

## Necessary Evils of Private Tuition: A Case Study

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**Abstract:** *The present study attempts to explore the necessary evils of private tuition and its causes, effectiveness of private tuition and the problems on the lives of students. From the results of the research the causes of increasing trend of private tuition are - ineffective classroom teaching and rigid curriculum, heavy stress on academic performance, overcrowded classroom and lack of individual attention, examination oriented school culture, peer influence to join private tuition, an alternative means to help weak students, an alternative means for the students who are not attending regular classes, insufficiency of academic guidance from elders in the family, need for higher academic achievement for competitive examinations and frequent bandhs, general strikes or blockade and other social issues. While studying the problems of private tuition in the lives of the students, the problems are – cultivate a mindset of dependency and culture of rote learning, robbing the thinking power, creativity and problem solving skills, dominate students lives most of the time, no sufficient time for self-study, restrict students leisure times for recreation and other activities, create confusion in the teaching method of the school teachers and tutors, create a serious socio-economic problem among the rich and poor families in the society, join private tuition unnecessarily through pressure from peer groups, family, relatives and society, little time to have nutritious food and it affects physical and mental health. The findings may help to improve the present education system and to enable eradication of private tuition in our society.*

**Keywords:** *Education, private tuition, factors of private tuition, problems of private tuition, Imphal, Manipur.*

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### I. Introduction

Education is widely understood by the policy makers of both the developed and developing countries to be the key determinant of individual productivity and economy wide growth. And in the context of globalization the concept of education has been redefining frequently with the needs and aspirations of the people. Increasing demand of quality education creates huge pressure on the formal education system in most of the countries and which in turn is leading to the occurrence of a new phenomenon in education sector, namely an increasing trend of private tuition. Private tuition is an issue of growing concern and its practice has risen as a substantial parallel educational system in both developed and developing countries. In India, it has a long history but rarely did it affect the education system of the country in terms of its growth and coverage as it has in the recent decades. In the past few decades, the private tuition scenario has, however, undergone a sea change in tune with changing texture and character of our society. The parents in this competitive environment are eager to go any extent to provide facilities for right education to their children. They attempt to provide their children with the best opportunities in life have resorted to private tutoring as “.....a means of retaining a relative advantage for their children in the education race” (Foondun, 2002).

Over the years, the spirit of competition among the students has increased intensely. The spirit of competition has been exacerbated by the mismatch between the number of aspirant and the limited seats available at the higher levels of academic ladder and job opportunities, thus necessitating private tuition. Consequently, students of all types – weak, average and bright have taken recourse to private tuition for different reasons. However, the specific reasons for private tuition are varied and encompass educational, social, cultural, economic and psychological aspects.

Private tuition has also successfully found its ground in Manipur as an extension of the growing global phenomenon. The tutoring industry has become an expanding source of employment as well as a way for many mainstream school teachers to earn supplementary incomes. At the same time, private tutoring has been a welcome opportunity to increase the income of the formal private school teachers, whose salaries have been seriously eroded. Private tuition is now much less about pupils who are in real need for help that they cannot find in the school, but has become much more about maintaining competitive advantages of the already successful and privileged. It also represents a significant financial investment by families to their children's education in the state, with the majority of students having tutoring at some point during their school careers. There are many reasons for the rising demands for private tutoring to complement the public and private schooling system. The demand factors include demand for places in prestigious schools, ineffective teaching-learning process in the mainstream schools, large school class sizes, general strikes, bandhs, blockades or class boycotts by student bodies or cease work strikes by teachers, negligence of the Government's responsibilities in the education and lack of individual attention and peer pressure. The supply factor includes low salary and

morale of teachers, teacher reputation and peer pressure. In the case of government school teachers in the state, irregularities of salary and low salary of the private school teachers have affected the morale of the teachers in our state.

Private tutoring is not always effective in raising academic achievements; and in some schools students commonly skip classes or sleep through lessons just because they are either tired excessive external study or students take the regular classroom teaching for granted. This means that the shadow education can make regular schooling less efficient. Teacher who spends more time focusing on private tuition than regular classes can cause greater inefficiencies in the mainstream school system. Situation in which teachers provide extra private tutoring for pupils for whom they are already responsible in the public system can lead to corruption, particularly when teacher deliberately teach less in their classes in order to promote the market for private tuition. The culture of spoon-feeding is robbing away the thinking power of our young students. The culture of spoon-feeding is robbing away the thinking power of the young students. This slowly cultivates a mindset of dependency among young students which they cannot think of solving any problem without teacher's assistance. The National Curriculum Framework of 2005 has adopted a constructivist perspective. In the teaching which aims at developing learners who construct their knowledge themselves, for the learners it is learning for construction of knowledge, and for the teachers it is teaching for construction of knowledge. So, the present education system needs to change in the constructivist view of learning.

Private tutoring is defined as fee-based tutoring that provides supplementary instruction to children in academic subjects that they study in the mainstream education system. The study primarily focuses on tutoring lessons for children or adolescents paid for by their households or parents, so private tutoring can clearly be considered to be a form of private education. The present study aims at exploring a little more the phenomenon of private tutoring, the causes for taking private tuition, the effectiveness of private tuition and the problems of private tuition on the lives of the students.

**Objectives of Study:**

1. To find out the opinion of the students for the causes of increasing private tuition in Manipur.
2. To find out the opinion of the students on the effectiveness of the private tuition in improving the academic performance.
3. To find out the problems on the lives of the students caused by the increasing trend of private tuition in Manipur.

**Method of Study**

The present study was conducted through survey method of research on the simple random sampling of 200 students selected from 10 (ten) tutorial centres of Imphal-East and West Districts of Manipur. The sample comprised of 20 students from Gurukul tutorial centre, Keishampat, Hodam Leikai, 20 COMET tutorial centre, Keishampat, 20 MECI tutorial centre, Keishampat Thokchom Leikai, 20 Lamjingba tutorial centre, Lamphel, 20 KIMES tutorial centre, Singjamei, 20 Panacea tutorial centre, Checkon, 20 Shine tutorial centre, Wangkhei, 20 Social Science tutorial centre, Soibam Leikai, 20 ESPM tutorial centre, Wangkhei Ayangpalli, 20 Spice tutorial centre, Checkon, Imphal. The tools for the study were used questionnaire which was developed by investigator himself keeping into account the various aspects of private tuition. The data are interpreted in term of percentage.

**II. Result And Discussion**

**1. Cause of Increasing Trend of Private Tuition**

**Table-5 N=200**

Sl. No.	Causes	Number	Percentage
1	Ineffective classroom teaching and rigid curriculum	164	82%
2	Heavy stress on academic performance	122	61%
3	Overcrowded classroom and lack of individual attention	146	73%
4	Examination oriented school culture	160	80%
5	Peer influence to join private tuition	130	65%
6	Parents pressure to join private tuition	120	60%
7	An alternative means to help weak students	148	74%
8	An alternative means for the students who are not attending regular classes	110	55%
9	Insufficiency of academic guidance from elders in the family	148	74%
10	Need for higher academic achievement for competitive examinations	170	85%
11	Frequent bandhs, general strikes or blockades and other social issues	152	76%

While studying the causes of increasing necessary evils of private tuition in Manipur, it was found that 164 i.e. 82% of students agreed that ineffective classroom teaching and rigid curriculum are the cause for the

trend of private tuition in Manipur. 122 students i.e. 61% agreed that the heavy stress on academic achievement by the students is the cause for the trend of private tuition in Manipur. 146 i.e. 73% of the students agreed that overcrowded classroom and lack of individual attention in the school is also a cause for rising the demand for private tuition. 160 i.e. 80% of the respondents agreed to the statement that examination oriented school culture is the reason to seek for private tuition. 130 i.e. 65% agreed that their friends influence them to join private tuition. 120 i.e. 60% of the students agreed their parents' desire to take private tuition 148 i.e. 74% of the respondents gave positive opinion that private tuition serves as an alternative means to help the weak students to improve the academic performance. 138 i.e. 69 % agreed that private tuition can be an alternative means for the students who are not attending regular classes in the school. 148 i.e. 74% of the students agreed the statement that insufficiency of academic guidance from the elder family member for the future career is cause for seeking private tuition. 170 i.e. 85% of the students strongly agreed that need for higher academic achievement for competitive examinations has led to seek private tuition. 152 i.e. 76% agreed that frequent bandhs, general strikes or blockade and other social issues are the cause of increasing trend of private tuition.

## 2. Effectiveness of Private Tuition

**Table-6 N-200**

Sl. No.	Effectiveness	Number	Percentage
1	To improve academic performance	148	74%
2	Help to prepare well for the competitive examinations and for higher studies	160	80%
3	Help to revise and understand the lessons and to deepen knowledge	162	81%
4	Provide flexible time and individual attention to improve weak subjects	156	78%
5	Help the weak students to clarify doubts	174	87%
6	Help academically sound and successful students to maintain their competitive advantage over others	138	69%
7	An alternative means to supplement learning beside school	152	76%

In the aspects of the effectiveness of private tuition, it was found that 148 i.e. 74% of the students agreed that private tuition improve the academic performance of the students.160 i.e. 80% of the students agreed to the statement that private tuition helps them in preparing well for the competitive examinations (Medical, Engineering and other professional courses) and for higher studies.162 students i.e. 81% gave their positive response that private tuition helps them to revise and understand their lessons and deepen their knowledge.156 i.e. 78% of the students agreed that private tuition provide students a flexible time and individual attention to improve the weak subjects.174 i.e.87% of the respondents agreed that private tuition helps the weak students to clarify their doubts. 138 i.e. 69% of the students agreed that private tuition help academically sound and successful students to maintain their competitive advantage over others.152 i.e. 76% of the respondents agreed that private tuition is a means to supplement learning beside school.

## 3. Problems of Private Tutions on the Lives of the Students

**Table-7 N=200**

Sl. No.	Problems	Number	Percentage
1	Dominate students lives most of the time	174	87%
2	Restrict students leisure times for recreation and other activities	180	90%
3	No sufficient time for self-study	190	95%
4	Cultivate a mindset of dependency and culture of rote learning	134	67%
5	Create confusion in the teaching methods of the school teachers and tutors	122	61%
6	Robbing the thinking power, creativity and problem solving skills	142	71%
7	Create a serious socio-economic problem among the rich and poor families in the society	152	76%
8	Join private tuition unnecessarily through pressure from peer group, family, relatives and society	140	70%
9	Little time to have nutritious food most of the time	164	82%
10	It affects physical and mental health	150	75%

While studying the problems on the lives of the students through the private tuition it was found that 174 i.e. 87% of students agreed that private tuition dominate students' lives most of the time.180 i.e. 90% of the students gave positive response that the private tuition restrict students leisure time for recreation and other activities.190 students i.e. 95% agreed the statement that they have no sufficient time for self-studying the lessons.134 i.e. 67% of the students agreed that private tuition cultivate a mindset of dependency and culture of the rote learning. 122 i.e. 61% of the students agreed that private tuition create confusion in the teaching methods of the teachers and tutors.142 i.e.71% of the students responded yes to the statement that private tuition is robbing the thinking power, creativity and problem solving skills.152 i.e.76% of the students agreed that private tuition creates a serious socio-economic problem among the rich and poor families in the society.140 i.e.70% of the students agreed that they joined private tuition unnecessarily through pressure from peer group,

family, relatives and society.164 i.e. 82% of the respondents gave positive response that confining in private tuition in most of the time, they have less time to have nutritious food.150 i.e.75% of the students agreed that attending private tuitions most of the time affects their physical and mental health.

**4. Number of Private Tuitions Attended in a Day**

**Table-1 N-200**

No. of Private Tuitions	No. of Students	Percentage
Upto 3 tuition in a day	98	49%
4 to 6 tuition in a day	102	51%

From the above table 1, it shows that 98 i.e. 49% of the students attend upto three privates tuitions in a day. And 102 i.e. 51% of the students attended four to six tuitions in a day. It can be therefore interpreted that the most of the students of their time spent in attending private tuitions in a day.

**5. Commonly Attended Subjects in Private Tuitions by the Students.**

**Table-2 N-200**

Subjects	Number of students	Percentage
English	180	90%
Mathematics	176	88%
Physics	164	82%
Chemistry	200	100%
Biology	160	80%
Social Science	88	44%

From the above table 2, it is found that 180 i.e. 90% of the students attend private tuition for English Subject. 176 i.e. 88% of the students attend private tuition for Mathematics subject. 164 i.e. 82% of the students of attend private tuition for physics subject. 200 i.e. 100% of the students attend private tuition for Chemistry subject. It is therefore implies that all most every student in the state consider that the subject is important for higher studies and for pursuing Medical degree course attend private tuition for the subjects. 160 i.e. 80% of the students attend private tuition for Biology subject. 88 i.e. 44% of the students attend private tuition for Social Science subject. It is therefore interpreted that earlier students do not attend private tuition for Social Science subject but nowadays it is also become a fashion or trend to attend private tuition for this subjects.

**6. Total Private Tuition Fees Spent by the Students in a Year**

**Table-3 N=200**

Fees per course	No. of Students	Percentage
Rs. 5000-Rs. 10000	58	58%
Rs. 10000-Rs. 15000	42	42%
Rs. 15000-Rs. 20000	60	60%
Rs. 20000-Rs. 25000	40	40%

From the above table 3, it shows that 58 i.e. 58% and 42 i.e. 42% of the students spent a minimum amount Rs. 5000 to Rs. 15000 for attending private tuition in a year. 60 i.e. 60% and 40 i.e. 40% of the students spent a maximum amount of Rs. 15000 to Rs. 25000 for attending private tuition in a year. It can be therefore interpreted that the number of students spent a large amount of money for attending private tuitions in a year.

**7. Duration of Private Tuition in a Year**

**Table – 4 N=200**

Duration of private tuition	No. of students	Percentage
2 months to 4 months	108	54%
4 months to 6 months	92	46%

From the above table 4, it is found that 108 i.e. 54% of the students attend private tuition up to 3 months in a year. 92 i.e. 46% of the students attend private tuition for 6 months in a year. It can be therefore interpreted that the majority of the students attend private tuition for about 3 months in a year.

**III. Conclusion And Suggestions**

While studying the necessary evils of private tuition, the highest number of students considers that private tuition helped the students to prepare well for the competitive exams, entrance exams (Medical, Engineering and other professional courses) and for higher studies. Most of the students attend private tuition just for reason that they will receive guidance and help them to score high mark in the examinations. Ineffective

classroom teaching and rigid curriculum is the second rank for cause of the increasing trend of private tuition. The teachers are focusing more on private tuitions rather than classroom teaching. And the present curriculum does not provide knowledge useful for their future career. Examination oriented school culture is the third rank for cause of the increasing trend of private tuition. The students to seek for private tuition is due to secure good mark in the examination as the prevailing education system is examination oriented. Frequent bandhs, general strikes or blockade is used as a means for any demand of the social issues to the Government which affect the normal regular classes and becomes the cause of increasing trend of private tuition in Manipur. Another important cause of the increasing trend of private tuition is that it serves as an alternative means to help the weak students to improve the academic performance. Insufficiency of academic guidance from their elder family member of the students for their future career is the cause for seeking private tuition. Many students are influenced by their friends to join the private tuition. Overcrowded classroom and lack of individual attention in the school is the cause for increasing trend of private tuition. Heavy stress on academic achievement and influence by their parents is also a cause for the rising demand of the private tuition. Private tuition becomes an alternative means for the students who are not attending regular classes in the school.

While studying the problems of private tuitions on the lives of the students, it was found that it dominates students' lives most of the time and also avoids students' leisure times for recreation and other activities. Students are spending most of their time in attending the private tuition. So, they do not have sufficient time for self-studies and it will also create a serious problem in their future live. Private tuition cultivates a mindset of dependency and culture of rote learning. It will also lead the students into over dependency on the teachers in solving the problems. Students faced problems as private tuition create confusion in the teaching methods of the school, teachers and tutors. The culture of spoon-feeding is robbing away the thinking power, creativity and problem solving skills of our young students. Private tuitions create a serious socio-economic problem among the rich and poor families in the society. The students from the poor families feel depressed for not being able to attend/join the private tuition and they become aimless. Students as they join private tuition unnecessarily through pressure from peer group, family relatives and society. Due to private tuitions they have little time to have nutritious food. It means that students are spending most of their time in attending 3 to 6 private tuitions from the early morning till night along with attending the school in day time. So, they do not have much time to eat good and nutritious food and also take care of their health. In the long run it may affect physical and mental health. Hence, there exists a problem in the lives of the students.

**Based on the above situations, it is suggested to eradicate private tuitions in our society.**

1. The present education system needs to change in the constructivist view of learning. In the teaching which aims at developing learners who construct their knowledge themselves, for the learners it is learning for construction of knowledge, and for the teachers it is teaching for construction of knowledge.
2. Teachers must realise that knowledge/concepts learned today should change to modify tomorrow. Therefore, they do not stress on memorising the facts by students but help teachers to nurture students as independent thinkers and constructors of knowledge.
3. The role of teacher changes from 'transmitter' of knowledge to 'facilitator' of knowledge construction. They must employ a range of strategies to support individual student's understanding by problem-based activities.
4. Teachers must not be grafted on traditional methods of teaching; these needs a change in the culture – a set of norms, attitudes, beliefs and practices that constitute constructivist culture.
5. Learning is not a passive receptive process but is instead an active meaning -making process required to solve meaningful problems. So, students should take the responsibility of their own learning. They must construct knowledge and should not receive knowledge as passive learners.
6. It is to suggest to the parents and the students that private tuition is not the only means to guarantee the academic improvement and higher performance. Because private tuitions cultivate a mindset of dependency and culture of rote learning. So, parents and students should aware of disadvantages of the private tuitions.
7. Teachers must not be commercialized instead they should be dedicated to their teaching profession, in their mainstream school education.
8. It is also suggest that students, parents and the government should promote the learning in the school rather than those in the private tuition centres. They should aware that the learning which the private tuition provide is incomplete. It undermines the all round education as provide in the schools.
9. This serious issue of growing demand of private tuitions has to be emphasised by the policy makers intervening on curriculum, teachers salary structure, pedagogical development, evaluation system etc., and to think what can be executed for the slow learners.
10. In the present education system curriculum should be based on constructivist. In the constructivist curriculum, emphasis is given on the individual learner as an important role in determining what will be learned.

11. Government should frame a policy like remedial classes for the students. It should be made compulsory implementation and monitored the working of its policy for the welfare of the students, parents and the society as a whole.

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