School education... at the crossroads

25
100%
school education... at the crossroads – welcome!

http://www.hassanhameed.com/?page_id=11836
2.11 Medium of Instruction

The mother tongue is the most vital factor for the children’s intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth. The mother tongue is the ‘mother tongue’ not because it is the mother’s tongue but because, like the mother, it is central factor behind the nurturance of the children’s mental and emotional make up. Their perceptions, comprehension, responses, creative expressions thinking and analysis — all are maximally developed, therefore, through the medium of the mother tongue. The medium of instruction ideally, therefore, ought to be the mother tongue at all the stages of school education.

In the case of learners whose mother tongue is also the regional language or state language, it must continue as the medium of instruction ideally at all the levels of schooling or at least up to the end of the elementary stage. However, in the case of those students whose mother tongue is different from the state language or regional language, the regional language may be adopted as a medium only from the third standard onward. In the earlier years the students’ mother tongue ought to be used in such a manner that a smooth transition from the students’ operations in the mother tongue to those in the regional language naturally takes place at the earliest.
School education... at the crossroads – Welcome!

http://www.hassanhameed.com/?page_id=11836
Where else in the world have 867 distinct languages become the official medium of instruction in a country? I am proud that Papua New Guinea speaks four-fifths of the world's languages, with a population of 4 million, which is actually the population of Melbourne alone. Fifty per cent, or 2 million, of our people are not able to read and write. Further, where else in the world do people of a country hold 99 per cent of their land under customary ownership, and the modern state of Papua New Guinea controls only 1 per cent or just over 600,000 hectares as alienated land?

In my view, the Delors Report, *Learning: the Treasures Within*, is indeed a beacon for the 21st century. The Four Pillars beckon Papua New Guinea to take stock of its cultural diversity and lay the foundation of our modern education, rooted in our diverse cultures. In some ways, Papua New Guinea is somewhat ahead, because in 1995 by law in the National Parliament we declared all of our 867 languages are to be used at the elementary level for three years. We want our parents in the villages to be the teachers and the cultural mentors, because we firmly believe that if you advocate for lifelong education, it is that first building block that matters most. We must ensure that the cultural bonding must be acquired at that early period because, as we heard in this distinguished gathering, when we go higher and higher we don't seem to be getting back to looking at our own roots.
References


One Comment

Adam Naseer Ibrahim  April 4, 2018 at 8:48 pm - Reply

Alhugun'dumenge l'ameeruge kan'dhuraa hilain neh nama, eyge nikkureegai hifai an'burailaahai baaru mi liyumugai ve-eve. Dr. Hassange mi jihaadhattakai thaareefaa shukruhutteve.

Leave A Comment

Comment...

Name (required)  Email (required)  Website

POST COMMENT