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A Myth of English Medium Schools in Andhra Pradesh - A Critical Analysis in Marxist Perspective

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Abstract: ***This paper discusses the pros and cons of the idea of implementing English as a medium of instruction in all Government run schools of Andhra Pradesh. Though it is good idea as it bring hopes of development in poor and below middle class families, implementation for entire state of Andhra Praedesh is a toilsome. Goverment needs to put lot of efforts and resources for this challenging decision. on the other side, students hope on joining English medium education should be satisfiable. There is myth on education system of India.English medium education in a corporate school promises a bright future to children. Nobody notices the reality. on the name of language, corporate schools strips the money from innocent parents. Introducing English medium schools in public schools is not a solution to the existing problem. Breaking the myth thatonly Englidh medium education in a corporate school is the solution. Inorder to make it possible Government should take necessary steps to meet the standards of corporate schools. The harsh reality of consideration of financial status of child and parent for good education should be discussed openly for finding better solutions.***
Keywords: Development, Corporate, Reality, Solution.

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is the only source for the poor to bring change in their lives. It is restricted to the people in India on the name of caste, class, creed, and religion. Later with the struggle and efforts of many scholars of India education is made compulsory for all without any discrimination. After few years privatisation has created different kinds of discrimination. Major discrimination is with the language and its standards on the basis of financial position of the people. Earlier there is to be common school system what all the students are used to get education. With privatisation it has been changed and divided people into classes on the basis of their financial background and changes in the quality of education. These changes made English education friendlier for all elite sections in the society and made public education that to in their mother tongue for the poor. Government played a key role in bringing up in this sort of discriminations with its actions in favour to the establishment and for the rapid growth of private schools. If, someone is truly needed English education, they are only the poor and weaker sections in the state and in the country. Even today government is creating a myth in the state of Andhra Pradesh with the name of English medium as a medium of instruction in all the public schools.

In present scenario, with the view of globl market needs, students should learn English language.All countries in the world are giving major importance to English language learning from school level. When it comes to India even today people are in dilemma with different perspectives on language learning and with the educational policies. Due to existence of thousands of languages and impact of every language is making people to think twice about English language and its learning. Many people in India feel insecure when it comes to English language and its dominance on other native languages of India. With the impact of British and their rule in India is one of the considerable factors that are making people to think a lot about learning and practice of English language. With hatred feeling that is still in the hearts of Indians on British and their rule, people are taking a lot of time to accept English language as an important language even though by knowing its significance in the current situations. Compared to the scenario before 2000, importance of English language increased a lot. At the same time English as a medium of instruction is made mandatory in many schools with the rapid growth of globalization.

English language is highly considered and made mandatory in all the private schools from many years. Private schools get the whole credit for the growth in the number English speakers in the country as well as in the state. Even though private schools have chosen English medium as a medium of instruction for their existence in the educational market but their services should be considered in providing English education. In this public schools did not played any role in encouraging or in supporting of English medium or

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English language teaching before 2000 and after post independence. Many schools started considering English as a subject that helps to score good marks. Even though the students of Telugu medium have English it is considered as a subject in which he should get good marks to pass and in the same way English medium students towards Telugu language. A major thing that should be observed in the state of Andhra Pradesh is all the private schools are for the people who are able to afford school fee. The financial position of the students acts as a deciding factor in differentiating the difference between public and private schools. So all the poor are not able to join their children in private schools and all the people who can afford they study in private schools.

After receiving a huge criticism from the people and educated intellectuals of the state for not introducing English medium as a medium of instruction and by observing the need of English in the present days; government also introduced English medium as a medium of instruction in all the public schools in 2008 but it did not throw any impact on the people. With the decisions that are taken by the government without proper plan in implementation of its plans in introducing English language is also acts as a major factor in making people to feel insecure in taking admission in public schools and about the future of their children. Without any plan and monitoring of schools government tries to introduce new subjects and syllabus. This kind of nature of the government is making people to feel insecure and making to rethink before taking admission into public schools. The concept of English medium schools in Andhra Pradesh; it clearly projects the blindness of the government and the immaturity of the leaders on the education system.

It is known to everyone that the situation of government schools in Andhra Pradesh was at a point of its last days and the decisions of government in favour of private sector gives the same signs. Thousands of schools were already shutdown by the government and many other schools are ready to shutdown soon. There are number of schools in the state without adequate number of teachers. In few schools even though there are good number of teachers there is a problem with number of students' enrolment. Government had brought many concepts in bringing popularity for public schools in Andhra Pradesh like distributing cycles to the students, scholarships, Mobile tablets, appreciation awards and rewards for the best students in the name of Pratibha awards. But all these concepts lost its credibility with the huge impact of private schools on education system in the state.

Even government should accept the truth that it is directly and indirectly encouraged private education in the state for many decades. The favour to the private schools led in losing the fame and glory of government schools. There won't be any use in bringing up any new concepts after the annihilation of public schools. At the same time with the change in the government and its perspective towards public schools changes when a new political party comes into the power. There is no constant concentration on the public education through public schools by any government that comes into power after elections.

Today government of Andhra Pradesh had brought a concept of converting all the public schools into English medium schools. It is a dynamic decision and at the same time appreciable for taking such a challenging decision. At the same time it makes sense that for the political benefits the present government had taken that decision. It can be observed with its unplanned decision of the government in introducing English as a medium of instruction without observing the grounds. The reason for saying it is unplanned because previous government had already introduced English medium in all the schools but not made mandatory. Many students and parents felt happy for the decision taken by the government. In the year 2008 English medium was introduced and it results were not at all satisfactory. With the lessons that learned from past the government should take necessary precautions and steps to overcome the problems that are faced by the schools and government.

The major problem with Govt. schools that should be observed in this case is the total number of teachers and the number of teachers that are required. There are no adequate number of teachers those who can teach all the subjects effectively in English language. Majority of teachers who are in service today are from Telugu medium background. At the same time without prior training to the teachers in dealing the subjects in English the initiation taken by the government can not give better results. There is no recruitment of the teachers by the A.P. government from many years in the state. If they had recruited then, therewould be a possibilt for minimum number of teacher those who can teach the subjects in English today. But without teachers those who can teach in English and without sufficient number of teachers what kind of results can be expected.

As per the recent statistical report of teachers organisations of the state had brought unbelievable information about the number of teachers are available and the worst situation of schools can be projected clearly with that. As per it nearly 28000 primary schools are running with one or two teachers. 1963 schools even don't have a teacher at all. So, what can be expected with the decision of the government? This gives clear information that tomorrow if government of Andhra Pradesh introduces English medium in all the schools all the subjects at primary level should be taught by only one or two teachers. With this kind of situations in the schools of Andhra Pradesh is it possible for the implementation of English medium. Even though if government decides to implement does it get any results.

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If teachers try to teach all the subjects in English there will be a scope for the student to learn language skills while learning subject. Government must take into consideration about the pathetic situations of public schools in the state. The programs and schemes that are launched by the government remained with less impact on people and proved that all the actions of the government is for name sake. This is the episode of education sysem in India.

The same fate with the state Government is being witnessed. The perception of state's education polic has to be changed as they provide educaion in provincial languages respectively. Andhra Pradesh for instance, State Govt. schools teachers teach their students in Telugu language and exams would be held in Telugu. Though it is good sign by not leaving Telugu language, it is a hinderence for the students to compete globally. They need to acquire English language to explore the world and so the need for shifting our mode of learning. Teachers should check upon the ablity of students to learn through global language. Parents must come out of the perception that English is a language and medium of instructing subjects in English doesn't mean draining of money in the form of fees in corporate schools.

At the same time the facilities that are provided in the government schools are well known to the people/ There are no proper water facilities in majority of the schools even today in the state. There are hundreds of schools that don't have proper infrastructure like bathrooms, library, computer labs, seminar halls, tables & chairs etc. The schools in Mandal headquarters are provided with minimum basic facilities, But the problem is with the schools in rural areas because they were never monitored and taken care by the government or its aligned departments.

The other major problem is with the textbooks. Before the commencement of an academic year government should take care of printing and supply of textbooks to the schools as per the number of students enrolled. Instead of that, government use to send less number of the textbooks at the middle of the year or at the end of the academic year and creates huge scarcity of books. Meanwhile the students are forced to buy or borrow textbooks from the seniors in the school. If students are not able to get textbooks from the seniors or if they are not able to buy books they have to wait till they receive from the government. Students has to struggle a lot and there will be problem of understanding of the lessons. From many years the same is happening but government did not take any necessary actions on this problem. Government should print as per the enrolments and requirement of the schools. Even though the teachers complained many times on this issues government never reacted or responded.

The government takes the suggestions of educationalists in the state before taking a decision related to education but how far is it constructive to students? The syllabus that is in practice is behind the times. Even the curriculum of the schools should be changed as per the present industrial needs. Especially English language topics focus on the basics of grammar topics till a student complete his schooling. He has to go through the same topics for years. In the present situation to safeguard public schools teachers started implementing the curriculum of private schools and even stressed the students to focus on marks oriented education. So, without observing all the above mentioned problems what will be the use of implementation of English as a medium of instruction in the public schools? The idea of English medium education the students in the public schools is not easy as everybody thinks. To provide educaion with high standardsand that too for students with no education and financial background is a high risk.Government should be ready to face backlash and criticism. Of all the above students must be in a position to accept the sudden modifications in curriculum.

People need a government which is committed to give quality education to all children irrespective of financial backgrounds.The past and present decisions of the government are not at all showing any kind of sincerity in brining remarkable changes in the education system. Without any observation and proper monitoring, making English as mandatory discipline in all the schools gives zero results. Further it makes people to lose their hope on public education. Though government is going to introduce English education there won't be any effect on the people.

It cannot help in increase in the number of enrolment of the students in the public schools. We can not expect good enrolment in Government schools until we change the ambience in the schools. There should be an appropriae recruitment for teachers based on the need of students If people doesn't want to consider English education in public schools as not a myth government should bring many changes in the education system and should make public education more valuable and should be in a position to compete with corporate schools.

II. CONCLUSION

A student from a good financial background should not hesitate to join in Government run school. In a progressive economy like India, the idea of quality education to all children gives us a hope to become Developed economy soon. Myth of schools based on language should be broken.

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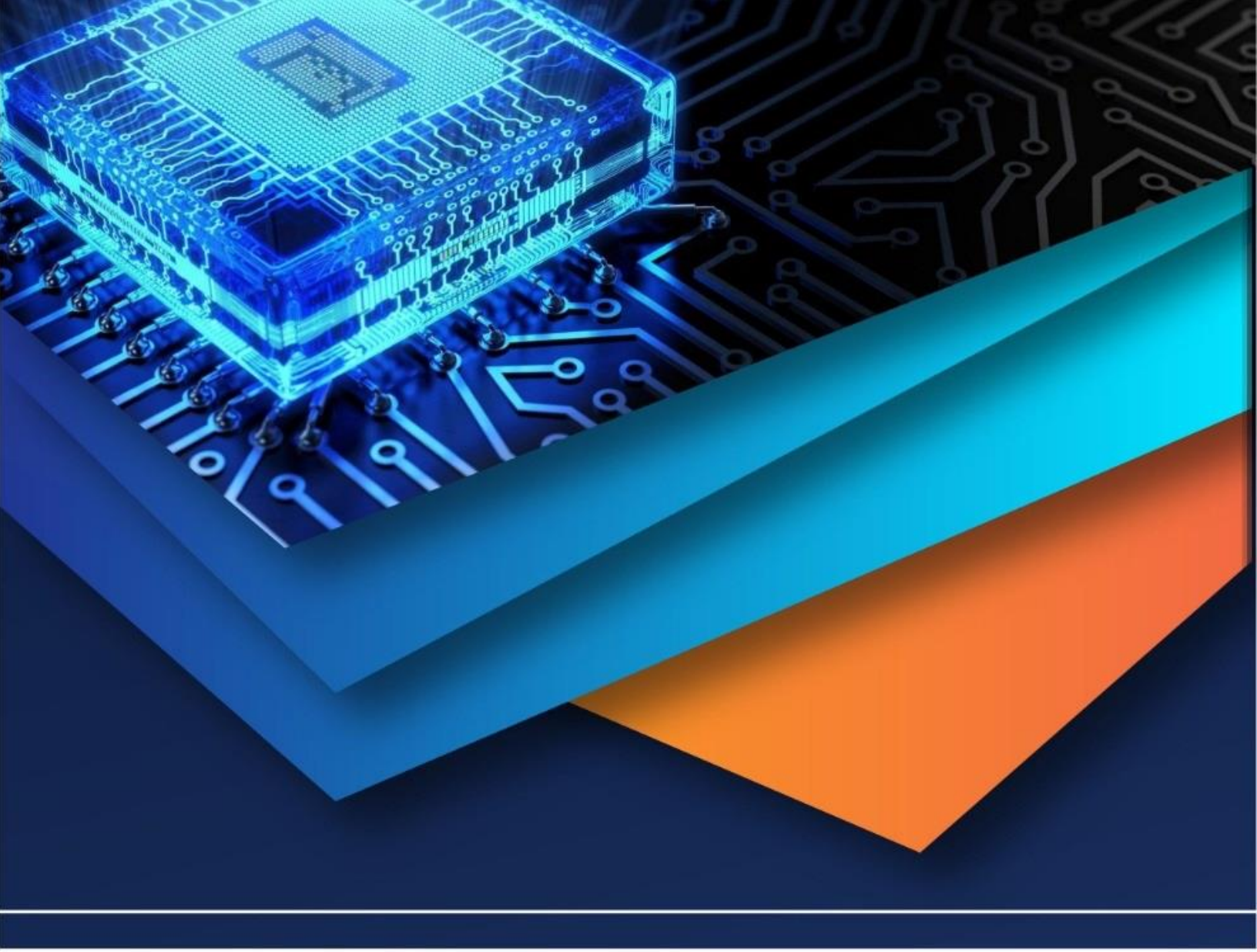
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