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English Language Learning at +2 (Intermediate) Levels made Ostensible by Privatisation in Andhra and Telangana: A Study in a Marxist Perspective

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Abstract: Education is the basic need that should be in most accessible form to the people of the state. Education is the only means that benefits individuals as well as society without any discrimination. It's a wealth of the nation and the people of the state that can transform developing into a developed country. Privatization of education in India is the most destructive step taken by the government that makes poor people far away from education. It's an anti-national policy chosen by the government of India. Both Telugu states in India stand first in mostly influenced and impacted states of privatization. Impact of privatization is more in Telugu states on all the levels of education when compared to other states of the country. Especially junior college education is totally in the clutches of private individuals. Sometimes it seems to be that government is in the control of private individuals due to the policies that are initiated by the government in favour of privatization. Influence of privatization is more on colleges compared to schools. Especially with the agenda of English medium as a medium of instruction privatization has spread its roots in all the possible levels of education that destroyed entire public education system. It made education reliable to the people those are financially sound.

Keywords: Privatisation, Education, Policies, Impact.

I. INTRODUCTION

Private junior colleges establishment in united Andhra has started around in 1980. All the schools and colleges in Andhra used Telugu as a medium of instruction before the entry of private schools and colleges. The increase in the demand and need of English medium in view of Engineering and medicine helped to lay foundation for thousands of private schools and colleges in Andhra Pradesh. English language medium was used as a best weapon to advertise and to gain number of admissions and that helped to get thousands of enrolments in private colleges across India. Especially in Andhra there has huge response to the schools and colleges. Before 1980 lectures delivered in regional languages of India. Later with the private colleges English medium has become common medium of instruction at all levels of education. English medium as an instruction is only used for higher and professional courses before privatization. Later with the impact of privatization English became a common method of instruction to all the levels of education. The medium of instruction that helped to setup private colleges and the sustenance at the initial stage had lost its importance after certain period and with the huge increase in the competition. English is a common medium of instruction in all the colleges now a days but priority for English subject lost its prominence in the curriculum of the individual institutions. Language skills are purely neglected and converted English as a subject that helps to score good marks. The importance of English language in all private colleges in both Telugu states stands after all the core subjects of the particular branch chosen by the student. If there are five subjects English stands at 4 for all the branches that are in Intermediate.

The impact of privatisation is more in both Telugu states for intermediate education when compared with other states in India. Andhra and Telangana states are acting as the best platforms in transforming education as the best source of business and English language helped as a mean. Intermediate education had turned into the most profitable business compared to any other. The domination of private schools and colleges made education as the costliest product. It should be provided at free cost by every democratic country for its people and instead of that people are buying it as a commodity in the market. In favour of privatization, government has taken several measures to promote and for the progress. Intermediate education is acting as a bridge to the students for their higher education. In view of that parents focuses on choosing the best institution that helps their child to get a seat in a good reputed institution after completion +2 with the training and practice that is completed by the student in the guidance of the institution. Establishment of thousands of Intermediate colleges in Andhra and Telangana lead in creating huge competition between the colleges. To overcome the competition colleges are choosing different trends and methods. As a part of that colleges

are giving EAMCET, AIEEE & IIT coaching along with Intermediate education. This made colleges to neglect English language teaching and learning. At the foremost period of the establishment of private colleges in both Telugu states, colleges competed on the grounds of marks. Later with the change in the mentalities of people and circumstances that took place with the boom of technical education they chose ranks. The main drawback is the branches that they choose at intermediate level helps them to enter into higher education. So this created high demand for intermediate colleges and private colleges uses the chance for strengthening. With the demand of few educational business tycoons in Telugu states branches and sub-branches are established across the states. Establishment of branches may help to realise and understand how intermediate education turned into a great path of profitable business. All the methods and strategies of the private colleges created a huge impact on the parents and made them to prefer private colleges. All those steps and methods chosen by the colleges are giving expected results to the parents and students but completely ruining English language teaching and learning. This kind of marks and ranks oriented education helped private colleges to collect huge amount of money. Even though the institutions are collecting huge amount of fee, parents are ready to pay whatever the amount that institution levy on them for the only reason of marks. The major reasons for the increase in private Intermediate colleges are:

- 1) Government policies and its negligence,
- 2) Huge demand for technological and medicine studies
- 3) Commerce and trade and foreign education.

Especially engineering and medicine created a spin for all the private colleges and even the efforts that are kept by the institutions management to cash the chance made people to look towards private Intermediate colleges. In the words of Columnist Ravi kiran, "After success at the junior college and the primary education level, the government should have freed the engineering education. But in 2008, the Congress government introduced a free scheme, which turned out to be a disaster." (Money Life: news and views, 2015) It was in 2008 Government started fee reimbursement program. The main reason for the great increase in the number of private colleges is fee reimbursement and the scholarship on one side and the other side increase in demand for higher studies. The other great reason is negligence that shown by the government on government junior colleges. Instead of developing or providing facilities to govt. Junior colleges, that help for better teaching government diverted the public taking admissions in private colleges with fee reimbursement and scholarships. Though parents are aware of their spending more money for Intermediate education, their target is to make their children get a seat in the best college. Government colleges don't provide simultaneous teaching for entrance examinations because of government policies.

In the words of Ravi Kiran, a Columnist, "Education in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana was thriving on open competition. Then the government came up with sponsored education scheme leading to more colleges without any real intention to provide education. Add the draconian Right to Education law and you know how and why education is deteriorating in India." (Money Life: news and views, 2015)

Private colleges portrayed themselves as the only platform for securing ranks in whatever the entrance exam it may be. The demand for intermediate colleges is more due to medicine and engineering education. Especially getting a medical seat is a dream for many students which are considered as the toughest entrance exam compared to other. Private colleges utilised the need and demand, hence they started providing the coaching for medicine. Earlier, students use to prepare for entrance exams after their IPE but with the entry of private colleges they made to give simultaneous coaching for the entrance examinations. This approach influenced the parents to look towards private colleges. At the same time the increase in demand for chartered accountants also boosted the boom of Intermediate education. All the private colleges created a hope and made people of Telugu states to believe that they are the only hope that helps their children to get a good rank in entrance examination of higher education. Whatever the branch that students choose, parents are in a state of belief that private colleges are the only solution that paves path for the future of their children. Private colleges were highly succeeded in creating this kind of ideology in the society Even in the remote villages of Telugu states have private Junior colleges.

The importance that all junior colleges give to EAMCET, AIEEE and IIT or any other entrance examinations lead to the downfall of quality teaching of English language teaching and learning. All the colleges are giving least importance to English language and it is as a subject of choice and subject that help to gain good marks. The syllabus of English will be completed after within 1 month of commencement of the classes or at the end of the year. In majority colleges notes and materials are supplied to the students without any lecture in the classroom and make them to by hard. The common practice in all private junior colleges is to make students to go through and practice few previous question papers and model papers that are prepared by experts of their college. This kind of language teaching and practice, students lose a lot and it makes them to habituate the same style of learning.

Two years of intermediate education makes students to lose interest in learning English language and it is throwing a huge impact on the future of majority students. Even though students are good at all the four formats of language skills up to school level, Intermediate education is destroying the skills of the students with the practice of by hard. The importance for LSRW skills is least bothered and strict instructions will be given to faculty and students not to waste their time on focusing English. Institutions clearly give the guidelines to the students how to get good marks in English instead of acquisition of skills. The major importance is for the core subjects of the branch that a student chooses and other subjects are considered as nominal. They clearly instruct the students that their core subjects are the only sources that help them to get a rank in the specific entrance exam that they simultaneously take up along with their +2 education.

The class work in private colleges starts at 8.30 A.M and winds up at 6 P.M. students are restricted to be in the classroom for 9 hours and to go through the targets that are given to them for the day. If the situation of a day's scholar is designed like this by private colleges imagining the situation of a Hostetler is too worse. The students those stays in hostel are restricted to practice and by hard for more than 14 hours per day. Even though they designed a hectic schedule in making students to mug up colleges don't have a minimum idea to allot at least minimum hours that are required or allotted by the Board of Intermediate. With this kind of hectic schedule students feel a lot of burden and they feel happy when they come to know that there is a English class. The reason behind it is the only class where students will have freedom to express and share. Even the possibility of this kind of situation may not be possible in majority of colleges. A great partiality is shown towards core subjects make English to lose its prominence that further impacts the future of the student. The hours that are allotted to the core subjects will be minimum 3 digit number but for English it is a 2 digit number (maximum 32 hours per academic year). The syllabus of intermediate designed by the board of intermediate is acting in favour of private colleges. The syllabus designed by BIE for languages gives least importance to LSRW skills. It proves that it indirectly supports marks oriented education and which is flexible to all the private colleges to focus on core subjects and simultaneously on entrance examinations. This kind of practice is not only effects Intermediate education but also schools and higher level education.

Even though parents are aware of this kind of practices in private colleges they crave to get admission by spending huge amount of money only in view of ranks and marks. Ranks and marks are the only satisfying grounds of the parents to advertise about their children in the society and considers as a societal status. They are unaware of the problems of their children they face in future after completion of +2. All the private colleges try to make their students to perform well in their examinations. The colleges never bother about the subject knowledge and their major agenda is to make students to score well. When it comes to English marks are not mandatory to students at professional level but they only need language skills to explore themselves in a better way. If they are not able to equip or improve their language skills in their +2 and if they are restricted only to focus on their core subjects what is the use of English as one of the subject. The ranks that are gained by their students help colleges to advertise for the future admissions. But the students those got ranks will not be able to perform well in their higher education. The marks oriented education helps the students to get into the race of higher education but it cannot help them to complete the race because higher education is not only marks oriented but also skills. It is purely subject and practical oriented that is quite opposite to the education of the private colleges. This kind of practice by private colleges creates a question of sustainability and future of English language teaching and learning at intermediate level. So this kind of acts indirectly make students to think English is just meant for marks and makes them to give least preference. Students practice the same even they go for higher studies until they notice the importance of English language.

The huge competition that was created by the establishment of thousand of junior colleges makes them to focus on marks and ranks. This kind of practice leads to the decrease of the prominence for English at intermediate level. The marks and ranks that are obtained by the students may support them to get degrees but if they want to get a job English language is the main criterion that allows being in the competition of global market. But marks are the only major criterion for the colleges and parents. This kind of ideology that is created by private colleges is spoiling the entire future of the students. It makes students to be passive learners without any creative skills. The main drawback of private colleges is giving least preference to English language teaching and learning. The two years of intermediate education is destroying the career of the students making them to depend on materials and mugging up.

The quality of education declines and the production of skilled youth will be an illusion with privatization. The steps and path that has chosen by the private colleges for their survival is a great threat to the entire nation and its results will be an eye opening for all the people of India. But the problem should be resolved as soon as possible before it collapses the entire education system. Directly and indirectly privatization is demolishing English language teaching and learning at school and college level. It is restricting skill oriented teaching to the students and its practice. In the same way it is effects the standard method of teaching and encouraging mere repetition of the content they read in the examination by mugging up.

II. CONCLUSION

This kind of intermediate education should not be encouraged that ruins the future of the students. English language teaching and learning should have a great importance and equal priority should be given to it like one of the core subject. Standard quality of syllabus should be designed with inclusion of LSRW skill. Intermediate colleges should focus to train students to practice and to acquire all the four language skills in equal ratio. Government should interfere and should demolish marks and ranks oriented education with effective measures. Government should focus on provision of education in full and free accessible form to the people. The interference of private college managements in designing of the syllabus of intermediate should be restricted and syllabus should be designed in view of future needs. Instead of making students and parents crave for marks and ranks certain standard steps to be taken by the government to change the entire education system completely. Even parents have equal responsibility in choosing right form of education and in changing their mentalities. The change in education system and wings to content based teaching is only possible when marks and ranks are not considered as ground of societal status. To save English language teaching and learning people and government should treat it as a platform of employability opportunities. Language trainers and institutions should make people to realise that it is the only means that creates opportunities.

A. Abbreviations

- 1) EAMCET - Engineering Agricultural and Medical Common Entrance Test
- 2) AIEEE - All India Engineering Entrance Examination
- 3) IIT - Indian Institute of Technology
- 4) +2 - Intermediate education after matriculation exam
- 5) LSRW - Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing skills
- 6) IPE - Intermediate Public Examination
- 7) BIE - Board of Intermediate Education

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