

## MOTHER TONGUE AS A LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

by:

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The child's mother tongue is often referred to as their first language or their native dialect. It is the language that children use the most often. Notwithstanding, the mother tongue refers to the language that children have always spoken during significant events in their lives from birth.

Children's mother tongue encompasses their personal, social, and cultural identities in addition to their language. Various words and expressions have different connotations in different cultures. Thus, while addressing direct questions is considered invasive in one language, it is deemed inquisitive in another. This implies that the language used when speaking is chosen after careful consideration of said cultural and social connotations.

The relevance of the mother tongue is acknowledged since children who acquire it would also inadvertently cultivate a wide range of other key competencies, such as reading and critical thinking. These are the skills that individuals bring with them in formal schooling. Researchers have found that any knowledge and understanding acquired in a learner's native language transfers to his second language without the need for additional instruction.

Moreover, it is also well established that an impressive mother tongue background gives children the abilities they need to acquire new languages, and enables them to apply their knowledge of linguistic structure to a variety of languages. Thus, when children develop their first language, they gain an instinctive awareness of grammar that transfers smoothly to other dialects.

That being said, forming one's own personal, social, and cultural identities is greatly influenced by their mother tongue. Children with the groundwork in their native language frequently exhibit greater well-being and self-assurance, in addition to a better grasp of who they are and where they fit in their way of life. It logically follows that this affects all facets of their lives, particularly their educational excellence.

*References:*

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