

ENGLISH AT THE PRIMARY LEVEL: CORRELATION BETWEEN THEORY AND PRACTICE

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The paper aims at presenting the English language teaching scenario in the regional medium primary schools of Assam, India. As a second language English was taught at the secondary level in most of the States of India till a couple of years back. But during the past five years most of the States of the country started teaching English as a compulsory second language in the regional medium primary schools. The new thrust on the teaching of English at the primary level has serious pedagogical, psychological and social implications for the students, teachers and the masses of the country. The present paper aims at studying the correlation between the avowed objective of the curriculum and the actual practice going on in the regional medium primary schools of Assam, one of the numerous States of India.

The paper takes into account the material used in the classroom and the methods of teaching English at the primary level and tries to find out how the tiny tots acquire competence in a second language while pursuing their studies in their respective mother tongues. The paper also takes into account the learning strategies used by the tiny tots learning English at the primary level and focuses on the desirability of teaching a second language at the primary level.