

## **PRIVATE SUPPLEMENTARY TUTORING AT SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION: MOTIVATOR OR HINDRANCE: A REVIEW STUDY**

**Dr. Alka Gaur**

**Assistant Professor**

**Jigyasa University, Dehradun**

**Ms. Preeti Seth**

**Research scholar**

### **Abstract**

Private supplementary tutoring has been a topic of discussion for a long time. Different researchers have mixed reactions to this. Some have argued for it, others have been fully opposed to it. The mushrooming growth of private supplementary tutoring is a serious concern. Different studies have shown the adverse effects of coaching centres on the minds of students but still, Parents and children prefer coaching centres over formal education system. Why this culture is growing at such a fast pace? Why children are more inclined towards coaching? Why parents are lacking faith in the school education system? Is there any impact of coaching centres on the learning level of senior secondary level students? What are the main causes behind this change? Is it due to a lack of parent's attention? Are parents not qualified enough? Or is this due to high income, standard of living or prevailing competition? Even school teachers are inclined towards giving tuition. Do coaching centres impact the student's learning levels positively or does it diminish the moral values in students? According to the data from the district administration, Kota recorded an average of three suicide incidents monthly in the first eight months of 2023. Is this information alarming? Why students are undergoing so much pressure? The World has so many geniuses who are not the product of coaching centres, and they have succeeded in all spheres of life. So, the question arises how coaching centres have become so dominant in our society?

**Keyword:** Private supplementary tutoring, Shadow education

### **Introduction**

Coaching centres have become a need of society in the 21st century. Different researchers have given this additional private paid system different names, such as coaching, Tuition, supplementary education system, and shadow education. This system goes parallel to the formal education system it gives a support system to students which they are lacking in the formal education system. The formal education system is a school-based system that runs in formal settings as per the requirements of government norms and has an appropriate syllabus, pattern, and well-qualified teachers to teach. Though formal education fulfils all the requirements of senior secondary level students. Still, the mushrooming growth of private supplementary tutoring is a serious concern. Different studies have shown the adverse effects

of coaching centres on the minds of students but still, Parents and children prefer coaching centres over formal education system. Although it consumes most of the time of students which can be utilized for self-study however parents want to send their children to coaching centres to achieve success. Now the question arises why this culture is growing at such a fast pace? Why children are more inclined towards coaching? Why parents are lacking faith in the school education system? Is there any impact of coaching centres on the learning level of senior secondary level students? What are the main causes behind this change? Is it due to a lack of parent's attention? Are parents not qualified enough? Or is this due to high income, standard of living or prevailing competition? Even school teachers are inclined towards giving tuition. Do coaching centres impact the student's learning levels positively or does it diminish the moral values in students? Yes, Coaching centres enhance the learning levels of students by giving academic support but is it enough to be successful in life? As a human being, we deal with different problems in life, teenagers require a lot of attention but due to the maximum time spent in coaching centres, it has become difficult to inculcate different personality traits or moral values in students which are the part of school curriculum. According to the data released by Hindustan Times dated August 11, 2023, 15 students died by suicide in Kota in 2022, and 18 students in 2019, while the figure was 20 students in 2018, 7 students in 2017, 17 students in 2016 and 18 students in 2015. According to data released from the district administration Kota recorded an average of three suicide incidents monthly in the first eight months of 2023. Is this information alarming? Why students are undergoing so much pressure? The world has so many geniuses who are not the product of coaching centres, and they have succeeded in all spheres of life. So, the question arises how coaching centres have become so dominant in our society? Across the globe, private supplementary tutoring (PST) has become a major educational issue for policymakers, experts and researchers (e.g. Bray et al., 2016; Entrich, 2018; Jheng, 2015; Jokić, 2013; Pallegedara&Mottaleb, 2018) (Bhorkar& Bray, 2018)

### **Private supplementary tutoring**

Private supplementary tutoring is also called a shadow system because it imitates the regular formal education system. When new subjects and curriculum changes are introduced in the regular system, shadow education also changes and as the regular system grows, so does the shadow. (Comparative Education Research Centre, University of Hong Kong & Braya, 2013). Private tutoring could be considered an out-of-school academic setup to enhance students' learning. (Berberoglu & Tansel, n.d.). The term shadow education conveys the image of outside-school learning activities paralleling features of formal schooling used by students to increase their own educational opportunities. (Baker et al., 2001) In other words, private tutoring acts as a substitute mother as schools become ineffective. Private supplementary tutoring has been in existence in India for a long time but in recent times it has grown manifold affecting the formal education system. Though private tutoring is prevalent at all levels of education it is prominent in secondary education mainly because performance in the senior level is an important aspect to face of facing the challenges of entering into desired academic streams and higher professional education, etc (Sujatha, 2014)

### **Factors influencing the need for private supplementary tutoring**

Education is widely regarded to be a key determinant of economy-wide growth. There are three considered education sectors, namely; public government schools, private-school

sector and a third important education sector which has been growing over many years i.e. private supplementary tutoring. (Bray, 2013).

To score well in subjects, do homework or prepare for tests and school examinations, students are inclined towards private tutoring. Private tutoring has varied forms viz one-to-one tutoring, small or large group and online. Tutoring is not limited to pupils who perform poorly. To sustain or even improve their strong academic performance, high achievers also look for enrichment opportunities through private coaching. (Comparative Education Research Centre, University of Hong Kong & Braya, 2013) Ömeroğulları, M., Guill, K., & Köller, O. (2020). Easy access to the Internet has increased the opportunity for anyone to become a tutor. (Carley, n.d.)

Tutoring has spread over the world, as evidenced by its exponential expansion. The following four factors are important in determining the requirement for Private supplementary tutoring: e.g., economic, social and cultural, educational, and geographical considerations. (Bray, 2005, 2009, 2010).” (Chui, 2016, p. 196)

### **Economic factors**

Economic factors also give drive to private supplementary tutoring. Parents willingly send their wards to tuitions in anticipation of higher scores which gives them confidence that their children can compete well in exams. This gives rise to investing in private tutoring to make their children’s future safe. These demand and supply indices show the need for private supplementary tutoring. Some parents send their children to private tuitions to give them an edge as early as preschool. (Dang & Rogers, 2008)

### **Educational factors**

Our education system is examination-oriented. This is particularly where examinations are used to determine who continues with education from one level to the next and who does not (Bray 2003). Teachers are convincing parents and children to join private supplementary tutoring to score good grades. Few studies have found that teachers are using wrong practices to convince children or parents. Additionally, since the teachers control the end-of-year examinations and determine who proceeds from one class to the next, parents are aware that if they do not pay for private supplementary tuition then their children are likely to repeat classes. For parents, it is less affluent to pay for private supplementary tuition classes than to pay the costs of repeating a year. (Chui, 2016)

Tutoring has become another way to improve grossing capacity. nowadays tutoring is being provided by full-time tutors, school teachers, university students, retired teachers etc. The scope of this shadow system has grown so big that now schooling and tutoring have become corresponding 'public-private partnerships'. The private tuitions are measured as centres of aided learning which are often not liable for the development of a child. They provide a shell for the child to achieve better grades in school or entrance examinations to higher education institutions but do not teach students to handle the stress of examinations. Even private tutors are not expected to have compulsory qualifications or scholastic skills. (Sharma, 2019)

### **Private tutoring and teachers' remuneration**

Teacher's remuneration is also considered the key factor for private supplementary tutoring. To supplement their income, teachers encourage parents and students to attend extra lessons outside of the traditional classroom. This is done by charging private tuition. To accomplish this, they use a variety of strategies, such as teaching the majority of the content that can be tested during remedial classes or even teaching more slowly during regular class hours to avoid covering the entire curriculum. This forces the school administration boards and parents to recognize the necessity of scheduling and funding additional classes. (Chui, 2016)

Private supplementary tutoring can also occur as a form of corruption. This can be the consequence in some developing countries where the teachers can barely survive on their salaries, and they have to ask their students to go to extra classes to supplement their income (Biswal, 1999).

### **Public schools and their role in increasing the need for Private supplementary tutoring**

Indian education system has varied types; Private, public, and Aided. The public education system needs to improve in developing countries to satisfy students' needs, which gives rise to tutoring. Children studying in public schools feel lacking in their studies and move towards tuition. Public school teachers need to be more competent as compared to private ones. Children have no other option but to go for tuition regardless of their family condition. Most of the rural background children study in public schools and for facing the competition with the private schools' children, they join private supplementary tutoring for improving their academic scores.

### **Need for private supplementary tutoring according to the perception of children**

It is evident from the above discussion that there are many factors which have an influence on increasing the demand for tutoring but children's perception is different in this regard. Children have different reasons which give rise to tuition.

#### **Freedom**

In today's society children want freedom. They don't want to feel caged while in schools' children are taught discipline and moral values. There was a time when schools were considered as a second home for children to learn the values but in this so-called modern society, ethics are on the verge of extinction. Modern society is also responsible for this changing scenario. Children want freedom which is not possible in formal settings. In schools, they must follow rules and regulations in all ways but in tuition, no one checks them. Children can bunk their classes as and when they want to. No one feels accountable to teach them discipline or moral values. Going on tuitions with friends and spending time has become their part of entertainment. Very few children understand the significance of tuition.

#### **Peer pressure**

The second reason to join tuition is peer pressure. Children in this age group spend most of their time with their friends whether in schools or through social sites, calls or other ways, they get influenced fast by their friends or fellow students. To survive in their social

circle children must do what is necessary to be done regardless of what is morally right or wrong.

### **The busy schedule of Parents**

This is the third important factor which increases the need for Private supplementary tutoring. Parents are busy in their own lives, either they are busy earning a living or in social circles. Earlier family was the first place for a child to learn moral values and ethics. Parents would spend time with children, and teach etiquette, ethics, and morals but now parents are so busy in their lives that they don't even know about their children and their needs. This has created a major gap between children and parents and that has led to an increase of tuition culture. Parents have enough money to spend on their children's education so it is convenient for them to send children to coaching centres and bear less burden of their studies.

### **Dummy admissions-**

Dummy admissions are also one of the causes of increasing the need for private supplementary tutoring. Children get enrolled in schools only to attain certificates they spend most of the time in tuition centres to cover their syllabus in tuition. Children feel no need for school as covering syllabus can be done by tuition along with enjoyment with friends with freedom. Tuitions gives guidance to children but extreme of anything is bad. Our government should understand that this dummy admission culture should be stopped soon otherwise, in no time schools will just disappear so the government should regulate coaching centres and private supplementary tutoring so that schools would get due importance.

### **Flexible time**

Another reason for increasing the need for private supplementary tutoring is flexibility. Children can adjust their study time as per their schedule; however, school timings are fixed. Nowadays children are indulged in various activities so they want to feel free as far as their personal life is concerned. Flexibility in tuition timings gives them more freedom to focus on other commitments such as spending time in the gym, hobby classes and other entertainments.

### **Effects of PTS**

Private supplementary tutoring is killing our education system just like termites. Bray (1999) through his reports shows that if all these systematic systems of education were given the right to award degrees the schools would eventually be extinct. (Sharma, 2019). In a study based in Myanmar, Liu and Bray (2020) found that students skip school to participate in tuition classes to prepare for excelling in high-stakes assessments. One more impact of private tutoring is seen when students and teachers, whilst attending school regularly, fail to devote their time effectively at school because they are also engaged in private tutoring. In the same study, Liu and Bray also noted that the students trusted on their tutors more than schoolteachers, they showed 'no wish to learn in schools, but just completed the attendance. (Gupta, 2022)

In the surveyed countries—Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Lithuania, Mongolia, Poland, Slovakia, and Ukraine—private tutoring has had or may have had several negative consequences including intensifying social inequities and teacher performance in regular schools, increasing corruption, skewing the university admissions process, and depriving the state of tax revenues. Silova, I., & Bray, M. (2006).

Private tutoring has been banned at various times in Cambodia, Korea, Mauritius, and Myanmar (Bray 1999a), as it aggravates social inequalities, disrupts the public education system, and fails to increase academic performance or build human capital. (Dang & Rogers, 2008) Not everybody can afford private supplementary tuition. Extensive private tuition is then worsening social inequalities. Some people also argue that such courses harm the mainstream formal educational system. (Bray, 1999, p. 199)

The public view on private training isn't wholly positive. Critics argue that the examination-acquainted drilling associated with some feathers of training undermines the confines of scholars' long-term literacy. (Ho 2009b; Ngai et al. 2013). They add that dependency on private tutors may damage students' self-learning abilities (Ho and Kwong 2008; Caritas 2010). However, the demand for tutoring raises the question of whether mainstream schooling is in some way inadequate. (Zhan et al., 2013). However, the negative sides of supplementary tutoring must be balanced by possible positive sides. Effective tutoring can help slow learners keep up with their peers and can support children's self-confidence. (Comparative Education Research Centre, University of Hong Kong & Braya, 2013)

## **Conclusion**

Although tutoring can have beneficial impacts on students' achievement, attitudes and self-concepts, these are not guaranteed. Research findings regarding the effects on attainment are inconsistent, as well-controlled experimental studies demonstrate strong positive effects (Bloom, 1984; Mischo & Haag, 2002) whereas international surveys do not (Baker et al., 2001). (Ireson, 2004). Private supplementary tutoring has many benefits as far as academic performance is concerned however other aspects should also be considered while analysing the impact of private supplementary tutoring. Significant research has been done on this topic but many aspects are still missing which should be given due attention as the mushrooming growth of private supplementary tutoring has become a serious concern. Shadow education should be monitored. Strict policies should be made as it evident that the prevalence of private tutoring will increase in future. (Ireson, 2004).

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