

5.8.2(1)

(ii) New Education Policy.

The Under Secretary, UGC Vide Annexure 'A' has informed that in the New Education Policy it has been envisaged to accelerate the efforts and pace of adoption of Indian Languages as media of instruction at all levels of higher Education. The Commission has decided to obtain the views/suggestions from our University.

In this connection, a questionnaire placed at Annexure 'B' has been formulated to generate the information on the issues pertaining to the media of instruction adopted or to be adopted at the level of Higher Education.

The above proposal has been sent to all Deans of Schools for comments and the comments received from the Heads, Departments of various languages such as English, Khasi, Garo etc. is placed at the statement shown at Annexure 'C' below :

The above comments received have been placed before the Deans' Committee in its 83rd meeting held on March 28, 1998. Where the Committee took a decision as reproduced below :

" The Deans' Committee discussed the matter at length and gone through the views and opinions of various Heads of the Departments on the question of Hindi publication works for the paper of text books, the medium of instruction shall remain in ENGLISH as at present. But side by side the local languages of Meghalaya and Mizoram may be developed alongwith Hindi translation as far as practicable.

It is also decided in the Committee, that the matter may be informed, to the Academic Council before replying to UGC."

Hence, the matter was placed before the Academic Council in its 57th meeting and the Council considered the comments of the Deans Committee on the opinions and views of various Heads of the Departments on the question of Hindi Publication works for text books and the suggestion that the local Languages of Meghalaya & Mizoram be developed alongwith Hindi translation, the Council Resolved to approve the same and directed the Deans Committee to send a reply to the U.G.C for approval .

The matter is placed before the Council for consideration.

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Annexure 'A'

D.O.NO.F.2-1/91 (BP)

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION  
35 FERROZ SHAH ROAD  
NEW DELHI 110 002.

O.P. SHARMA  
UNDER SECRETARY

SPEED POST/REGD.POST

Dated : 10.12.97.

Dear Sir,

In the New Education Policy it has been envisaged to accelerate the efforts and pace of adoption of Indian Languages as media of instruction at all levels of Higher Education. To fulfil the above objectives, the Commission has decided to obtain the views/suggestions from Institutions of Higher Education on the above point.

Accordingly a questionnaire has been formulated to generate the information on the issues (copy enclosed) pertaining to the media of instruction adopted or to be adopted at the level of Higher Education. The information may reach to the Commission within 15 days from the issue of this letter.

This may please be treated as MOST URGENT.

With kind regards.

The Vice-Chancellor,  
North Eastern Hill University,  
PO NEHU Campus, Mawkynroh,  
Umshing, Shillong - 793022.

sd/-  
( O.P. SHARMA )

Encl : As above.

MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

1. The tendency at present is for the various Provincial or regional languages to be employed as media of instruction in the Universities in the relative linguistic areas displacing English. Do you favour this development ?
2. Do you apprehend that solidarity or cultural standards are likely to be adversely affected as a consequence of linguistic 'provincialism' in University education ?
3. How would you deal with the problems of inter University co-ordination in advanced study and research in the event of regional languages becoming the media of instruction ?
4. How would you ensure an adequate supply of standard text books on various subjects of study in the Indian languages ?
5. If you favour a common medium of instruction for all Indian Universities, what language would you recommend ?
6. What is the medium of instruction at the University level? What should be the medium eventually? What are the difficulties in regard to text books, availability of teachers and examiners, maintenance of proper standards and inter-University migration of students and teachers? what should be the stages of introduction of the medium as decided upon?
7. If the medium of instruction is an Indian Language, the classes for which it has been adopted.
8. If the medium of instruction is English, has the University any programme to adopt an Indian language as medium of instructions and if yes, name of the languages and classes for which the Indian language is proposed to be.
9. Are you in favour of the adoption of a uniform system of Scientific and Technological terminology for all Indian languages or should each language note its own terminology.

10. What in your view ought to be the place of English in Indian Universities:

- (i) In the immediate future,
- (ii) in the long run,
- (iii) as a subject of study, and
- (iv) as a medium of instruction?

Are you in favour of establishing permanent Central Body, statutory or otherwise, for purposes of Article 351 .

Article 351 - It shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language, to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India and to secure its enrichment by assimilating without interfering with its genius, the forms, style and expressions used in Hindustani and in the other languages of India specified in the Eighth Schedule, and by drawing wherever necessary or desirable, for its Vocabulary, primarily on Sanskrit and secondarily on other languages.

Comments received from the Deans of Schools and various Heads of the Departments, is reproduced below :-

1. Dean School of Social Science - The matter is very important and the UGC wants the views of the University regarding the media of instruction adopted or to be adopted at the level of Higher Education. It will be better to call a meeting of the Deans to discuss the questionnaire and formulate the view of the University jointly at an early date.
  
2. Head, Department of English -
  1. At present higher and technical education in the Indian Universities is done mostly through the medium of English. The primary reason for the adoption of this language is the fact that most of the information about various discipline of study is available only through the medium of English.
  
  2. In a multi-lingual country like India it is difficult if not impossible to translate all available study materials in-to the different languages of the country. Theoretically, even if it were possible to do so it would mean delay, which would in turn adversely affect the standard of the students coming out of our colleges and Universities.
  
  3. Ideally, there should be an Indian language like Hindi to replace English as the Official language of the country, it should also be the medium of instruction. However, contemporary experience shows that in many regions of the country, Hindi is yet to be adopted or accepted for the purpose of official and academic communication, which makes its acceptance difficult. One cannot identify any other language which would be acceptable all over the country. Under the circumstances we have to continue to use English for - contd....P/2..

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the circumstances we have no option except for continuing with English, as the medium of instruction in our institutes and higher and technical education. In the long run however, it may be replaced by one Indian language off the other as mentioned in the article 351 of the Constitution. For this, however, one needs to have a consensus.

3. Head, Department of Khasi -
1. The use of provincial or regional languages as media of instruction at the University level is crucial in certain fields where these languages are subjects of study. This is the only alternative to develop, enrich and raise them to international standards.
  2. To displace English indiscriminately in the medium of instruction by a regional language for all subjects, however, may adversely affect the standards of study since the problems of text-books and availability of teachers/examiners will be compounded by problems of Inter-University interaction and co-ordination.
  3. Where Article 351 of the Indian Constitution is concerned, a Central Body is necessary to oversee and monitor the progress in the preparation of Hindi as a medium of expression for the whole country particularly in non-Hindi speaking areas.
4. Head, Department of Education - The Department is of the opinion that since the medium of instruction as the HSLC level as well as higher education level in the states of Meghalaya and Mizoram continues to be English and since English is the official language of the two states the use of regional language as the medium of instruction at the higher education level under NEHU is not feasible now,.

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5. Head, Department of Education  
Mizoram.

The tendency to shift to regional language displacing English as medium of instruction can't be appreciated as it has already broken interaction between different regions in the country at higher education level. It is not possible to have inter-university coordination in advanced study and research unless facilities for translation of commendable works from one language including regional language to the other are possible. In the absence of a common medium of instruction for the Universities in the country, English continues to be a link language but encouragement to develop possibly Hindi, the most popular language all over India, should be enhance to replace English in the long run.

Though it is felt that English/Hindi can help in better interaction at the post graduate and research level, option of using regional language can be kept open at the undergraduate level for those who don't want to go for advanced studies. The potential of these students can be used at the regional level. The mode of distance education can be of help for this purpose. Ultimately we have to accept a common language to be used as the medium of instruction and there should be a uniform system of scientific and technological terminology for students to use, throughout the country. English should therefore be continued to be used both as a subject of study and a medium of instruction for those who want to continue their education up to advanced levels.

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6. Head, Department of Philosophy -
1. English should not be replaced by Indian languages as medium of instruction in Higher Education.
  2. Yes.
  3. Not possible.
  4. The question does not arise.
  5. English.
  6. English in NEHU and it should continue.
  7. In NEHU it is English.
  8. No.
  9. Yes.
  10. English should continue as the medium of instruction for a very long time.
  11. No.

7. Head, Department of Garo. - I emphatically assert that English should continue to be the medium of instruction at the University level. Especially in Science and technology most of the information and novel concepts come from the West through English, bearing English names. The objects and ideas are borrowed along with their names.

I am definitely of the opinion that communication among linguistic groups at higher level will be adversely affected by the discontinuation of English, threatening solidarity. This is true of North-East

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India which is already fragmented in more ways than one; and the North-East though a section <sup>a</sup> is also a mirror of larger whole. Cultural standards are very likely to be compromised, as the local languages have not reached the standard of development of world languages. The position of English as a link language is growing even stronger; the emphasis is now on translations made into that language from different Indian languages; it forms a common platform for exchange of views, culture, etc.

As I am strongly in favour of English as a common medium of instruction, the questions dealing with problems of Inter- University coordination (Q3) does not arise.

As for Q.4, I am of the opinion that a body or an institution in the line of N.C.E.R.T. could be established to monitor and ensure publication of standard text-books in Indian languages.

The medium of instruction at NEHU being English in all Departments except in the vernaculars, question Nos.6,7 & 8 do not arise.

In my opinion the adoption of a uniform system of scientific and technological terminology should prove to be of immense advantage.

## 5:8 OTHERS

### (i) Procedure for Admission of Overseas students and fees thereto.

EC:97:98:5:8:(i): The Council considered the procedure for admission of Overseas students and fees thereto and RESOLVED to accept the recommendations of the Central Committee.

### (ii) New Education Policy.

EC:97:98:5:8:(ii): The Council considered the New Education Policy as conveyed by the University Grants Commission with regard to the adoption of Indian languages as a media of instructions and RESOLVED to accept the recommendation of the Academic Council.

### (iii) Closure of the ISOS & Bio Physics.

EC:97:98:5:8:(iii): The Council considered the recommendation of the Academic Council to allow teachers of the Institute of Self Organising Systems and Bio- Physics to register students for M. Phil / Ph.D through other Departments and RESOLVED to approve the same.

### (iv) Selection Committee of Shillong Law College.

EC:97:98:5:8:(iv): The Council considered the Selection Committee of Shillong Law College and RESOLVED to accept the recommendations of the Academic Council and further RESOLVED that:

1. Query may be made as to how Governing Body was constituted for Shilong Law College without involving University Representatives.
2. Circular be issued to all the Colleges.
  - (a) UGC Guidelines on qualification of teachers ought to be followed.
  - (b) University Representatives ought to be there on College Selections/Committees.
3. The Governing Body of Shillong Law College be approved for three years w.e.f. 22.3.98.