MOTHER TONGUE EDUCATION

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Any education that uses the language or languages that children are most familiar with is referred to as mother tongue education. It is the language that most children use for their families at home. It isn't necessary for the mother tongue' to be the mother's native tongue. At home, children can and do speak more than one, if not two, languages. They may, for example, communicate in one language with their mother, another with their father, and yet another with their grandparents. (Rutu foundation, 2021).

The importance of mother tongue is investigated because when children develop their mother tongue, they also create a slew of other essential skills, such as critical thinking and literacy. These are the skills they bring into formal education, and research shows that mastery and concepts learned in a learner's native language do not need to be retaught when they transfer to a second language. For example, if a child has honed the ability to guess the meaning of a word based on its context or infer meaning by reading between the lines, these skills can easily be transferred to a second language. However, it is much harder to teach these abstract skills directly through a second language (Tomblin, 2019).

The benefits of using mother tongue education include children's familiarity with the language. The language that children speak at home is the most familiar to them. If taught in school, this language facilitates comprehension, understanding, and learning. It has the most significant impact on children from low-income families. They are less likely to receive support from their families in learning English or in clarifying basic concepts in English-taught subjects. When children are taught in their language, they are more engaged, which reduces learning delays and hiccups. They enjoy school more and feel
more at ease because they are surrounded by students and teachers who speak their native language. They are self-assured and confident in their ability to grasp new concepts quickly.

Students' self-esteem improves as a result of this. Being fluent in one's mother tongue is also a source of pride. It instills confidence, has a positive impact, and unmistakably shapes the personality. It relieves them of the stress of taking foreign language classes and dealing with the pressure.

As a result, children's academic performance improves. Parents who are fluent in their native language find it easier to become involved in their children's education. They have no trouble communicating with the teachers who are instructing their children. According to academic research, wise parents should keep their native language in their homes because it is the most familiar language. English, or any other medium of instruction, will take care of itself over time. One of the most important ways of preserving culture is through language. Direct translation from the mother tongue to another language frequently causes the script to lose its essence.

As a result, children's native language proficiency fosters a sense of belonging and identity with their culture and heritage. They grow up with a strong sense of self-identity and pride. A child's ability to communicate in their native language is advantageous. Everyone contributes in more than one way and is vital to a child's overall development. It encourages students to stay in touch with their cultural roots. Being taught in their mother tongue gives everyone an equal chance, regardless of their socioeconomic status, geographic location, or ethnic background. In today's interconnected world, knowing one's mother tongue makes it easier to communicate and interact with the rest of the world and develop beautiful ideas that can lead the world from the front. Being bilingual allows you to stand out from the crowd and take the initiative (Ziyyara Team, 2019).
References:

