



ENGLISH IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT:

There are two official languages of the Union Government India: One is Hindi and the other is English. Hindi is commonly spoken language and the most read and used in India. English had a status of an associate language. Indians gave more importance to English because India was a British colony in history. In the world of Globalization, it is used on a large scale. English medium schools are supposed to be good places of learning. In some fields like Law, Finance and Education and Business English language is very important. Until the beginning of 1990s, foreign movies were not translated or dubbed in Indian languages, but were translated, dubbed and broadcast in English. Indians gave more importance to English.

Keywords: Globalization, Colonized, Language, English.

INTRODUCTION:

There are two official languages of the Union Government of India: One is Hindi and the other is English, Hindi is commonly spoken language and the most read and used in India. English had a status of an associate language. But day by day use of English has been increased. In the world of Globalization, it is used on a large scale. English medium schools are supposed to be good places of learning. People who use English in India try to show that they have more knowledge. It is commonly observed that many people abruptly move to speak fluent English in the middle of their conversations. In some fields like Law, Finance and Education and Business English language is very important. Until

the beginning of 1990s, foreign movies were not translated or dubbed in Indian languages, but were translated, dubbed and broadcast in English. Indians gave more importance to English.

When the British started administration in India, they took the help of translators. The high caste Indians performed the role of translators. The British provided education in English by establishing universities in India. The Christian missionaries also came to India and started schools. They also built high schools with English as a medium of instruction. English became a prime language in Indian education. The modern leaders of India started giving importance to English language. They thought that English was the main key towards success. Indians using English came forward as new elite group of India. According to the British government it was compulsory to learn English. They made such laws. Even after getting freedom English became the main language of India. Officially it had a status of an assistance language and there was a policy to terminate it officially after 15 years, but it remained there in India as a prime language.

In 1970s and 1980s, about one third of the Indian schools had English as their first language. So the students of such schools read and wrote in English better than in Indian languages. English language has become very rich language as there are many new words taken from other languages. There are many words in English which are borrowed from even Indian languages too. Americans and Australians have their unique English. Similarly Indians have their unique English. Many words in Indian languages were difficult to pronounce for the Britishers. They pronounced them differently. Indians, too, followed them and started pronouncing like them.

In 1830s English language public instruction began in India when there was a ruling of the East India Company. There was Persian language as an official language of the company. But in 1835, English language replaced Persian language and became an official language of the company. Lord Macaulay introduced English and Western concepts in education in India. He declared English as an official language. In 1840s and 1850s many primary, middle and high schools were opened in India. Many high schools offered English as a

medium of instruction. In 1857 Universities were established in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. Many Indians were hired in the civil services. When India got freedom in 1947, English was the only lingua franca in a nation.

After Independence Hindi became the first official language. Many people took efforts to declare Hindi the sole language of India. Tamil Nadu and other non-Hindi-speaking states protested and the rulers arrived at the conclusion that temporally English should be retained for official purposes until at least 1965. However, oppose from non-Hindi states was strong. English language amendment Bill announced that English would be an associate language. English language was the only reliable language used for communication between the central government and the now-Hindi states.

In modern world of advanced technology, the elite like to make use of English language. As a result the elite and middle class people send their children to English schools and many poor people send their children to the government schools where mother tongue is a medium of instruction. Fluency in English is one of the conditions to get government jobs. Indians believed that their nation's prosperity is depended on learning English as the first language. In many states of India, English is a medium of instruction.

In India many languages are spoken and the states are made on linguistic lines. But English is used for communication between states, the Central Government and foreign companies. So it would be unwise not to learn English which is a lingua franca. To become fluent in English one has to learn it from early years as a secondary language.

India's long association with English has many advantages. English language made Indian languages and cultures rich. It has broadened our outlook towards life. India is a country where diverse people live with diverse cultures. English language acts as 'lingua franca'. Indirectly we can say that due to use of English there is unity in diversity in India.

Modern world is a world of science and technology. There is much development of science and technology in India. Many books of higher study on science, technology, engineering, medicine etc. are available in English. Therefore it is necessary to study English language properly.

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