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# Economic Feasibility of Parallel Education Policies in India

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*Abstract-* As per the survey by ASSOCHAM*, about 87 per cent of primary school children and up to 95 per cent of high school students received private tutoring in metro cities. This paper is prepared on basis of conditions and challenges a student is facing because of his educational needs and aspirations. It strived to get into the causes and consequence of following two platforms i.e. Government/Private aided or unaided schools and Private tuitions centers/coaching institutions. As these both supplement the learning of a student but somehow this policy is not having favorable outcomes. It has found a student academic schedule prolonged and absence of proper sphere to show his creativity or to present his innovative ideas ultimately adversely affecting his overall development leading to degradation of valuable human resources. This paper also focused towards the growing market of private tutors and coaching institutions to cater the demand of students who see as an option to earn livelihood or profit putting additional burden on the family budget. It has further incorporated the views and opinions of school teachers & parents, taking note of their concern.

*Keywords:* *coaching institutes, private tutors, extracurricular, competition.*

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# Economic Feasibility of Parallel Education Policies in India

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## I. Introduction

Cut- throat competition has pushed students to new limits and with low standards of schooling in our country; the rise of private coaching institutes is inevitable. In a brief span of twenty years, the practice of sending kids to private tutors has become quite natural. Tutors and coaching centres are now ubiquitous, having mushroomed in every lane and by lane of the country. In the last four or five years, the practice has acquired new dimensions with children as young as six years being sent to private tutors for personalised coaching. The meteoric rise in the demand for private tuitions is a direct fallout of and testament to the inefficient system of education in the country. The most sought after subjects for tuitions are physics, chemistry, mathematics and languages. Both the middle and lower classes are of the opinion that the declining standards of teaching and instruction at schools, especially government schools, forces parents to opt for private tutors.

## II. Objectives of the Study

- To record the total studying hours and differentiate it with effective learning and retention.
- To know the reason behind the tremendous growth rate in private tuitions industry and school teachers` manoeuvre.
- To measure the amount of expenditure incurs when a student both go to schools and coaching centres.
- To explore the ultimate effects of following these policies on the human resource development.

## III. Research Methodology

This paper is constructed using data from sample survey of students in both government schools like Kendriya Vidyalaya, Government Inter College, etc. and private schools in locality. Primary Data is collected from Questionnaires, Personal interviews with school teachers, tutors, parents and students; Direct Observation made by visiting schools and coaching centers in the locality. Secondary data is sought from various printed materials and their details are given in the references part.

## IV. Findings of the Study

### a) *Extensive Studying Hours*

The extreme academic pressure on students and unhealthy competition among peers is responsible for students` dependence on extra coaching that, they believe, can help them score over others. Many students don't pay attention in the class and bunk them as they always have coaching classes to teach them again. It has led to a decrease in understanding of a subject as the coaching classes pay less attention on concepts and more on problem-solving. A high majority of students (74%) joined private tuition from the beginning of the academic session for the whole academic year, while a little over one fifth joined in the middle of the academic session and a small percentage of students joined before examinations.

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*Table 1:* Students' reasons for attending tuition (%)

| Reasons | Government and government aided schools* | Private unaided schools |
|---|---|---|
| Do not understand teaching at school | 27 | 18 |
| Teachers do not teach well in school | 12 | 7 |
| To pass examinations | 43 | 1 |
| To prepare and get higher marks in examinations | 10 | 40 |
| Parents' decision | 7 | 16 |
| Because friends also go for tuition | 11 | 18 |
| Total | 100 | 100 |

**Includes government-funded private schools*

Practical exams in science are given a sufficiently low weight age as compared to theory which, though homogenous in its extent can be managed due to assistance in rote learning given by the classes the students attend. In coaching classes for high schools, students are literally made to write formulae, theorems many times which they just copy from textbooks or additional notes before an actual test is taken on that topic. Incidents of backaches, neck aches, eye-related problems, obesity have been increasing among students and all of them can be mostly attributed to sitting in classes for hours at a stretch without any physical activity. Students prefer to chat on the internet in their free time because they are bored to touch any kind of books after successive school and classes sessions. At higher grades more students are attending coaching centers than their respective colleges or schools. In large classes with 35-40 students, it is often difficult to give individual attention to students as this could potentially lead to a lag for the entire class. The pressure of finishing the given curriculum within a set number of hours often overwhelms teachers. A student looking for personal attention ends up in a tutoring class that is no less crowded.

Sometimes the lessons in school and tuition centers don't progress simultaneously. Three to eight hours in a tutorial class is not an answer to poor performance in school. Students just learn the answers, not how to think and correct themselves. Pressure of finishing the syllabus, participating in competitions like Olympiad and preparing for entrance exams puts a huge pressure on a student. A large percentage of students who join private tuition find it useful to prepare for examinations. Students going to private tuition think that private tutoring is very good and very helpful because students are prepared and taught according to the examination pattern; they know the trends and what could be asked in the examination and how they should answer. The private tuition institutions allege to have the right method of preparing students for examinations and, therefore, they suitably put in the efforts needed for a particular subject. They help the students by providing the required materials, conducting frequent tests, giving feedback and suggesting suitable ways of study to optimize performance in different subjects. Above all, students receive individual attention, which is rare in general, particularly in government schools. Although the ideal role of the school is not mere preparation for examinations, there is a need to diagnose the gap between the examination system and curricular load, teaching conditions and pedagogical aspects in schools.



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*b) Augmented Expenditure on Education*

[##]Percentage of expenditure students from government, government aided private schools and private unaided schools incurring on private tuitions/coaching.

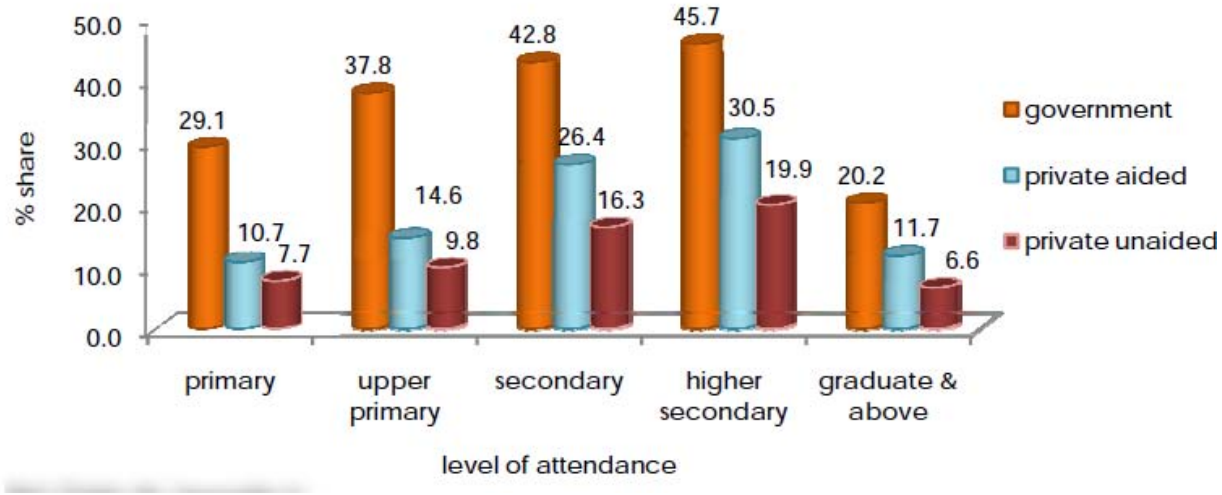


*Figure 1*

The extra education reaches only those who can pay large sums for it. Tuition institutes are earning more money than the schools to which they send their specially-trained pupils. The system exhausts the students instead of educating them. Several schools tied up with coaching centers to help students crack the test. Several smaller schools too are encouraging their students to also get enrolled at coaching centers as they may not have significant strength to teach at school campus and therefore, may not be viable for such schools to conduct classes on their own. Though the authorities see this collaboration as time saving and helpful, students end up spending a lot more time and a lot more money. Over 86% of parents think that they are ill-equipped or lack time to teach their children on their own and here's where coaching classes come handy. Middle-class parents have been spending 1/3rd of their monthly on their wards' private tuitions. It does not mean that people's disposable incomes have risen or the coaching centers have become affordable. It is just the demand and supply forces that are working, promoting the culture of outstation students settling at the educational hubs. The private tutors charge anything between Rs 1,000 and Rs 4,000 per hour per student on one-to-one basis, while group tuition costs Rs 1,000 to Rs 6,000 per month. An estimate of 78 % parents spends Rs 1,000 to 3,000/-per month on tuition for a primary ward and above Rs. 5000 for the tuition of a secondary-level child monthly. The franchise model holds great potential for the private coaching industry especially the competitive exams sector. This is one area which is largely driven by brand-name. It`s because students give primary weight age to the study materials provided by the coaching institute. Leading coaching institutes are present only in Kota and other important places in north India. Only a handful of national institutes have branches in south India, that too only in a few places thus providing a good scope to tap the market potential. It is widely expected that the education sector`s contribution in the franchise business will increase from the present 5% to 6% in 2017.

The private tuition business is lucrative because teachers earn more giving tuition than from their salaries. Here the timing is flexible, the students are less in number so they are able to give each student much one-on-one time and the pay is better. They charge higher for helping their students get higher marks. They are a by-product of capitalism and those enrolling for them must try to make the most out of them as aware customers and those not doing so must learn to do without them. Economist Jean-Baptist Say claimed that supply creates its own demand. With computer penetration and video technology, online tutoring is bound to get widespread. Most of the coaching institutes are a venture built on profit motive where charges levied in excess of expenditure on services provided. Private coaching institutions exploit the prevailing demand for education. These centers promise students the limited seats in credible higher institutions and social support for them is pledged by parents willing to meet the high cost. The insecurity among parents about the child's future is ensured by the luring advertisements from the schools and colleges posters. Some claim best education and support, while some claim 100% placements. Since doing job is the main motto after getting a degree, the parents pay for it blindly. Education is seemed to be a means to achieve economic prosperity. Parents are more focusing on job



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oriented education and courses thus they are not hesitating in investing millions in their child's education.

*c) Inhibiting Human Resource Development*

The aim of education is the overall development of a personality through academic and co-curricular activities, exams being an integral part of it. Tutors deal with academics without any responsibility and have nothing to do with teaching manners, discipline and ways of life that are essential for character formation. The coaching classes sell various tips, short cut methods and study material to crack the exams to those who can afford their fees. The students depend on these notes thus bringing an end to self-study and therefore their knowledge is confined to some aspects and they lack in general knowledge. There is no scope for inquisitiveness as students are encouraged to accept things given in the textbooks.

Coaching institutes leave no time for extra-curricular activities. After school, students straight away head to the coaching classes, where an already fatigued mind learns less than its ability. Students are caught chatting over the phone and listening to music in the class because of stress. There has been an increase in the cases of headache, neck ache, obesity, eye-related issues in students because of their hectic lifestyle. Nearly 41% children (under 18 years) in India need optical correction. That population is estimated to be around 200 million. Such students who have a keen interest in pursuing extra-curricular activities during their last few years at school cannot do so, on account of long hours spent at coaching classes. This hampers their later years if they want to pursue careers in fields that are non-academic. Almost all students today who attend extra classes have lost their evening play time. Lessons are made fun and interesting in coaching classes, but they are mostly so at the cost of efficient and conceptual understanding. On a different note, these classes introduce students to ones from different schools across the city and reveal the amount of competition which exists beyond their little circle of friends, elevating their frustration and sense of insecurity.

## V. Conclusion

Till schooling system remains unable to match the growing requirements and aspirations this parallel or shadow industry is bound to flourish. If the student in primary level does not possess the basic educational skills, the education will become a nightmare to the student. Later it will create the so called educated generations that will become the undesirable dependent on the society. Whenever the quality of education will be degraded, the emergence of private investment in education will become inevitable. Parallel education system can bifurcate the education system into two directions- education for middle and upper classes and education for lower and lower-middle classes.

Our study brings out the fact that a student is not confident on his schooling system. He is dissatisfied with his curriculum and mode of teaching. He is managing both school schedule and private tuitions fulfilling his study demands. There is a negative impact on mentality of student as he has to play dual role in school and tuitions as he is paying fees both where, but not adding anything substantially to his learning. But we should not forget that this industry is providing jobs to millions formally and informally apart from that it is also providing opportunity to students to learn more and to equip themselves to face the challenges ahead. We observed that teaching is a poorly paid profession and often attracts those who find no other option and, in the case of women, those who are looking for avenues to keep busy for a few hours. It no longer attracts the best talent. So many competing and higher paid alternatives are available that the most talented are lured away.

## VI. Suggestions

- There is a need of expert teachers to be appointed following the guidelines of concerned Board of Education. A teacher should be expert of his area of interest; furthermore he should update his knowledge and skill on regular basis as per requirements of prevailing conditions in the job market for the concerned field of study. We have to develop trust and confidence on the part of student and integrity on part of teacher, their periods to be recorded and evaluated as per the standards. Teaching is now considered as a profession, so it should be paid accordingly. Licenses are to be issued for teaching in schools having validity of 5 to 10 years.
- School periods should be sorted on basis of needs of studying those particular subjects as per allocation of teaching hours. There is no need to study every subject daily as every subject need a conscious atmosphere for its learning and understanding to retain it for a longer period; so that a student doesn't need to look for other sources of learning. There is a scope of adopting a comprehensive curriculum which fulfills the growing aspirations and demands of a student while allocating his precious time over various co-curriculum activities. Schools not having experts and necessary infrastructure should collaborate with other institutions to get extra assistance in teaching; and with various clubs for sports, physical training, etc. Schools could join hands with various centers of arts and aesthetic so that student has scope for better development of their personality.
- The weightage of practical activities should made 70% in overall evaluation and there should not any



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particular pattern regarding the contents of practical to protect it from the web of coaching and preparations for that specific test. Co- curricular activities should be given equal weight age and they are to be evaluated by experts on their scale with respect to set parameters. Scholarship could save the expenditure of student and also bring best out of him if it is directed as per the academic plus co-curricular activities performance of a student and paid accordingly. Also there could be provision of rewards and fees exception for the student showing entrepreneurship and his innovative ideas are to be evaluated at par with performance in course subjects.

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*According to an a 2013 survey by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham), titled *Business of* Private Coaching *Centers in India.*

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