Some have welcomed the policy but critics say it may worsen the rural-urban divide in performance

By Carol Mutsuyure

SHARING part of your mother tongue will become the medium of instruction in primary (one to four) to fill as government implemented and recently launched the National Foundation Phase Education policy (NFPE). The move is based on several arguments that the mother tongue improves performance. However, critics say it is likely to worsen the rural-urban divide in education. It is hoped that the policy will improve the language environment and stimulate language teaching and learning. The policy also aims to scale down the divide in education and improve the quality of education. The move has been welcomed by teachers and parents who believe it will improve students' performance.

Does the mother tongue improve class performance?

Cultural Education. In a 2001 report, children instructed in their mother tongue tend to be emotionally committed and do well in secondary school. Children who learn in their mother tongue may think that they want to succeed if they are left alone and are not recipients of the education system. The policy aims to improve the quality of education and to ensure that children are not left alone.

The language policy

According to the National Curriculum Development Council, the policy is designed to improve the quality of education and to ensure that children are not left alone. The policy also aims to improve the quality of education and to ensure that children are not left alone.

Reading: Children in urban schools speak and read English fluently, but those in rural areas struggle with the language. Those who do well in high school had bilingual education in primary school.

By Rodrick, a language consultant at the Ministry of Education and Sports, also says children learn to read more easily in a language they know. "Once children can read their own language, they will be able to transfer these skills in English," he says.

Literacy officials on how to teach the new medium.

Volunteers are expected to teach language classes. Senior teachers are supposed to be present to handle lower classes. Where the area language is not the child's first language, a teacher is supposed to delay the introduction of reading and writing until the child is comfortable with the language. The teachers are expected to teach in the language in which the child has mastered the language. Some feel the minister of Education needs to train teachers and educators right from college, in their respective departments.

Some of today's children have grown up with no idea of their mother tongue. They speak English when you talk to them, but like in the case of Elizabeth, a girl of 10 from Kibaha Primary School who comes from Ruamala and is taught in English. "My teacher tells me that I should speak English at home," she says.

Mostly, there are five major languages that are taught at Education. They are no more than 20 minutes away from the ministry. The children are expected to speak the language in which they were taught. The children are expected to speak the language in which they were taught. The children are expected to speak the language in which they were taught.

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