



## General Studies-2; Topic: Issues relating to Education, Human Resources.

### Importance of Mother Tongue

#### Introduction

- Abhimanyu successfully penetrated the feared 'padmavyuha' as he learnt it while in the womb of his mother as Arjuna explained the strategy to Subhadra.
- Infants are born with abilities like attention, sensation, perception and memory.

#### Role of First Language

- Language originates in a specific socio-cultural milieu as the first identity marker.
- It plays a key role in **shaping the personality of an individual, his thought processes** and larger view of the life and world around.
- Our first language, which one hears and gets familiar while in the womb, has an important role in shaping our personality, thoughts and life.
- Unesco says that language is more than a means of communication; It is the very condition of our humanity. Our beliefs, values and identity are embedded in it.
- **Language is the chief means and index of a nation, said Swami Vivekananda.**

#### Importance of Mother Tongue

- Mother tongue is critically important **for cognitive, psychological and personality development, education and learning.**
- Psychologists say it's important that expressions and vocabulary are chosen with care when we talk to children.
- Research shows how the brain differently absorbs and recalls languages learnt in early childhood and later life.

- Native languages trigger a series of associations within the brain that show up as increased electrical activity.

### Should primary education be in mother tongue or in English?

- Every language spoken in the world represents a special culture, melody, colour and is an asset.
- Several psychological, social and educational experiments proved that **learning through the mother tongue is deeper, faster and more effective.**
- Much of a child's future social and intellectual development hinges on the milestone of mother tongue.
- **Incomplete first language skills often make learning other languages more difficult.**
- Children of migrant families are finding themselves at crossroads, being unable to master either the first or the second language they are forced to study in.
- **Gandhiji warned: "If the English educated neglect as they have done and even now continue, as some do, to be ignorant of mother tongue, linguistic starvation will abide."**

### Multilingualism

- Second language learning at an appropriate stage opens a window to the world promoting open minds, better understanding of others, peace and harmony.
- **Multilingualism has definite advantages** in the multicultural, diverse and competitive global order.
- 'Fostering Multilingualism For Inclusion in Education and Society' is the theme for this year's 'International Mother Languages Day'.