

The Role of Hindi in National Education: A Historical and Pedagogical Analysis

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Abstract

This review paper examines the complex role of Hindi in India's national education system, tracing its evolution from the pre-independence era to the present day. Through a comprehensive analysis of historical contexts, policy developments, and pedagogical approaches, the paper explores the multifaceted impact of Hindi as a medium of instruction and as a subject across diverse linguistic regions of India. It investigates the challenges faced in implementing Hindi education policies, their effects on academic performance, and the broader socio-cultural implications. The study also considers the global perspective, comparing India's language policies with those of other multilingual nations. By synthesizing research from various fields, including education, linguistics, and sociology, this paper aims to provide a nuanced understanding of Hindi's position in national education and its significance in shaping India's linguistic and cultural landscape.

Keywords

Hindi education, national language policy, medium of instruction, linguistic diversity, cultural preservation.

Introduction

The role of Hindi in India's national education system has been a subject of intense debate and policy focus since the country's independence in 1947. As the most widely spoken language in India, Hindi has been promoted as a unifying force and a medium of instruction to foster national integration [1]. However, its implementation in education has faced numerous challenges, particularly in non-Hindi speaking regions [2]. This review paper aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the historical context, policy developments, pedagogical approaches, and socio-cultural implications of Hindi's role in national education.

India's linguistic diversity, with over 1,600 mother tongues and 22 officially recognized languages, presents a unique challenge in formulating a cohesive national education policy [3]. The push for Hindi as a national language began [256]