GOVERNEMNT OF ANDHRA PRADESH SCHOOL EDUCATION (PROG.I)DEPARTMENT

SHORT DISCUSSION ON ENGLISH MEDIUM-ITS NEED - NADU NEDU, IN ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

- Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar compared English to the milk of the lioness, and said that those who drink it become stronger. Time has proved his words prophetic as knowing English has become vital today.
- English has become a global language. It is a livelihoods language. It is the language of computers, language of business across the world, language of science and technology, top language of the internet and the language that the globe speaks.
- To equip our students for 21st century, English proficiency is essential. As the study by the University of Oxford reveals that the ability to pickup new languages go down drastically with age, early introduction of English language helps to build a better capacity to handle the language.
- Hence the parental aspirations tend towards educating their children in English medium at school level itself. It is no wonder to know that the Dalits at Banka village in northern Uttara Pradesh have built a temple and installed the Goddess of English in black granite.
- Since government had not addressed this issue in the past, the private sector had started exploiting the parental aspirations and the state had to witness an unprecedented mushrooming of private institutions in the state.

Major concerns:

- The exponential growth in enrolment in English medium in private Schools clearly indicates the trend that there is a tremendous aspiration among rural communities for sending their children to English medium education at school education level itself.
- Since government could convert only a few schools into English medium, the private educational institutions have started exploiting the aspirations of the parents. Whereas the studies also reveal that the quality of education offered by the private institutions is not commensurate with the fees they are charging.

ENGLISH MEDIUM - NADU:

• Taking stock of the situation, Government had introduced English as a medium of instruction with CBSE Syllabus in a parallel section from class VI in (6,500) identified high schools in the Government Sector (Govt/ZP/Municipal) in the State during the year 2008 ie., in the erstwhile state of Andhra Pradesh. Subsequently, CBSE syllabus was replaced with State Syllabus in all these 6500 Success Schools from the academic year 2010-11. Opened parallel English Medium sections in the existing high schools from classes VI to X during 2017. Also opened English Medium Parallel sections in Primary Schools from the Academic Year 2018-19.

- With those efforts, 29.28% of schools and 35.74% students in the government schools could switch over to English medium.
- Whereas, in the private sector 95.75 % schools and 98.15% children have already been covered under English medium.

ENGLISH MEDIUM - NEDU:

- In order to ensure a level playing ground and to provide quality English medium education at free of cost in the state, Government have issued orders for converting all classes from I to VI in Primary, Upper Primary, High Schools in to English Medium from the academic year 2020-21 and gradually increasing each further class from the next consequent academic years vide G.O.Ms.No.85, SE (Prog.I) Dept. dated 20.11.2019.
- During 2020-21, 21.96 lakhs of students from Class I to VI in Govt. managed schools including aided schools will move into the fold of English Medium education.

Curricular reforms

- Government is aware that introducing English as a medium of instruction has to go hand in hand with curricular reforms since curriculum is a runway for attaining goals of education. In order to achieve the goal, curriculum is being redesigned in tune with the best practices across the globe and text books are being designed and developed with school readiness and bridge courses.
- Preparation of curriculum and text books is under way in collaboration with various reputed institutions such as University of Chicago, Cambridge, University of Canberra, Australia, Regional Institute of English, South India, Bangalore, English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), NCERT and NUEPA, New Delhi.

Teacher trainings planned

- Action is being taken for online assessment of the current English proficiency levels of the teachers and accordingly Intensive and extensive trainings to the teachers will be taken up in 3 phases, i.e training to Key Resource Group, State Resource Group and District Resource Group.
- Resource group trainings will be completed by the end of January 2020. First round of foundation training to (94,889) teachers will be completed by February 2020 and the second round is scheduled in the first week of March 2020.
- The foundation training is followed by subject specific training in April monthly re orientations throughout next academic year.
- The training programmes will be conducted at mandal level in the schools where virtual class rooms and digital class rooms are available.
- Those centres are being strengthened in all respects such as English lab, computers, TV, LCD Projector and other learning infrastructure.

Bridge course

- In order to equip the children for a smooth transition from Telugu medium to English medium, a series of bridge courses are planned. The children getting promoted to class V and VI will be given a two month intensive bridge course during April and May, 2020.
- The children going to join the schools at Class I, II and III during next academic year will be imparted a 10-16 week school readiness and bridge course during the month of June-July, 2020 before taking up regular academic work.

English labs

- In order to enable both the teachers and students to pick up proficiency at a faster rate and also to enable them to fall back upon for further support and reference, English labs are being planned.
- Under the programme Nadu-Nedu, one dedicated room in each school is being developed to locate the English language labs.
- Films, videos, audio and mobile apps will also be provided to enable both the teachers and students to gain proficiency in English at their own pace of learning, but at a quicker pace in general.

Telugu as compulsory subject

 However, government is also aware of the need to protect and promote the interests of Telugu language and hence committed to implement the policy of teaching Telugu as a compulsory subjects in all management schools, both government and private, in the State.

Special Officer appointed

 An IAS officer of the rank of Joint Secretary is appointed as Special Officer to oversee the entire project.

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