

A STUDY ON SECONDARY LEVEL STUDENTS
ATTITUDE TOWARDS PRIVATE TUTIONS IN WEST
TRIPURA DISTRICT

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Abstract

Private tutoring is becoming increasingly popular, which is hardly surprising as it is particularly effective in improving not only a student's academic grades, but also their practical understanding of wide range of subjects. As private tuition is usually one-to-one, tutors and students are able to work much more closely and develop stronger relationships than would otherwise be possible in a larger class. Now-a-days private tuitions have become an essential feature of formal education system. Private tuition is offered to students in single, as well as in-group too. It is also revealed from the fact that school teachers are engaging in providing private tuition to their own students. A good percentage of students from elementary to higher education receive private tuition. Reasons for adopting private tuitions can be academic, personal or social too. In order to find out the growing concern towards private tuition it was decided to study the attitude of secondary level students towards private tuitions in West Tripura district. For this purpose descriptive study was employed with a sample of 120 secondary school students from 12 different tuition centers in West Tripura district.

Keywords: Private Tuition, Formal Education System, Academic Support, Insufficient Classroom Teaching, Professional Education.

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Introduction

The system of private tuition has been in existence in India for a long time but in recent times it has grown manifold affecting the very core of educational system. In general private tuition provides an opportunity to understand the concepts and to solve lot of problems including higher difficulty level, they stated. But now-a-days private tuition has become an essential feature of formal education system for many reasons. It can be either due to the weaknesses of the students or due to the negligence of the teachers. In some cases, although the teachers may be teaching properly at school, the students still may need tutoring if they are academically weak. In other cases, when the teachers do not teach properly at school, the students require tutoring from the teachers outside the school. In short private tuition is the instruction given to the students on various academic subjects outside the classrooms for monetary gain.

Private tuition is parallel to the formal system of education to supplement academic support and to overcome school inadequacies. In recent years private tutoring emerged as major force as a result of both demand and market mechanisms. Private tutoring is diversified in nature. It is offered to the students individually as well as mostly in-group forms, where they are able to work much more closely and develop stronger relationships than in larger classrooms. It is also observed fact that school teachers are engaging in providing private tuition to their own students, which is definitely a serious matter for quality education. The place of receiving tutoring classes is also diversified in nature. It may be tutors' home, students' home, tuition centers, even school itself. Moreover, diversification is also occurred in respect to monthly fees, subjects, reasons for opting private tutoring, teaching skills applied by tutors, etc.

A good percentage of students from elementary to higher education receive private tuition. Parents and guardians also spend a huge amount of money in private tuition. The growing phenomenon of private tuition is occurring due to insufficient as well as ineffective classroom teaching and similarly it adversely affects the mainstream education. Various actions as well as regulations were also made in order to control and prohibit private tuition in many parts of India. In spite of all these there is no stop growth of private tuition. And this private tuition is a result of poor teaching, low monitoring at the workplace, and conscious efforts to create a market. It is also a known fact that after last school bell, many students rush from their schools towards their

private tuitions. Many students receive tuitions at weekends, even during vacations too. However, private tuition is not necessary for many students, yet parents and guardians are in favor to invest on private tutoring from their wards. Because private tutors help their children in doing home works, help to score higher marks, children can properly utilize their leisure time etc.

Observing all these facts, it was decided to study the attitude of secondary level students towards private tuitions in West Tripura district. For this purpose descriptive study was employed with a sample of 120 secondary school students from 12 different tuition centers in West Tripura district.

Objectives:

- (i) To examine the nature of private tuitions at the secondary level in West Tripura district.
- (ii) To find out the attitude of secondary level students towards private tuitions in West Tripura district.

DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY:

Descriptive method is employed in the present study. A sample of 120 secondary school students was selected randomly from 12 different tuition centers in West Tripura District. Sample was collected from boys and girls studying in government and private schools from rural and urban areas. The data are interpreted in terms of percentage.

TOOLS:

Self- prepared questionnaire was constructed to measure the influence of private tuitions among secondary schools students of west Tripura district.

RESULT AND INTERPRETATION:

The purpose of the present study was to find out the attitude of secondary level students towards private tuitions in West Tripura district. The study was done in detail looking over the main reasons for taking private tuitions.

Rural-Urban Differences

Table 1: Locality and extent of private tutoring (%)

Locality	%
Rural	48.3
Urban	51.7

The extent of private tutoring is usually higher in urban areas when compared to that in rural areas. Table 1 confirms a similar pattern, percent of students from urban areas going for private tuitions are little more than their rural counterparts.

There may be several reasons behind the higher prevalence of private tuition in urban areas compared to rural areas. Parents in urban areas are relatively better off educationally and economically and are in a position to afford the cost of private tuition. It was observed that parents feel safe leaving their children in private tuition centers, instead of idling at home. In spite of lack of economic ability, low levels of parental education and aspirations same need was observed in rural areas too, which gave greater supply of private tuition, which creates a demand.

Gender Difference

Table 2: Gender and extent of private tutoring (%)

Gender	%
Boys	50.8
Girls	49.2

Though the boys percentage was found to be higher than that of girls seeking private tuition at secondary level, both the percentage of seeking private tuition seems to be nearly equal. Gender equity in accessing education shows the awareness among parents towards educational inputs and investment resulting reflection in private tuition. It is also revealed that girls are taking equal opportunity in obtaining additional resources in the form of supplementary tutoring in reaching the secondary level of education, especially in rural areas.

Intensity and Subjects of Private Tuition

Table 3: Subjects and extent of private tutoring (%)

No: of Subjects	One Subject	Two Subjects	More than Two Subjects
Response in %	43.3	46.6	10.1

It is evident from table 3 that among students availing private tuition, most receive tutoring in one or two subjects. Majority of students are receiving private tuition in either in one subject(43.3%) or two subjects(46.6%). Whereas only 10.1% of students responded that they received private tuition in more than two subjects. That is nearly 90 % of students are seeking for private tuition in one or two subjects.

Help of Private Tutor on Subjects

Table 4: Subjects and help of private Tutor (%)

Subjects	English	Bengali	Mathematics	Science	SST
Response in %	89.2	86.6	91.2	88.3	87.5

When examined, private tuitions taken in different subjects, it was found that 91.2% of students go for mathematics. From the above table 4 it can be seen that students take private tutoring almost in all subjects. English (89.2%), Science (88.3%), SST (87.5%), Bengali (86.6%).

Time Spent on Private Tuition

Table 5: Duration of tuition hours (%)

No: of Hours	2hrs	2– 4 hrs	4– 6 hrs	> 6 hrs
Response in %	30	35	26.7	8.3

From the above table it is seen that students spent from two hours to more than one hour a week in private tuition classes. The duration of private tuition reflects the extent of investment by households and the perceived need attached to the intensity of private tuition. Students either choose private tuition for taking coaching for an academic year, or take short-term tuition from the middle or end sessions.

Table 6: Session of Receiving Private Tuition (%)

Session of receiving Private tuition	Before starting of Academic Session	After starting of Academic Session	Two months before Exam
Response in %	35.8	57.5	6.7

Table 6 shows that students receiving private tuitions at different times of the year was also found to be varied differently. The study shows that more than half of the students (57.5%) joined private tuition after starting of the academic session, while very few of them (6.7%) took classes just before two months of examination.

Source of Private Tuition

Private tuitions can be taken as home tuition arranged by individuals, group tuition by school teachers, by unemployed, or by any other types of teachers. Private tuitions depends on demand, groups and locations.

Table 7: Source of Receiving Private tuition

Source of Private tuition	Same school Teacher	Other school Teacher	Other Person
Response in %	25.7	59.2	15.1

It is evident from table 7 that school teachers are mostly engage as private tutors. In the present study, nearly 85% of students responded that their private tutors were teacher either from their school (25.7%) or from another schools (59.2%). Only 15.1% of them were found to be other person.

Table 8: Place of Receiving Private tuition

Place of Private tuition	Tutors Home	Own House	Tuition Center
Response in %	68.3	21.5	10.2

Table 8 reveals that students received private tuition at different places. Majority students (68.3%) received tuition at Tutors' home. 21.5% were found to receive private tuition in their own home while 10.2% students received private tuition at Tuition centers respectively.

Reasons for Attending Private Tuition

Main reason for encouraging private tuitions is that, parents of students who want their wards to receive private tuition in order to obtain a better ranking, largely due to their own insecurity despite of schools providing quality services. This trend indicates that irrespective of school quality parents are still not gratified with learning in schools and want more individual attention and tutoring for higher performance.

Table 9: Reasons for Taking Private Tuition (%)

Reasons for Taking Private Tuition	%
Prepare for Examination	84.2
Parents Force	16.7
Influenced by Peer Students	20
Cannot Understand taught in School	27.5
Receive Personal Attention	40.8
Tuition simplifies and gives better Understanding	75.8
To score high in Examination	39.2
Private Tutors have better Knowledge	67.5

From the study it was found that majority of the students responded to prepare for examinations(84.2%) and also expressed that private tuition simplifies the concept leaning and gives better understanding(75.8%). Table 9 also reflects that 67.5% agree that private tutors have better knowledge and 40.8% for receiving personal attention. It was observed that majority of the students are seeking private tuitions as per their parents wish, but 16.7% were been forced to take private coaching while 20% were influenced by peer students.

Table 10: Teaching Skills Applied in Private Tuition Classes

Skills Applied	Notes	Explanation	Blackboard	Asking Questions
Response in %	70	83.3	65.2	73.6

Table 11: Outcome of Private Tutoring

Outcomes	Exam Grades	Confidence in Exams	Revision Skills	Confidence in School Performance	Learning Strategies
%	43.3	12.2	9.1	17.2	18.2

From Table 10 it is also seen that the private apply different teaching skills which brings required behavioral modification in the student. 83.3% of the students responded that their private tutors explained thoroughly on each topic, and 70% of them received required notes too for the related topics. After observing all these it is found that students have gained a lot of confidence level from their respective tutors.

Conclusion:

From the present study it is evident that private tuition plays a prominent part in the secondary level students of west Tripura district. It is known that private tutoring varies to an extent among localities. The present study reveals that students receiving private tuitions from urban area are little more in number when compared to that of rural areas. Percentile difference was found to be only 3.4% between urban and rural area students in receiving private tuitions. It is also revealed that girls are taking equal opportunity as boys in obtaining additional resources in the form of supplementary tutoring with difference of 1.6%. Nearly 90 % of students are seeking for private tuition in one or two subjects. The study also revealed that majority of students joined private tuition after starting of their academic session (57.5%) in different subjects from different source of private tutors. Surprisingly it is found that nearly 85% of the tutors were found to be schoolteachers either from their school or from another school. Thus, from the findings of the present study it can be concluded that private tuition is a major issue in the secondary education level which is either directly or indirectly influencing quality education.

Suggestions:

Based on the growing popularity of private tuition as revealed from the present study, some suggestions are worth mentioning in order to control private tuition. The unprecedented rate of growing this system is posing a challenge to the regular formal system of education. Students taking private tuition are neglecting school work expecting their private tutors will guide them from his/her level best with a challenging attitude to enlarge their domains of profession. Hence the whole phenomenon should be given much more attention by governments, the media, and professional associations as a whole. Rigidity of formal school education system should be changed, curriculum should be reconstructed by making it more relevant, need based and skill oriented so that it does not insist students for rote learning. Adequate classroom teaching learning facilities should be improved in each school. Mainstream teachers should be strictly prohibited from providing private tuition. Teacher-Student ratio should be also be properly maintained in each school. Teachers should use innovative methods of teaching and apply strategies to make the student understand and maintain a friendly relation with them. There should be provision of remedial classes in schools in order to overcome students' learning difficulties.

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