, literacy, cultural identity, academic success, multilingualism, language policy.

1. Cognitive and Academic Advantages

Education in the mother tongue enhances cognitive development by allowing learners to grasp complex concepts more easily. Research shows that children who study in their native language develop stronger problem-solving skills, analytical thinking, and memory retention. Learning in an unfamiliar language often results in a cognitive overload, as students must simultaneously acquire both linguistic skills and subject knowledge.

Students educated in their mother tongue generally achieve better academic outcomes. They understand lessons more effectively, participate actively in class discussions, and perform better in assessments. Additionally, foundational literacy skills develop more naturally in a familiar language, which later facilitates the acquisition of additional languages.

2. Emotional and Psychological Benefits

Learning in one's native language fosters a deeper emotional connection to education. Students feel more comfortable, confident, and motivated when they understand the language of instruction. In contrast, learning in a foreign language can create stress, frustration, and a sense of alienation, particularly for young children.

Mother tongue-based education helps students develop a positive attitude toward learning, reducing anxiety and increasing engagement. It also allows children to express themselves more freely, which enhances creativity and critical thinking skills. A strong emotional attachment to learning improves long-term educational outcomes and fosters a love for knowledge.

3. Preservation of Cultural Identity and Heritage

Language is an essential carrier of culture and traditions. Mother tongue education helps preserve cultural heritage by ensuring that future generations remain connected to their roots. When indigenous or minority languages are neglected in education, they face the risk of extinction, leading to a loss of cultural diversity.

Teaching in the native language reinforces a student's sense of identity and belonging. It promotes respect for one's heritage and fosters intergenerational communication, allowing cultural

knowledge to be passed down. Additionally, multilingual education systems that prioritize mother tongues contribute to a more inclusive society, valuing linguistic diversity.

4. Social and Economic Benefits of Mother Tongue-Based Education

From an economic perspective, individuals who receive education in their mother tongue often perform better in the workforce. They acquire knowledge more effectively and develop better communication skills, making them more competitive in the job market. Moreover, multilingual proficiency, which starts with a strong foundation in one’s first language, is increasingly valuable in globalized economies.

Conclusion

Mother tongue education plays a fundamental role in cognitive development, academic success, and cultural preservation. By integrating mother tongue instruction with multilingual learning, educators and policymakers can create an inclusive and effective education system that benefits learners and society as a whole.

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