

PROMOTING INDIAN LANGUAGES WITH REFERENCE TO PARADIGM SHIFT
IN EDUCATION: VIKSIT BHARAT @2047

DR. SHAMALBHAI L. SOLANKI

*Associate Professor,
A. G. Teachers College,
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad.*

DR. HIRALKUMAR M. BAROT,

*Assistant Professor,
Sheth M.N.C. College of Education,
Dabhoi, Dist. Vadodara.*

Introduction

Language is not only a medium of communication but also a carrier of culture, heritage, and knowledge systems. India, with its linguistic diversity, faces the unique challenge of integrating its rich heritage of languages into a coherent educational framework that fosters unity while promoting diversity. The vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 places an emphasis on strengthening Indian languages as a medium of instruction and communication in education. This vision is in alignment with the broader goals of self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) and sustainable development.

Literature Review

The promotion of Indian languages in education has undergone several shifts. Historically, post-independence India adopted a multilingual framework with emphasis on Hindi as the official language and English as the medium of higher education and administration. The Three-Language Formula (1968) was introduced as a means to balance the learning of regional languages, Hindi, and English. However, its implementation has been fraught with challenges and criticisms.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 represents a paradigm shift in Indian education, advocating for a more comprehensive approach to multilingualism. The policy encourages the use of mother tongues or regional languages as the medium of instruction at the primary and secondary levels of education. This is expected to strengthen cognitive development, foster critical thinking, and ensure that education is accessible to all.

Paradigm Shift in Education: Viksit Bharat @2047**1. The Role of NEP 2020:**

The NEP 2020 emphasizes the importance of promoting Indian languages in education. It advocates for the development of higher education institutions in regional languages, translation of global knowledge into Indian languages, and the creation of more resources in indigenous languages. These efforts aim to ensure that by 2047, Indian languages will play a dominant role in education, administration, and everyday life, reducing the dependency on English.

2. Multilingualism in the Digital Era:

With the rise of digital platforms, regional languages are finding new avenues for growth. E-learning platforms, regional language-based applications, and AI-driven tools can revolutionize how education is imparted in Indian languages. Initiatives like the Bhashini project, which aims to make internet content accessible in Indian languages, are critical in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

3. Inclusive and Indigenous Knowledge Systems:

Indian languages are deeply intertwined with the country's indigenous knowledge systems. By promoting Indian languages in education, there is a greater opportunity to incorporate local knowledge systems into mainstream education. This promotes inclusivity and ensures that traditional knowledge, which has been passed down through generations, is not lost in the era of globalization.

4. Globalization vs Localization:

While globalization has led to the dominance of English as a global language, India's unique linguistic landscape offers an opportunity to create a balanced approach. Promoting Indian languages as the medium of instruction can coexist with English, ensuring that students have access to global resources while remaining grounded in their cultural identity.

5. Challenges in Implementation:

Despite the policy's progressive outlook, implementing Indian languages as the primary medium of education is fraught with challenges. These include the lack of adequate resources in regional languages, the need for teacher training, and the societal preference for English as the medium of education in higher learning. Additionally, linguistic diversity in India often leads to political and social tensions, which further complicate the implementation of a uniform policy.

Case Studies: Successful Initiatives**1. Kerala's Language Policy:**

Kerala's policy of promoting Malayalam as a medium of instruction in government schools has shown that strong regional language policies can coexist with the teaching of English and Hindi. Kerala's high literacy rate and successful education system are often cited as examples of how language policies can be effectively implemented.

2. The Tamil Nadu Model:

Tamil Nadu has maintained a consistent emphasis on Tamil in education while also promoting bilingualism with English. The state's efforts to preserve Tamil through curriculum, literature, and public discourse demonstrate the potential for a robust language policy that supports regional languages in modern education.

Future Prospects: Towards Viksit Bharat @2047

1. Policy Recommendations:

Development of Digital Resources:

Encouraging the creation of digital educational resources, including e-books, online courses, and AI-powered learning tools in Indian languages, to bridge the digital divide.

Curriculum Development:

Introducing regional language textbooks that integrate indigenous knowledge systems, history, and culture, alongside mainstream subjects.

Teacher Training:

Establishing comprehensive training programs for educators to become proficient in teaching in regional languages.

Public-Private Partnerships:

Collaborating with the private sector to fund and promote the development of content and technology in Indian languages.

Vision for 2047:

By 2047, the aim is to create an education system where Indian languages are no longer viewed as secondary to English but as an integral part of the nation's intellectual and cultural identity. The goal is not only to promote linguistic diversity but also to ensure that every citizen can access quality education in their mother tongue, fostering both national unity and individual growth.

Conclusion:

The promotion of Indian languages in education is a key pillar of the vision for Viksit Bharat @2047. The National Education Policy 2020 provides a strong foundation for a paradigm shift in education that can lead to inclusive development and the preservation of India's linguistic

heritage. However, realizing this vision will require concerted efforts from policymakers, educators, and society at large to overcome the challenges of resource development, teacher training, and societal attitudes.

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