

## **Impact of Private Tutoring on Academic Preferences of the Higher Secondary Students: An Empirical Study**

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### **Abstract**

Private tuitions are considered to be a common phenomenon in most of the developing nations. It has become a necessity for the budget of households for school students, especially the higher secondary students. The trend for attending private tuitions is way stronger at the level of higher education. Several studies have assessed the perceptions of the students on efficiency of the private supplementary tuitions regarding the mainstream schooling. These studies show that a large number of higher secondary students go for private tuitions. Generally, the students perceive that private tutors and private tutoring for being more efficient in provision of support for examination as compared to the mainstream teachers and schooling. However, the perceptions may vary as per the self-reported academic level of the students and their goal of taking private tuitions. Operations of a parallel sector have major implications for nature of the school and thus have to kept in mind by the administrators of the school and the teachers.

**Keywords:** private tuitions, higher secondary students, school students,

### **Introduction**

In most of the developing nations, there is a system followed of private tuitions runs parallel to a formal education system for supplementing the academic courses and for overcoming the inadequacy of schools. In the past few years, the concept of private tuitions of its extent, nature and significance has become comparable to formal system of education or it has become like the shadow of formal system of education. In simple words, the concept of private tuitions acts as the surrogate mother since schools have become inefficient. Although the system of private tutoring is quite prevalent at different levels and institutions of education, its still preponderant in the secondary education specifically due to performance in the public exams is one of the most important aspects for meeting the rising competition for making an entry in the desired

academic institutions and thereby to technical, professional and higher education (**Gill, Lintorf,2019**).

Researches and studies done on the concept of private tuitions are far and few in between although in case the phenomenon of private tuitions is predominant and widespread. Further, the studies that have been done in the context of India are very few. Several papers have examined the problems of private tuitions with the assumption that the teachers in the developing nations are not paid well in spite of their status in the society and even in spite of the fact that approximately 80% of the public expenditure for education is done on salaries of the teachers. It is also considered that the concept of private tuitions has been developed due to poor condition of teaching, low supervision at workplace and the conscious effort for creating market for the private coaching and tutoring. They consider that there's corruption in the whole system of education delivery. The dependency on the private tuition for improving the performance has been found to be very common at lower level of education too. Regarding school level assessment, it has been observed that wide practices of the private tuition in schools reinforces inefficiency of education system. People who suffer the most because of this system are the kids who belong to the socially and economically disadvantaged as well as backward classes. These studies suggest a complete ban on the private tutoring and a need for well off for joining the government schools for creating pressure on the schools for performing better. It has been seen that the maximum number of students who take private tuitions are the higher secondary school students. So, these studies state the forms and nature of the process of private tuitions and they also study the trend of private tuitions (**Byun et.al., 2018**).

### **Literature Review**

A couple of quantitative studies have been done on the impact and determinants of private tuitions and even lesser number of studies have been done for employing sufficiently rigorous econometric model for evaluating the effect of private tuitions on the academic performance of the students. Insufficient official statistics or the attention of the researchers could be the 2 reasons for the situation. Another reason could be that private tuitions could be a very sensitive issue and some of the governments could be reluctant for making the data public for the fear of the political parties. The parents and the full-time instructors could also wish to keep the business of private tutoring secret due to various reasons. Some researches have documented that the main reasons for restricted amount of information regarding private tutoring could be the fear of the teachers to harm the image of the school, their prospects of promotion or also for the purpose of avoiding tax or the fear of the parents of the school teachers of their children misinterpreting private tuitions to be insufficient confidence in the abilities of the students (**Bray, Kobakhidze, 2015**).

Amongst the current studies that have been done on determinants of the private tuitions, this process has been considered to be good with elasticity of income ranging from extremely inelastic to unit elastic in some countries. One of the most common patterns is that the rich and educated households from the urban areas prefer spending more on the private tuitions as compared to the other households in the remote areas. Also, there have been quite mixed results amongst some of the studies which aim at determining the impact of private tuitions on the

academic achievement of the students. They state that even though private tuitions do not increase the test scores of the children significantly, it does help in doubling the reading scores of children. However, the contrary evidences have been found in some countries where the private tutoring concept has been found to negatively impact the grades of the higher secondary students (**Wai-Ho and Yung, 2015**).

Nevertheless, just 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the studies employs the nationally representative statistics. Further, these studies do not also test for possible endogeneity explicitly for private tutoring. Thus, it is clear that extensive research should be done for the topic.

The factors of demand concerning private tutoring maybe divided into meso, macros and the micro level attributes. Macro level mainly comprises the shared systems of belief within the society, characteristics of meso level of school system including role of the high-stake tests and micros level attributes of the individual (**János and Bray,2021**),

On macro level, demand for the private tuitions is considered to increase in the meritocracy. In the meritocratic society, the social values like the opportunities of employment and income are mainly allotted as per the academic achievements which is measured by the academic certificates. As a consequence, households try and maintain or increase the social status of the family mainly by fostering the educational development of their children amongst others through private tuitions (**Yuan-Cheng and Napawan, 2020**).

The gap in terms of salary between the ones with or without the tertiary education maybe quoted as the example for meritocratic process of allocation of the social values. For instance, in some of the countries, graduates of university have lower risk of being unemployed and gradually while they work, they start earning about double as compared to the graduates from the vocational education programs. Thus, a lot of parents prefer a school leaving document which helps the students in qualifying for admission in the university for vocationally oriented school students (**Wai-Ho,2020**).

The meso level attributes mainly relate to credentialism on macro level on the decision of the individuals for private tuitions. Some researchers assign quality of the public-school teaching and the high-stake examinations to the level. Quality of the public schools refers to effect of the underfunded system of schooling on the attendance at the tuitions. Its less relevant regarding the well-funded school system (**Hai-Anh and Halsey, 2016**).

The high-stake tests are mainly characterised as the gatekeepers for the process of selection to higher education. Failing in examinations signifies being excluded from the preferable career. Due to such major complications, the families and the students are also expected to make efforts for doing well in their examinations. Private tuitions are a part of these efforts and existence of the high-stake tests which is meant mostly for the entrance in the colleges which are held responsible for the high rates of tuitions in various countries (**Steven et.al., 2021**).

However, the hypothesis of these studies has been seldomly tested systematically. When asked, the students and the teachers, educational stakeholders and the teachers of different countries stated that students attend private tuitions for performing better in their respective

examinations. Also, in most of the countries, the rates of tuitions are higher and closer the examinations, higher the rates for tuitions (**Hyunjoon et.al., 2016**).

A number of studies that have assessed the survey data indicate a positive effect of the same on the academic performance of the students which is measured through the scores in the examination. Other studies indicate that either there is no impact or a negative one on the academic performance of private tuitions on the performance of the students.

Another study indicates that private tuitions is related mainly to field of competence. According to these studies, private tutoring positively impacts reading but the effect on numeracy and writing is insignificant (**Yung and Bray, 2021**).

Inconsistent findings of the studies could be partially because of the methodological differences and the difference in respective institutional and cultural context of nations that are studied. Generally speaking, private tuition is believed to be one of the major issues in most of the nations that have been studied extensively. But all these studies don't say anything about the effect of private tutoring on the academic performance of the students measured regarding the standardisation of the national test score.

The effect of private tuitions on the academic achievements has been studied by various researchers. Some studies have also discussed negative effect of the method on equity in education system. It has also been seen that there is not relationship between academic achievement and private tutoring at the primary level of education. According to a report, it has also been indicated that effect of private tuitions is mainly related to subject area. For example, the effect is small yet positive in the subject of mathematics and negative in foreign languages (**Vsevolod and Preckel, 2021**).

So, these studies assess the relation between academic performance and private tutoring. The academic performance has also been defined as scores which are achieved in national level university examination. The main characteristics of private tuition system have already been explained. Also, the 2 group of students including the ones who received minimum once year of tutoring and the ones who didn't receive any tuitions (**Ujma and Vsevolod, 2021**).

Controlling the other characteristics, it has been seen that private tutoring has a major impact on the academic performance of the students and their influence is not so big for the students of lower secondary. Therefore, when managed effectively by the policy makers, the process of private tuitions may help the students in doing better in school. Promising prospects for researches include the effect of private tuitions on the other results like progress in school and the outcomes of the labour market. When the right instruments which impact the performance of schools but not the private tutoring expenses are available, they are helpful for understanding the impact of the academic performance of the students on the expenditure of private tutoring (**Yu and Junyan, 2016**).

Some studies do mention that while the private tuitions might have positive and a statistically significant effect in the domain of competence like mathematics and the foreign language, its not same in natural science. Regarding this, the outcomes of present studies are quite consistent

with the results of previous studies that have been conducted by researchers on this (**Rafsan, 2021**).

### Objectives of the Study:

1. To find the reasons for impact of private tutoring on academic preferences of the Higher Secondary students
2. To ascertain the significance of the reasons for impact of private tutoring on academic preferences of the Higher Secondary students

### Research Methodology:

The present study is descriptive in nature in which the reasons for impact of private tutoring on academic preferences of the Higher Secondary students have been studied. The sample size of the study is 160. The data were collected with the help of a structured questionnaire on a five-point scale and analysed with the help of the mean values and t test.

**Table1 Demographic profile of the respondents**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>	<b>% age</b>
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	88	55%
Female	72	45%
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Stream</b>		
Arts	46	29%
Commerce	52	33%
Science	51	31%
Other	11	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Take private tuitions/coaching</b>		
Yes	95	59%
No	65	41%
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Consider private tuition to be mandatory</b>		
<b>Yes</b>	86	54%
<b>No</b>	74	46%
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 1 presents demographic profile of the respondents on impact of private tutoring on academic preferences of the Higher Secondary students. There are 55% males and 45% females in the study. Among the respondents 29% belong to Arts stream, 33% belong to Commerce stream, 31% belong to science stream and 7% belong to other streams. The 59% of the respondents take private tuitions/coaching and 41% don't take private tuitions/coaching. The percentage of respondents who consider private tuition to be mandatory is 54% and 46% do not consider private tuition to be mandatory.

**Table 2 Mean Value of the impact of private tutoring on academic preferences of the Higher Secondary students**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Impact of private tutoring on academic preferences of the Higher Secondary students</b>	<b>Mean Score</b>
1.	It is not possible for students of Higher secondary to perform well without the help of private tuitions	4.03
2.	If attended properly, even classes and lectures in the school are enough for performing better in examinations	4.01
3.	Since a large group of students study together, it is not possible for teachers to pay attention to all the students individually	4.02
4.	Private tutoring is having a poor impact on the performance of the students	3.98
5.	School teachers should not be allowed to give private coaching	3.95
6.	If a student misses something in school, he or she can always learn it at the coaching	4.13
7.	Private tutoring helps students in clearing all their doubts	4.14
8.	Private tutoring helps students in revising their lessons	4.09
9.	In the past few decades, mushrooming of private tutors has happened	4.15
10.	Since teachers take private tuitions, they don't pay attention on lectures in the school	3.97

Table 2 shows the opinions of the respondents. It is observed that in the past few decades, mushrooming of private tutors has happened with the mean value of 4.15. It is followed by Private tutoring helps students in clearing all their doubts (4.14), If a student misses something in school, he or she can always learn it at the coaching (4.13), Private tutoring helps students in revising their lessons (4.09). Further It is not possible for students of Higher secondary to perform well without the help of private tuitions (4.03), Since a large group of students study together, it is not possible for teachers to pay attention to all the students individually (4.02), If attended properly, even classes and lectures in the school are enough for performing better in examinations (4.01), Private tutoring is having a poor impact on the performance of the students (3.98) and Since teachers take private tuitions, they don't pay attention on lectures in the school (3.97) were also considered important. Reasons like School teachers should not be allowed to give private coaching (3.95) were also viewed as important.

**Table 3**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Impact of private tutoring on academic preferences of the Higher Secondary students</b>	<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>t-Value</b>	<b>Sig</b>
1.	It is not possible for students of Higher secondary to perform well without the help of private tuitions	4.03	6.561	0.000
2.	If attended properly, even classes and lectures in the school are enough for performing better in examinations	4.01	5.938	0.000
3.	Since a large group of students study together, it is not possible for teachers to pay attention to all the students individually	4.02	5.904	0.000
4.	Private tutoring is having a poor impact on the performance of the students	3.98	4.655	0.000
5.	School teachers should not be allowed to give private coaching	3.95	4.580	0.000
6.	If a student misses something in school, he or she can always learn it at the coaching	4.13	7.231	0.000
7.	Private tutoring helps students in clearing all their doubts	4.14	7.632	0.000
8.	Private tutoring helps students in revising their lessons	4.09	7.782	0.000
9.	In the past few decades, mushrooming of private tutors has happened	4.15	7.792	0.000
10.	Since teachers take private tuitions, they don't pay attention on lectures in the school	3.97	5.670	0.000

Table 3 shows the results of t-test. It is found from the table that the significance value for all the statements is below 0.05, hence all the statements regarding the on impact of private tutoring on academic preferences of the Higher Secondary students are significant.

## Conclusion

Papers have concluded that private tuitions are important part of the household budget especially for the lower secondary and the higher secondary students and the whole trend of attending private tutoring is very strong at the levels of higher secondary. There are no evidences for the fact that the expenditure in terms of gender discrimination happens in the same. Ethnic minority candidates spend less amount on private tuitions at primary level and more amount at the secondary level since the students residing in the remote and the rural areas. It also raises concerns regarding the process which exacerbates inequality where just the rich households are able to afford the increasing cost to send their kids for higher education. However, results suggest that expenditure on the private tutoring fall prominently at primary level in case quality of the schools is improved by enhancing the qualification of the primary teachers.

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