

Chapter-10

POSITION OF HINDI IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY (Review based on Oral Evidence of the Ministry of Human Resource Development under taken by the Committee of Parliament on Official Language on 30.08.2006)

10.1 For achieving progress in any field the involvement & contribution of the youth, inter-alia, is essential. Similarly, we can't achieve success in ensuring the use of Hindi in the field of Technology and Education without the involvement of youth. Apart from supporters of English, a few supporters of Hindi are also of the opinion that Hindi is not compatible with modern Science & Technology. Based on this argument youth are reluctant to adopt Hindi in their day- to-day life. When Hindi was given the status of Official Language simultaneously it should have been propagated as a language suitable for Science & Technology. In this direction some commendable work has been done during the last few years. It is a wrong propaganda that Hindi cannot be used in the field of Technology. Today, there are various institutes, establishments and laboratories in the country which are doing their work in Hindi. Hindi language has a very rich literature. When we could achieve success in the field of literature through a language, why can't we achieve success in science and education technology by using the same language? Physics, Chemistry, Astronomy or Medical Sciences – one can write on all subjects in Hindi and books written in Hindi have been welcomed by the young generation. For making Hindi strong at National & International level we should concentrate on the simplicity of language. This era should come to an end now as the young generation seek simple language and original books on science and technology. It is essential for the development of a language that primary education is imparted through mother tongue only. This ensures that when you respect your language, foreigners will also be compelled to do the same and thus the supremacy of English on internet will come to an end.

POSITION OF HINDI IN SECONDARY EDUCATION

10.2 If an individual is taught/trained in a particular field from the very beginning, he will definitely become efficient very quickly in that particular field. Similarly, if the students are taught Hindi from the very beginning they would be able to use it successfully in the official work in future. The Ministry of Human Resource Development should make serious efforts to make Hindi compulsory in the curriculum. Hindi should be made a compulsory subject upto tenth standard in all schools of CBSE and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. If Hindi is made a compulsory subject for teaching upto tenth standard in Kendriya Vidyalayas, it will, in turn, encourage the states to teach Hindi as a compulsory subject where till now Hindi is not being taught as a compulsory subject. This would be the beginning of a new era for Hindi ensuring its bright future.

10.3 According to one of the articles published in daily English newspaper 'The Hindustan Times' on 26-07-07, citing the necessity of knowledge of English for computer education and learning it, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has put up a proposal for making English language compulsory from class 3 onwards in schools coming under the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan'. It has also been written that the Government is willing to give additional funds for Information, Communication and Training (ICT) at primary level if states adopt English as a mandatory subject. Ministry of Human Resource Development is of the opinion that without the knowledge of English it is impossible for someone to become an expert in computers. This opinion of the Government creates a doubt whether English will totally replace Hindi in the field of Education. This would definitely make the future of students from villages and towns uncertain.

10.4 Mizoram is one of the far off states of the country. During the discussions with Town Official Language Implementation Committee on 13-12-2007 it came to the notice of the committee that English is the medium of instruction in schools & Universities in the state. To encourage Hindi education there, a Hindi Cell had been established in the Mizoram University with the help of grants given by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. With the help of this grant, Hindi lecturers were hired on an annual basis for teaching Hindi. This helped in the progressive development of Hindi there but the Ministry of Human Resource Development discontinued the grant as a result of which the services of Hindi teachers had to be terminated by the Mizoram University consequently the students learning Hindi had to face difficulties. In these circumstances, atmosphere for Hindi is not created there. Ministry of Human Resources Development should meet and talk to the education committee of Mizoram University and state government so that Hindi teaching and learning atmosphere can be created in universities as well as in schools in Mizoram and more and more students feel attracted towards learning Hindi. Similar efforts are required to be made in other far off states especially in north eastern states to create an atmosphere of Hindi.

10.5 On one hand Ministry of Human Resource Development gives assurance to the committee that efforts will be made to make teaching of Hindi mandatory upto secondary education and on the contrary it comes up with proposals which would make English take the position of Hindi in the country. This has been a cause of concern. From time to time, Committee through its inspections and oral evidences have opined that Hindi training on computers be made compulsory and Hindi softwares should be developed. Based on the practical experience gained through inspections and oral evidences the committee is of the opinion that it is impossible to make Hindi teaching compulsory only by the efforts of Department of Official Language. Ministry of Human Resources Development has to come forward and make efforts to make Hindi teaching available all over the country. As a first step Hindi needs to be made compulsory upto secondary education level so that a strong foundation of knowledge of Hindi is established among all students.

POSITION OF HINDI AT HIGHER (GRADUATION/POST GRADUATION) LEVEL OF EDUCATION

10.6 Higher level educational institutes have been given autonomy in the fields of higher studies. Such autonomy is important as most of the institutes are very particular about their autonomy and there is no room for interference because most of our universities are set-up either under the laws framed by the Parliament or by the laws passed by the Legislative Assemblies of the state. In this regard the Central Government or the UGC have minimum or no role to play.

10.7 So far as Universities, especially Universities of the states are concerned they themselves decide how much and upto what level Hindi should be taught. They can only be requested to create environment for Hindi but it is not binding on them. For example, during the oral evidence held on 30.08.2006, Acharya Pramod Tandon, Chancellor of North-East Parvathiya University informed the Committee that the medium of instruction in North-East Parvathiya University is not Hindi as the resolution passed by the University lays down that the medium of instruction would be only in English in the above university. This is a situation of great concern. Such practices need to be stopped immediately. If such a practice continues tomorrow some other University may pass a resolution to make the medium of instruction English and as a result Official Language Hindi may have to take the back seat. In this regard, the Committee recommends that a single principle should be followed in all parts of the country and there should be a law to regulate it. It's our constitutional obligation to implement Hindi as Official Language of the country. We can provide economic and social justice to our countrymen by adopting Hindi. The Ministry of Human Resource Development needs to take an initiative for making an action plan for the implementing Hindi teaching in all the Universities/Higher Educational Institutes and initiate a

process for implementing a common law and place it both houses of Parliament by framing the law.

10.8 During oral evidence programme held on 30.08.2006 the University Grants Commission informed the committee that a committee was formed to promote Hindi and they had given some suggestions. Among those suggestions the main suggestion was the recruitment of authors and translators for technical subjects and selection of universities for teaching Hindi to foreign students. In non-Hindi speaking states Higher Education is encouraged but still in most of the universities Hindi as a subject is missing at Degree and Post Graduate level. They are also not aware of the financial grant being offered by the commission. It is necessary that the commission gives all necessary information to all the Universities/Institutes in this regard. Many of the Universities do not have a Hindi Department at all. It is expected of University Grants Commission to encourage Universities not having a Hindi Department to establish Hindi Department and also inform them about financial aid being offered by the commission. This step would definitely go a long way in the use of implementation of Hindi as Official Language. Hindi Departments in the Universities will not only be helpful in preparing the text books and other literature related to the University in Hindi but also make the environment of the university congenial to Hindi. Ministry of Human Resources should take note of such Universities and encourage them to establish Hindi Departments so that these departments could extend help for imparting education through Hindi medium.

AVAILABILITY OF TEXT BOOKS/DICTIONARIES/TECHNICAL BOOKS IN HINDI IN THE FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY

10.9 Today, even after 60 years of Independence, there are no standard books available in Hindi on various subjects in the country. No system has been developed to prepare such material either. Hindi Departments of Central Universities may be contacted to prepare such material. The oral evidence of Ministry of Human Resources and its 16 subordinate offices was conducted by the Committee on 30-08-2006. In this programme 17 honorable members of the committee and 17 Heads of Departments participated. The details are given at Page No 400. During discussion with the Commission for Scientific & Technical Terminology, the Committee felt that some difficulties are faced in the practical usage of some of difficult Hindi words. Committee is of the opinion that instead of using difficult words of Hindi, English words can be transliterated (used in toto) in Hindi to make the terminology easy to understand for its practical usage. To make it competent enough to meet the future challenges, Hindi will have to be made more liberal and words from other languages & dialects should be accepted.

10.10 Government Offices/Banks/Institutions etc. are still using different Hindi synonyms for various scientific and technical English words which cause problems in the implementation of Hindi. To meet this problem a standard terminology is required to be prepared at the earliest. During the oral evidence conducted on 30.8.2006 the Commission for Scientific & Technical Terminology had given the assurance to the Committee that work on the preparation of terminologies will be completed soon. The difficult words of English will also be transliterated in Hindi to make the language easy for practical usage. In addition to this, a National Vocabulary Library for Terminology will be established. Committee is of the view that with the availability of all the above facilities, various scientific & technical words in English will have uniformity with Hindi synonyms and with this it will become easy to present complicate scientific & technical subjects in Hindi.

10.11 The books of curriculum should be written originally in Hindi and not translated from English to Hindi. Besides, Hindi books may be made available at lower cost so that students are encouraged to purchase them. Generally, Hindi books made available to the students are

translated ones. Many a times, the language of translation is very absurd and it is difficult to make out the right meaning. To overcome this problem, the reading material and the text books of the subjects should be prepared in Hindi by specialist Professors who have knowledge of Hindi and they should be responsible to make available reading material and text books in Hindi in this correct form so that there is no possibility of mistakes. To prepare original text books in Hindi University Grant Commission should contact Hindi Departments of Central Universities. IIT Delhi has taken a significant initiative to make books available in Hindi. They are planning to get Hindi books written by their own professors. Under this scheme Prof. R.K.Maheshwari has written a book on 'Rural Technology' in Hindi. Some other professors have put up proposals to write books in Hindi. The availability of Hindi books in technical field is a welcome beginning. The Hindi books available on Engineering subjects are also being purchased for the Library of IIT Delhi. The Chairman, Commission of Scientific and Technical Terminology, during his Oral Evidence Programme before the Committee of Parliament on Official Language had accepted that the Commission had already published 2400 text books and reference material in Hindi on its own and through Hindi Academies and University Cells. Ministry of Human Resources Development and other Teaching and Training Institutes may also take similar steps so that the problem of availability of Hindi books could be solved and the level of study material also improves.

AVAILABILITY OF TEACHING AND TRAINING MATERIAL IN HINDI

10.12 On the basis of recent inspections, oral evidences and discussions the Committee has come to the conclusion that generally the teaching & training institutes are imparting training in Hindi for name sake only. Similarly a very small quantity of teaching and training material is available in Hindi. At school level, degree level and especially at Post Graduate level very less reading material is available in Hindi as compared to material available in English. If teaching and training material is made available in simple Hindi, this will definitely be helpful to the students of Hindi medium and in this way they will be able to compete with the students of English medium.

10.13 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Ministry of Human Resource Development should make serious efforts to make Hindi Language compulsory in curriculum. As a first step, Hindi should be made a compulsory subject upto tenth standard in all schools of CBSE and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.
2. To give autonomy in the fields of higher studies to Higher Educational Institutes some laws have been framed by the Central Govt and State Govts in Parliament and in the Legislative Assemblies of the state under which, in some Universities and Higher Educational Institutes, English is the only medium of instruction. In this regard, a uniform policy should be followed in all parts of the country. The Ministry of Human Resource Development should work out an action plan for implementing Hindi teaching scheme in all Universities/Higher Educational Institutes and initiate the process of implementing a common law and table it before both the Houses of Parliament.
3. Ministry of Human Resource Development should take note of such Universities and Higher Educational Institutes where there are no Hindi Departments. It should encourage them to establish Hindi Departments so that these departments could extend help in imparting education through Hindi medium.
4. The universities and Higher Educational Institutes situated in non-Hindi speaking states where the students are not given an option for Hindi to appear in exams/interviews must start giving the students option to answer in Hindi.

5. The financial aid given to the voluntary Hindi institutes is only for name sake and the Ministry of Human Resource Development should take effective steps to increase this grant.
6. The reading material and the text books of technology should be prepared in Hindi by specialists of the subject who have knowledge of Hindi and they should be responsible to make available reading material and text books in Hindi in the correct form so that there is no possibility of mistakes.
7. At school level, degree level and especially at Post Graduate level very less reading material is available in Hindi as compared to material available in English. If teaching and training material is made available in simple Hindi this will be helpful to the students of Hindi medium and in this way they can compete with the students of English medium.
8. Original books on science should be written in simple Hindi.
9. Hindi writers and translators may be recruited for technical subjects and universities may be selected to teach Hindi to foreign students.
10. During various inspections, oral evidences and discussion programmes the Committee has arrived at the conclusion that some difficulties are being faced in the practical usage of some of the difficult words in Hindi. Thus, to enable the reader to grasp the language easily and for its practical usage English words may be transliterated in Hindi and replaced for difficult Hindi words in Hindi text books and glossaries.
11. Different Hindi synonyms for various scientific and technical English words are being used which causes problems in the implementation of Hindi. To overcome this problem standard terminologies are required to be prepared so that there is uniformity in Hindi synonyms of various scientific & technical words in English and complicated scientific & technical subjects are presented easily in Hindi.
