

PRIVATE TUTORING IN MANIPUR: PARENTAL INSIGHTS INTO THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE SIDES AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

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ABSTRACT

The research study investigates the multifaceted problems of supplementary education on teenage students in the context of North East India particularly in Imphal West district of Manipur. Due to the past socio-political and conflict ridden Manipur state in North-eastern region, for many decades, private tuition in Manipur has become the integral part of the region offering both the negative and positive dimensions. The researcher has employed mixed methodology with descriptive research design. The sample size is 200 and the Probability random Sampling Technique is used. The data is collected through interviews, surveys and observation methods. On the positive and developmental dimension, supplementary education is aimed to help the gaps in large classroom teaching, facilitates personalized help and support of learning for the weaker subjects, offers self-confidence and self-esteem for oneself, enables to combat challenges and perform with academic excellence. Conversely, the article uncovers various negative or ugly aspects of private tuition such as, financial strains, academic pressure, addiction, educational inequalities, immoral character and increased challenges and so on. The data examination and analysis process was carried out through systematic statistical tools such as Microsoft Excel and Statistical Package of Social Science (SPSS) version 20. The major findings of the research study contribute to the state of Manipur and in general to India in understanding the role of private tuition in shaping the scholastic and learning experiences of teen-aged students in Manipur. This paper also suggests and gives recommendations to policy makers, parents, teachers, educationalists, to make informed decision making in shaping the holistic developmental healthy leaders, educationalists and integrated citizens.

Keywords: Integration, academic, positive and negative, dimensions, Manipur, Adolescents.

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the world private tuition are prevalent in the process of education both in regular and irregular schooling process. Adolescent students in India are part of this formal schooling and learning in life through both private and public learning environment. All students are not capable of learning only in public schools but



learning takes place through supplementary education. Teen aged students are in their transition periods with their physical and social changes in their developmental stages of growth and education; they do face lots of problems in their learning ecosystem. Both in rural and urban India and in special manner in Manipur, private coaching centres are most prevalent. The rise in private tuition in Manipur is due to multifaceted reasons such as ethnic conflicts, blockades, violence, pressures, and socio-political situations and so on. Hence, the trend in rise of private tuition is like, ‘mushrooming of teaching shops’ in public places. Right to Education Act (2009 & 2014) says that children of disadvantaged and economically weaker sections need to be provided at least 25% of their school admission seats by private educational institutions for free education. Though RTE reduces inequality, dropouts, education for all yet private tuition still increases not only shutting down of regular schooling due to conflict ridden region of North East India but also throughout India. Bray, M and Kwok, P (2003) mentioned that shadow education or supplementary education like mainstream education. He also said that 90 percent of elementary school students in Korea and 85 per cent of high school pupils in Hong Kong in China take part in private tuition. In this study the researcher is attempting to discover the manifold dimensions of private tuition both positively and negatively.

LITERATURE REVIEW OF THE STUDY

In India many research scholars have done studies about education both formal and non-formal schooling and learning environments. Dang and Rogers (2008) portrayed that students from both secondary and senior secondary schools participated in private tuitions in view of scholastic achievements. Bray and Lykins (2011) presented that private tuition coexists along with normal schooling and it mimics the entire formal schooling and curriculum. Sujata (2014) reported in a research study with the sample of 4,031 students from grade 9 – 10 from 49 schools belonging to four districts of four Indian states such as Kerala (Thiruvananthapuram), Uttar Pradesh (Varanasi) Maharashtra (Pune), and Andhra Pradesh (Nalgonda) attended shadow education due to culture of comparing and competing with peer group students, pressures of parents and relatives on child’s performance, a growing feeling of parents’ inability to give academic guidance to children, etc. JyotiYadav (2022) also said that many state governments tried to curb the tuition menace and to regulate coaching industry with regulations after many students died by suicides for example in Rajasthan in 2015 in the tuition hub of Kota.

Shewta and Kalia (2015) in a study exhibited that senior secondary school in Rohtak District of Haryana State bestowing arts students show less positive attitude towards private tuition while science pupils display more positive attitude. Keithellakpam B. (2016) portrayed in Manipur that the need of private tuition for the children’s’ future studies, to score in the entrance examinations, to secure good marks in their exams, to help them through tuition since parents are unable to teach them the various subjects and in Imphal and not attending tuition seem to be something uncommon in the state. Sapana D. and Thounaojam S. (2016) revealed that regularly occurring bandhs, violence, blockades and socio-political disturbances affect the educational performance of the school children disturb students’ learning process. Miraj N. A. et al., (2022) has shown that all teachers need to have an optimum level of enhancement in their teaching aptitudes and approaches in Manipur.

AIM OF THE STUDY

The main aim of the study is to explore the parental perspectives of positive and negative dimensions of supplementary education and its impact on adolescent students of the high school students of Imphal West district of Manipur State, India.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The researcher has placed three specific objectives for this study:

- To discover the multi-dimensional aspects of shadow educations among adolescent students of West Imphal district.
- To examine the various positive aspects of private tuition among the parents of students who attend private tutoring in the state of Manipur.
- To explore the negative influences of supplementary education – parents perspectives.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

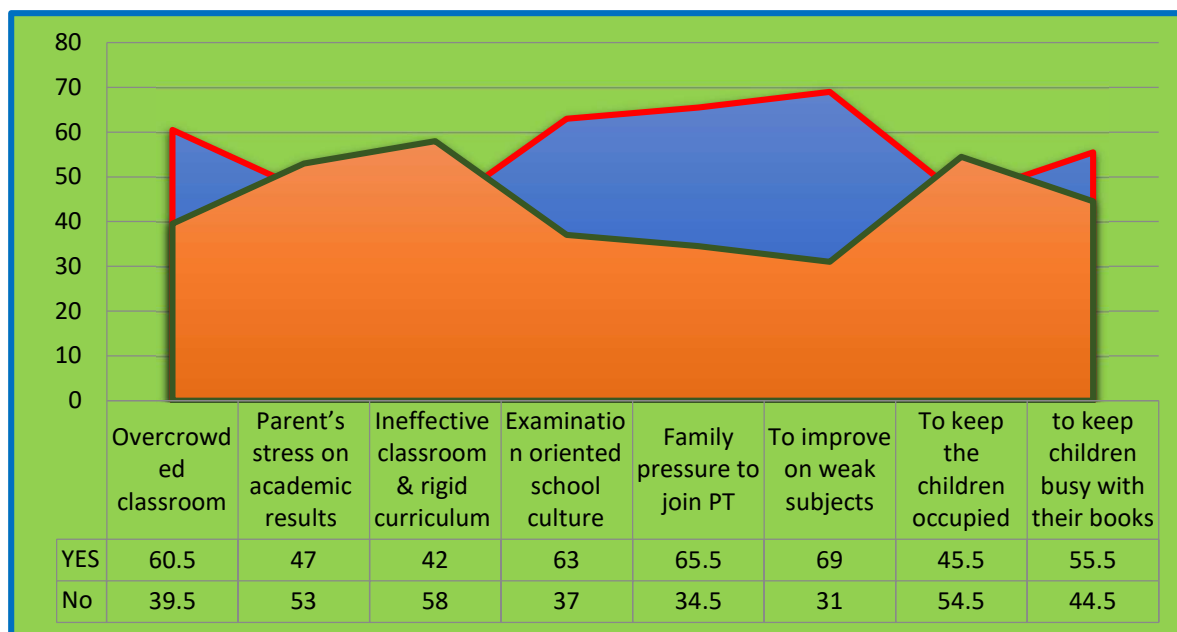
The research scholar has engaged the descriptive research design and used interviews, participant observation and survey methods for data collection in Imphal West District of Manipur. The total sample size of the study is 200 parents. Parents are selected from 10 schools and 10 coaching centres where their children are studying formal schooling as well as private tuition. The participants have been randomly selected and the probability random sampling technique is used throughout the information collection. The data examination and analysis process was carried out through systematic statistical tools such as Microsoft Excel and Statistical Package of Social Science (SPSS) version 20.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

In this section, the data is analysed in a more comprehensive manner to present the multi-dimensional aspects of positive and negative sides of private tuition in the state of Manipur. Presenting the data of the students, teachers and parents along with the heads of the institutions, the various perspectives, dimensions of good and bad are cut out and the interpretation is given in an elaborate way.

PARENTS' OPINION ON THE CAUSES AND IMPACTS OF PT

Figure 01: PERSPECTIVES OF PARENTS ON THE CAUSES FOR EMERGING TREND ON PT



In part B of the data analysis, in section one the researcher considers the opinions’ of the parents regarding the causes of emerging trend of private tuition. In figure 01, the highest 60.5% agreed that the overcrowded classroom and lack of individual attention in the school; 47.0% felt on parent’s heavy stress on academic results; 42.0% ineffective classroom teaching and rigid curriculum while 63.0% feel that examination oriented school culture are the various reasons for seeking private tuition in the state. Again 65.5% joined due to the family and relatives influence; 69.0% to help the weak subjects; 45.5% PT may be a way to keep the children occupied while 55.5% to keep children busy with their books. Parents’ opinion on the effectiveness of private tuition is an investment of the parents for their future benefits and as an alternative means for the improvement of their children. Nearly 51.5% agreed that PT is a kind of educational investment for the children to gain benefits in the future and 48.5% for the improvement of academic performance in the life of students.

Table No. 1
PARENTS’ OPINION ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PRIVATE TUTORING, N=200

Sl. No.	EFFECTIVENESS OF PRIVATE TUTORING	Number		Percentage	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1.	To revise and understand the lessons & deepen knowledge	126	74	63.0	37.0
2.	To provide individual attention to improve the weak subjects	124	76	62.0	38.0

3.	To prepare well for the competitive exams, entrance exams (medical, engineering and other professional courses) and for higher studies.	116	84	58.0	42.0
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Table no 1 describes the distribution of parents’ opinion on the effectiveness of private tuition in West Imphal district of Manipur state. Here the highest 63.0% of the parents agreed that PT helps children to revise and understand the lessons & deepen knowledge in their life, the next highest 62% said that PT to improve the weak subjects while 58.0% to prepare well for the competitive exams, entrance exams (medical, engineering and other professional courses) and for higher studies.

According to the opinion survey of the parents just 35% agreed that PT helps academically the children to maintain their competitive exams and gives advantage over the others in their higher education while 65% felt that PT is to supplement children’s learning besides the school classroom teaching environment.

PROBLEMS ON THE LIVES OF THE PARENTS’ DUE TO PT

Figure No. 2: Problems on the Lives of the Parents

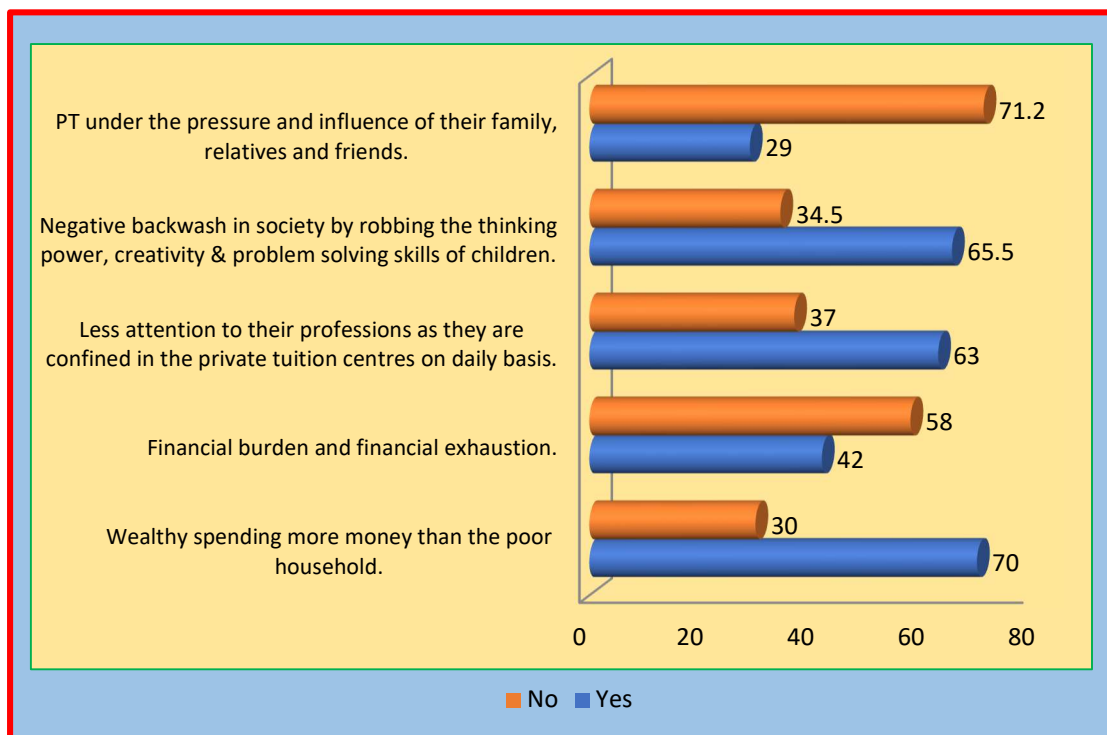


Figure 2 presents the parents’ opinion of the problems made due to the private tuitions of their children in their ordinary lives. From the data, the highest 70.0% agree that wealthy parents spend more money on children’s PT than the poor household; 42.0% of them expressed that financial burden and exhaustion; while 63.0% pay less attention to their professions as they are confined in the private tuition centers on daily basis. Nearly 65.5% said

that PT creates negative backwash in the society by robbing the thinking power, creativity and problem solving skills of the children; nearly 29.0% send their children to private tuition under the pressure and influence of their family, relatives and friends. Nearly 49.5% felt that they don't get back the money spend for their children's tuition fees and 52.5% expressed that they get into physical and mental problems due to time spend in the tutoring centres.

FINDINGS AND RESULTS

The opinions' of the parents regarding the causes, impacts and the problems of trend of private tuition in Manipur state are given below:

- ❖ The highest 60.5% agreed that the overcrowded classroom and lack of individual attention in the school; 47.0% felt on parent's heavy stress on academic results; 42.0% ineffective classroom teaching and rigid curriculum while 63.0% feel that examination oriented school culture are the various reasons for seeking private tuition in the state.
- ❖ Again 65.5% joined due to the family and relatives influence; 69.0% to help the weak subjects; 45.5% PT may be a way to keep the children occupied while 55.5% to keep children busy with their books.
- ❖ Nearly 51.5% agreed that PT is a kind of educational investment for the children to gain benefits in the future and 48.5% for the improvement of academic performance in the life of students.
- ❖ The highest 63.0% of the parents agreed that PT helps children to revise and understand the lessons & deepen knowledge in their life, the next highest 62% said that PT to improve the weak subjects while 58.0% to prepare well for the competitive exams, entrance exams (medical, engineering and other professional courses) and for higher studies.
- ❖ Just 35% agreed that PT helps academically the children to maintain their competitive exams and gives advantage over the others in their higher education while 65% felt that PT is to supplement children's learning besides the school classroom teaching environment.
- ❖ The highest 70.0% agree that wealthy parents spend more money on children's PT than the poor household; 42.0% of them expressed that financial burden and exhaustion; while 63.0% pay less attention to their professions as they are confined in the private tuition centres on daily basis.
- ❖ Nearly 65.5% said that PT creates negative backwash in the society by robbing the thinking power, creativity and problem solving skills of the children; nearly 29.0% send their children to private tuition under the pressure and influence of their family, relatives and friends.
- ❖ Around 49.5% felt that they don't get back the money spend for their children's tuition fees and 52.5% expressed that they get into physical and mental problems due to time spend in the tutoring centres.

DISCUSSION

In the description and discussion section, the research scholar highlights various types of causes, impacts and problems of the private coaching centres in the state of Manipur. This study is conducted among the parents of the children going for the private tuition and so the manifold dimensions of both positive and negative aspects of various themes are discussed. Supplementary education not only affects the adolescent students studying in high and higher secondary schools but also affect their parents, their life styles, profession, relatives, their future

investments and expectation in return as benefits, school teachers, heads of institutions, siblings, school managements, expenditures, mental and physical health, safety and security, peer groups in group therapy, family prosperity and well-being along with peace, and largely the future of the state and responsible citizens in India.

Parents of adolescents who attend private tuition or shadow education do agree that the private coaching for their learning of their subject matter and extra knowledge gaining have plenty of positive aspects and help them to facilitate overall growth and development of their social skills, cognitive elements, relationship skills, coping with their stress and exam pressure at the time of examinations etc. Some of the positive dimensions of PT as per parents are such as better ambience for learning the weak subjects, keeping away from evil habits, addiction and online games, gaining confidence and self-esteem to confront their peer groups in terms of knowledge, improvement of their scholastic achievements, healthy occupation of the children and keeping them very busy with text books, deepening of their general knowledge, successful preparation for the competitive examinations and making up for what is missed in the classroom.

Here, the negative dimensions of the PT are discussed as per the data collected and presented in the interpretation and findings. The innumerable problems and issues challenged by the parents due to PTs of their adolescent children are: financial burden and exhaustion, economic division, disparity and discrimination between the peers in the school as well as in coaching centres, more focus on the children's concern, less attention of parents spend on their professions. PT removes and robs the critical thinking power, originality and problem-solving skills of the children. Some of the other problems and challenges of parents pressure and influence of their family and relatives; get into physical and mental problems; negligence of the students in the schoolroom training by the school instructors, culture of enslavement and increase the rate of students' absenteeism in the school.

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Educational Department and School Curriculum:** Overall the educational system of the state of Manipur requirements to transform through the imparting knowledge through manifold methods and different settings. The state need to check through the department the process of imparting knowledge, completion of school curriculum in formal education upholding their profession with certain quality and values. They also need to monitor the system and to avoid occasions of corruption and illegal means.
- **Pedagogical Approach and Integrated Development:** All people including parents, teachers, tutors, relatives, friends and others are suggested to promote critical and creative thinking, adaptability, creativity, problem solving skills and building social relationship capacities so that they gain self-respect, self-esteem, self-confidence to deal with life challenging situations in a positive and constructive way.
- **Investment for Life and not for Exam:** Adolescent students are urged to have positive life concepts, efforts to learn the subject matters in the class room atmosphere. The parents investment is to be understood by every student is not only passing the examinations and scoring well in the subject matter but to learn for ever in life and to gain knowledge,

strength, moral character, value systems and healthy habits with sense of discipline and responsibility.

- **Physical and Mental Well-being:** All parents and relatives who are under pressure of their children's education and paying huge payments and investments for their growth and in expectation to get back as future benefits need to relax with many relaxation therapies, yoga, mantras, physical exercises. They are suggested to invest in mentorship positively and gain confidence of their children then to show stress, mental depression and other ways of nagging to perform scholastic success.
- **Teachers and School Management:** All teachers and school management is suggested to recruit proper and qualified teachers and use multi-dimensional methods in teaching particularly for the weaker students to grasp the concepts through audios, videos, smart boards, power point presentations, referral and to handle weak and problematic adolescent students through cognitive therapy, counselling, listening attitudes, and extra attention while schooling and mentoring in the process of education in the classroom environment.
- **Mentoring and Accompaniment:** Adolescent period is a transition period where children go through many issues of physical changes, addictions, alcohols, lack of understanding of personality alterations, depression etc. Therefore, parents, teachers, tutors and relatives need to do the mentoring and to accompany every student in all aspects of life.
- **Private Coaching Centres and Tutors:** All private coaching centres and tuition masters are suggested and recommended to give taking tuitions if essential to those who are fragile and weak with affordable fees and not to make the PT as a commercialized business for income making in the state.

SCOPE FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

This present research deals with private tuition and its multi-dimensional aspects from the perspectives of parents in Manipur. The future research scholars can do researches on the following topics such as financial burden of the parents and family, mental stress and depression of the single parents due to extra expenditures, the impact on Manipur shadow education market, and the quality of education in Government schools in the state of Manipur as well as in the North East Region. This research also can be carried out in other states, and districts of Manipur. The scope of this study is not only very significant to all the parents but also for students, adolescent friends, school teachers, tuition masters, heads of the institutions and the education departments of India, Northeast India and in Manipur.

CONCLUSION

Every parent wants his or her child to grow up well in life with proper education, skills, knowledge and social abilities with proper cognitive elements in the family, school and in the society. Social relationship between parents, adolescent students and teachers are very significant in the process of imparting and learning in life. Due to the negligence of teachers, income motivated private tuitions, poor quality teaching, and lack of salaries cause parents to put their children in to private coaching so that their children are able to compete with others, score

high, and excel in their examinations in view of better future. In the process of upbringing their children, parents do go through so many problems and issues because of extra investment on tuitions, mental stress, lack of time spend in their professional life, more worry about their children's moral character and their development and future and so on. The responsibility of the educational department of the state and school management along with parents and teachers are urged to follow up the growing adolescent children with care and attention while teaching the subject matter in formal schooling and to bring up their children with all the necessary life skills required to confront the world of challenges and be a holistic person with satisfaction and joy.

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INFORMED CONSENT

Since the researcher has used interview as one of the method for collecting data from the parents, the scholar has obtained informed consent from all the participants.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest in this paper.

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