

APPENDIX IX

A Brief Appraisal of the Existing Position regarding Hindi, English and the Regional Languages in the Educational System of the Country

There is no uniformity in the country as to the terms used to denote the different stages of education; before we survey the existing position of Hindi, English and the regional languages of the country in the present educational system, it is necessary to fix the terms which we will use to denote the different stages.

First there are nursery classes for children below the age of six. These classes do not really aim to teach any subject substantively, but merely aim at inculcating in the children habits of good social behaviour and at teaching them to learn through play. Nursery institutions are extremely few in the country, and they have not so far formed an integral part of the public system of education.

The education of children, generally speaking, starts from the primary classes, when they have attained the age of six. The duration of the primary stage varies from State to State, but generally the first four classes of the child's schooling constitute the primary stage of his education. This stage comprises of boys ranging in the age-group 6—10 or 11 years. In some States the 'basic' system of education has been introduced in these classes, and consequently these classes are called Junior Basic Classes. For our reference here we shall call these classes 'primary' and the stage of education 'the primary stage'.

The next four years of our children's education is done in classes which are usually termed 'the middle classes'. These comprise of boys ranging in the age-group, generally speaking, 10—14 or 15 years. These middle classes are also sometimes sub-grouped into the lower middle and the upper middle classes. The lower middle classes consist of classes V and VI, while the upper middle classes of VII and VIII. In the States where the basic system has been accepted for these middle classes, they are called 'Senior Basic Classes'. We shall refer to these classes here as 'middle classes', and the stage of education as the 'middle stage of education'.

In fact 'basic' is only a method of instruction. It does not denote any stage of education, while the words 'primary' and 'middle' denote specific stages of education. Preference has, therefore, been given here to these latter terms against the former.

In the next two or three classes are taught courses leading to an examination which has been variously termed as the University Entrance Examination, the Admission Examination, the Matriculation Examination, the S.S.C. Examination, the S. L. C. Examination or the High School Examination. This examination previously served as a qualifying examination for admission to the University, hence the first two names referred to above. But later, when in some of the States the next two classes were taken away from the University on the recommendations of the Calcutta University Commission of 1917, more commonly known as the Sadler Commission, these names became obsolete. Now the term most in use for the examination being 'the High School Examination', we shall refer to the classes pertaining to this examination as the 'High School Classes' and the stage as 'the High School Stage'. The age-group generally found in these classes is 14—16 or 17 years.

The next two classes now end at an examination which is generally termed as the Intermediate Examination, though the classes are referred to as Intermediate Classes or Higher Secondary Classes, and the institutions as Intermediate Colleges or Higher Secondary Schools. It would, therefore, seem that it will be better to refer to these here as 'Intermediate Classes' and to the stage of education as 'the Intermediate stage'. The age-group in these two classes, generally speaking, consists of students of 16—18 or 19 years.

Though the recent Committees and Commissions on Education have generally recommended that the second year of these classes be taken over by the Universities and included with the two years' course of the Bachelor's Degree Examination and the first be taken to the High School, abolishing the Intermediate Examination, so far the recommendation has not been given effect to by most of the Universities and the States, and the Intermediate Classes, examinations and colleges continue nearly throughout the country.

The first Degree Examinations of the Indian Universities presently consist of, as already pointed out, a teaching course of two years and are termed uniformly as the Bachelor's Degree Examination in Arts, Science, Commerce, Agriculture etc. as the case may be, and the classes are composed of students in the age-group, broadly speaking, of 18—20 or 21 years. We shall refer to these classes here as the 'first' or 'Bachelor's Degree Classes' in the Universities and the stage of education as the 'first' or 'Bachelor's Degree stage of education'.

There is also a Bachelor's degree in Teaching, Law, Medicine and Engineering. But the courses are differently framed, and so wherever we shall have to refer to these, we shall refer with their full names, *e.g.* Bachelor's Degree in Teaching, or Law, as the case may be.

The last of these classes are those which pertain to a two-year course of post-graduate studies and lead to the Master's Degree of the Indian Universities. These are composed of students, generally speaking, of the age-group 20—22 or 23 years. We shall refer to these classes as 'post-graduate classes' and the stage of education as 'the post-graduate stage'.

There is a Master's Degree in Teaching, Law, Medicine and Engineering also. But these courses, like those of the Bachelor's Degree in these, are framed differently. Therefore, we shall refer to these, wherever we have to, with their full names, *e.g.*, Master's Degree in Teaching, or Law, as the case may be.

PRIMARY CLASSES

The medium of instruction

In the States in the Hindi-speaking areas of the country, Hindi being the mother-tongue as well as the regional language there, it is the medium of instruction, except in the Anglo-Indian Schools. In the bilingual states of Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and PEPSU, Hindi is the medium for Hindi-speaking students while the regional languages are the media for those speaking the regional languages.

In the States in the non-Hindi-speaking areas the mother-tongue or the regional language is the general medium of instruction, except in the Anglo-Indian Schools (as in the Hindi-speaking areas) where the medium is English.

But in many of these States as in the West Bengal, Bombay, Saurashtra, Madras, Hyderabad, Andaman and Nicobar, there are some Hindi medium schools for those pupils whose mother-tongue is Hindi.

Language-teaching as a subject of study—Hindi

In the States in Hindi-speaking areas, Hindi is also a compulsory subject of study in the Primary classes except for those whose mother-tongue is not Hindi. In the case of the latter class of students Hindi becomes a compulsory subject generally after class III, *i.e.* from the last class of the Primary stage. In the bilingual State of Madhya Pradesh Hindi is a compulsory subject of study for Hindi-medium students only, just as the regional language is for the students of that medium. In the Punjab and PEPSU, Hindi, however, is a compulsory subject of study for the Punjabi-speaking students just as Punjabi is a compulsory subject of study for the Hindi-speaking students.

In the non-Hindi-speaking areas, Hindi is a compulsory subject in the Hindi-medium schools from the beginning, while in the regional-language-medium schools it is not a compulsory subject in this stage except in Assam and Andaman and Nicobar where it becomes so from the IV class, and in Hyderabad where it becomes so only for the non-Hindi-speaking students from the III class.

English

In the Hindi-speaking areas, English is not a compulsory subject of study except in the Anglo-Indian Schools.

In the non-Hindi-speaking areas also the position of English as a compulsory subject is the same, except in Vishva-Bharati where English is so taught in the last two years of the primary stage, and in Assam where it is so introduced in class IV.

The Regional Languages

As regards the respective regional languages, they are everywhere a compulsory subject of study in the States in the non-Hindi areas. In the Punjab and PEPSU, however, Punjabi becomes a compulsory subject of study for Hindi-speaking students from the last class of the Primary stage just as Hindi becomes a compulsory subject of study for Punjabi-speaking students from the last class of the Primary stage.

Neither Hindi, nor English, nor again the regional languages other than one's own are taught as optional or elective subjects in this stage anywhere in the country, except in Orissa where Hindi is so taught in the IV class of the Primary Schools.

MIDDLE STAGE

The medium of instruction

Hindi being the regional language in the Hindi-speaking-States of the country, it is the medium of instruction there.

In the bilingual States of Madhya Pradesh and Punjab and PEPSU also Hindi is the medium for those speaking Hindi.

In the States in the non-Hindi-speaking areas, their respective regional languages are the media with few exceptions. Hindi is the medium of instruction in some schools only where Hindi is the mother-tongue of the pupils generally.

A general exception, however, exists in respect of English which is the medium in Anglo-Indian Schools all over the country.

Language-teaching as a subject of study—Hindi

In the States in the Hindi-speaking areas, Hindi is also taught as a compulsory subject of study. In Delhi, it is a compulsory subject of study for non-Hindi speaking students only and that too down from class III.

In the bilingual State of Madhya Pradesh Hindi is a compulsory subject of study or the Hindi-medium students, as Marathi is a compulsory subject of study for Marathi-medium students; while in Punjab and PEPSU, more or less like Delhi, Hindi is a compulsory subject of study from the last class of Primary stage for Punjabi-speaking students, as Punjabi is a compulsory subject of study for the Hindi-speaking students.

In the States of Bombay and Saurashtra, while Hindi is a compulsory subject for Hindi-medium students from lower down the primary stage, it becomes so for the non-Hindi medium students only from class V onwards.

In West Bengal, Hindi features as a compulsory subject only for those whose mother-tongue it is, as the respective regional languages are compulsory subjects of study for those whose mother-tongues they are. In Travancore-Cochin Hindi is a compulsory subject of study from Form I with option for the regional languages.

In Hyderabad, Hindi is a compulsory subject of study for Hindi-speaking students from down below in the primary stage, but for those whose mother-tongue is a regional language, Hindi becomes so only from class III of the primary stage and continues to be so in this stage also.

In Orissa, Hindi is a compulsory subject of study in classes VI to IX while it is an optional subject there in classes IV and V. In Madras State Hindi is a 'third language' with option for an additional craft or some other approved activity. In Mysore Hindi is an optional subject for three years in the senior primary schools.

In Andaman and Nicobar, Hindi is taught from Class IV onwards as a compulsory subject. In Jammu and Kashmir, Hindi is an optional subject with option for Punjabi and Urdu.

English

Except in the Anglo-Indian schools, where it forms a compulsory subject of study even lower below in the primary stage, English is introduced as a subject of study in the middle stage nearly in all States either as a compulsory or as an optional subject. In the States in the Hindi-speaking areas, generally speaking, it is an optional subject while in the States in the non-Hindi-speaking areas, generally speaking, it is a compulsory subject of study.

Regional Languages

In the States in Hindi areas the position of other regional languages is only that of an optional subject of study.

In the States in non-Hindi areas as also in the regional-language-medium schools of bilingual states, generally speaking, the regional language is a compulsory subject of study.

HIGH SCHOOL STAGE

The medium of instruction

In the States in Hindi areas, generally speaking, Hindi is the medium of instruction. English medium is permitted only as a special case. In the bilingual State of Madhya Pradesh, Hindi forms an optional medium of instruction, while in Punjab, PEPSU, Bombay and Saurashtra Hindi, along with English, features as an optional medium.

In the non-Hindi speaking areas, generally speaking, the respective regional languages are the media but English also is there as an optional medium.

In the Anglo-Indian Schools English is the medium of instruction all over the country.

As a subject of study—Hindi

Hindi is a compulsory subject of study in all the Hindi States as also in Bombay, Hyderabad and Andaman and Nicobar. In Mysore and in the Vishva-Bharati University at Shantiniketan it is taught as a non-public examination compulsory subject of study.

In Orissa it is taught up to class IX only as a compulsory subject of study.

In the States of Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Travancore-Cochin Hindi is a compulsory subject of study with option for the respective regional languages.

In Madras State, Hindi is a 'third language' with option for learning an additional craft or occupying oneself in any other approved activity. Besides, it is a non-examination subject.

English

English is a compulsory subject of study except in U. P., Bihar and Saurashtra where it is only an optional subject of study.

Regional languages

In the States in Hindi-speaking areas as well as Hindi-medium institutions of bilingual States the regional languages form an optional subject of study.

Elsewhere the respective regional languages generally form compulsory subjects of study except in the Southern States of Andhra and Madras where they have been made compulsory with option for a number of other languages as also a few non-language subjects. In Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Travancore-Cochin, however, the regional language is compulsory with an option only with Hindi.

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

Medium of Instruction

In the States in Hindi-speaking areas Hindi is the medium of instruction. English also, generally speaking, is there as the optional medium. In the bilingual States of Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and PEPSSU both Hindi and the respective regional languages are the media along with English as the optional medium. In the States in non-Hindi-speaking areas, the position of the medium is not uniform. Gujarat, Baroda, S. N. D. T. and Vishva-Bharati Universities allow Hindi as an optional medium. In Karnatak, Poona, Calcutta, Hyderabad, and Jammu and Kashmir Universities, both the regional languages and English feature as alternative media. In the rest of them only English is the medium. In the Anglo-Indian Institutions English is the medium.

Language teaching subject—Hindi

In the States in Hindi-speaking areas, generally speaking, Hindi forms a compulsory subject of study. In Delhi, Punjab and PEPSSU it forms a compulsory subject of study with option for certain other languages.

In the bilingual state of Madhya Pradesh, while the Saugor University has made it a compulsory subject for its Intermediate Commerce and with option for Marathi, Urdu or supplementary English for its Intermediate Arts and Science examinations, the Nagpur University has made its study compulsory with option for Marathi, Urdu, French and German, for the Intermediate Arts Examination, while making it singly compulsory for the Intermediate Science and Commerce Examinations.

In the State of Bombay, the Bombay, Gujarat and Karnatak Universities have made its study compulsory with option for many other modern Indian languages, including the regional languages and English (additional study), for the Intermediate Arts and Science, while they have made it a compulsory subject of study with option for certain other Modern Indian languages for the Intermediate Commerce Examination. In the Baroda University Hindi is a compulsory subject of study while in S. N. D. T. University it is compulsory for those only whose mother-tongue it is. In the Universities of Calcutta, Gauhati and Utkal it is a compulsory subject only for those whose mother-tongue it is.

In Jammu and Kashmir University its study is optional with two of the regional languages, viz. Urdu and Punjabi. In all the Southern Universities, including Osmania University, it forms one of the options of a compulsory group of subjects.

Besides, Hindi forms one of the independent optional subjects for the Intermediate examination in Arts in all the Universities in the Hindi-speaking areas except U. P., as also in most of the Universities in the non-Hindi-speaking areas.

English

Except in Uttar Pradesh, English forms a compulsory subject of study for the Intermediate Examination in all the States and Universities. In the Universities of Uttar Pradesh, it forms an optional subject of study.

Regional languages

In the States in Hindi-speaking areas and the Hindi medium institutions of bilingual States, the other regional languages feature only as independent optional subjects of study for the Intermediate Examination in Arts. In the Universities of Delhi and the Punjab, the regional languages feature as compulsory subjects of study with option for Hindi and various other languages.

In the University of Nagpur, Marathi features as a compulsory subject of study with option for Hindi, Urdu, French and German for the Intermediate Arts Examination, with Hindi, Urdu or Supplementary English being optional for composition for the Intermediate Commerce and Inter Science Examinations. In Saugor, Marathi similarly features with option for Hindi, Urdu or supplementary English for composition for Intermediate Arts as well as Science Examinations. In Bombay, Gujarat and Karnatak Universities the respective regional languages form compulsory subjects of study with option for Hindi or certain other modern Indian languages as also English (additional study) for the Intermediate Examination in Arts and Science, with option for composition in modern Indian language for the Intermediate Examination in Commerce.

In S. N. D. T. University it is optional with the mother-tongue only.

In Osmania the study of regional language is optional with Hindi or a classical language. In Utkal and Jammu and Kashmir Universities its study is optional with another regional language or Hindi.

In the rest of the Universities, the regional languages feature as compulsory subjects of study with option for several others.

BACHELOR OF ARTS

The Medium of Instruction

In all the Universities in the Hindi-speaking areas except Aligarh, Saugor and Delhi, Hindi is an optional medium with English.

In Patna Bengali and Urdu also are allowed as optional media along with Hindi and English.

In the Universities of Nagpur, S. N. D. T. University of Bombay and Osmania, it is an optional medium with English and the regional languages.

In Vishva-Bharati and Calcutta, the regional language medium is there along with English as the optional medium but in Calcutta it is allowed only for some subjects.

The Gujarat, Poona, and Karnatak Universities have decided to adopt the respective regional language medium soon and have with this end in view started the First Year Classes through that medium.

The rest of the Universities have English only as their medium of instruction.

Language-teaching as a subject—Hindi

As a compulsory subject of study Hindi is taught only in Agra, Lucknow and Saugor Universities. At Aligarh, though it features as a compulsory subject of study, it is optional with Urdu. So also in Jammu and Kashmir, where its study is optional with Urdu and Punjabi. At Banaras, Bihar, Delhi, Patna, Calcutta, Vishva-Bharati, Utkal and Gauhati Universities, it is a compulsory subject of study with option for several other modern Indian languages.

At Osmania it features as a compulsory subject of study but with option for the regional and classical languages.

At Andhra, Annamalai, Madras, Mysore, Travancore and Shri Venkateswara Universities it is prescribed as an optional 'second language' subject.

Hindi is also an independent optional subject of study in all the Universities except in Baroda, Gujarat, Gauhati, Annamalai, Travancore and Shri Venkateswara Universities.

English

English is everywhere a compulsory subject of study and also an independent optional subject of study in almost all the Indian Universities.

Regional languages

At Aligarh, Banaras, Bihar, Patna, Delhi, Calcutta, Vishva-Bharati, Utkal, Gauhati and Osmania Universities regional languages, with option for Hindi or other modern Indian languages, feature as compulsory subjects of study.

At Andhra, Annamalai, Madras, Mysore, Travancore and Shri Venkateswara, the regional languages are prescribed as the compulsory 'second language' subjects with option for Hindi.

In the rest of them they are not taught as compulsory subjects of study.

As independent optional subjects, they are taught in most of the Universities.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE AND COMMERCE

Medium of instruction

For Bachelor of Science and Commerce degrees English is broadly speaking the medium except in Banaras, Bihar, Lucknow, Patna, Saugor and Nagpur Universities, where it is optional with Hindi, and in Osmania, where it is optional with Hindustani to a limited extent. At Allahabad option for Hindi has been given for B.Sc. only and at Rajputana for B.Com. only.

Language-teaching as a subject—Hindi

Hindi does not appear as a subject of B.Sc. anywhere in the Universities except in Saugor, and here it is a compulsory subject of study.

At Aligarh it is optional with Urdu, and at Osmania it is optional with regional and classical languages.

In B.Com. examination, however, Hindi appears as a compulsory subject of study in Agra, Delhi, Saugor and Osmania Universities, while in Madras University it features as a compulsory subject of study with option for several others.

In Bihar University it is optional with Maithili.

It is nowhere an independent optional subject of study for the Bachelor's Degree in Science or Commerce.

English

English forms a compulsory subject of study for B.Sc. in Aligarh, Delhi, Lucknow, Punjab, Nagpur, Bombay, Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra, Annamalai, Mysore, Osmania, Travancore and Shri Venkateswara Universities.

It does not form an independent optional subject except in Aligarh and Banaras Universities.

For B.Com. it is compulsory everywhere except in a few Universities like Banaras and Shri Venkateswara.

It forms an extra optional subject in Agra and Allahabad Universities and with a number of options in the Punjab University also.

Regional languages

These do not appear anywhere in the curricula either for B.Com. or B.Sc. examinations, except at Aligarh and Osmania with option for certain other languages for the B.Sc. examination, and similarly in the Bihar and Utkal Universities for the B.Com. examination.

POST-GRADUATE AND OTHERS

Medium of instruction

In the Post-Graduate and Technical studies in all the Universities, English is the exclusive medium of instruction except for some language-subjects. The only exceptions in this respect are Agra and S. N. D. T. Universities, which have allowed respectively Hindi and the mother-tongue as the optional medium, the former having allowed it for M.A. and M.Com. examinations only and the latter for all its examinations.

Language-teaching as a subject

Hindi, English and respective regional languages are taught as full subjects for the M.A. Degree in all the Universities except in the following in which Hindi is not so taught :—

Gauhati, Jammu and Kashmir, Annamalai, Travancore and Shri Venkateswara.

In the University of Jammu and Kashmir also the regional language (Kashmiri) is not so taught.