
The Causes of Private Tuition at Secondary Level in West Bengal

Amir Hossain

Trainee Teacher, Shimurali Sachinandan College of Education, Nadia, West Bengal

ABSTRACT:

Generally a crowded classroom is not conducive for individual teaching. The teacher and every student interaction are not possible in the class due to insufficient time. A teacher normally tries to avoid dull students. Besides some of the topics are not covered in the class. Private tuition becomes necessary where the student would not be capable of sitting at his studies by himself because he has no inclination towards his study or the parents have no time to look at their child's academic progress. Here the researcher specifically focused on the reasons of taking private tuition at Secondary level. The objectives of this paper are to find out the reasons for taking private tuition at Secondary level. The researcher framed a questionnaire with the probable reasons of private tuition and then it applied to the selected sample of 200 secondary students. From the analysis of data it has been found the causes of private tuition at secondary level of West Bengal.

Key words: *Private Tuition, Shadow Education.*

INTRODUCTION:

In India, a large percentage of students, particularly from government schools, mentioned the fact that they could not understand classroom teaching due to insufficient teacher and lack of time. Besides increasing demand of quality education creates huge pressure on the formal education system in most of the countries even in India. In many developing countries, schools in general and government schools in particular, do not deliver 'quality' education. So private tutoring has arisen as a substantial parallel education system. The system of private tuition has been in existence in India for a long time, but in recent times it has grown up. It is widespread across many developing as well as developed countries.

In England, the term 'private tutoring' generally refers to tutoring on a one-to-one basis, which often takes place in the home of the tutor or the student. Private tutoring has been establishing globally a trend parallel to the formal school education. In many countries like Cambodia, Egypt, India, Japan, Kenya, Malta, Romania, Taiwan, Mauritius, the prevalence of supplementary tuition is high, and it is expected to increase even further. (Bray, 2003). In fact, in terms of its nature, extent and importance it is comparable to the formal system, or it is like a shadow of the formal system (Bray, 1999). In the study by Foondun (2002) the private tuition was defined as extra coaching and it was given by the teachers for extra income. However, one recent and growing phenomenon of the Indian education system is a 'Shadow' education system. The private tutoring is called 'Shadow Education'. As it only exists because the mainstream education exists. If the size and shape of the mainstream system changes, so do the size and shape of private tutoring. In many instances, it has been observed that government school teachers shirk their responsibilities in school in order to increase

demand for private tutoring (Biswal, 1999; Glewee & Jayachandran, 2006; Jayachandran, 2013). Crowded classroom, lack of subject specialists, teachers teaching more than one subject, loss of school working days, authorized and unauthorized teacher absenteeism, not completing syllabus in time, and lack of school monitoring characterize government schools, as education departments fail to implement policies and follow norms (Sujatha et al., 2006). Dr. Amartya Sen, the Nobel Laureate, has termed private tuition as an 'Evil' that should be 'Uncompromisingly' overcome.

Define Terms:

➤ **Private Tuition:**

According to Dang and Rogers (2008), "Private tutoring can be defined as fee-based tutoring that provides supplementary instruction to children in academic subjects that they study in the mainstream education system."

According to Bray and Kwok (2003, p.2), "Private supplementary tutoring has been defined as 'tutoring in academic subjects which is provided for financial gain and which is additional to the provisions by mainstream schooling.'"

➤ **Secondary Education:**

High school is a grade of education from standards IX to X. Standards IX to X are also called Secondary education. Usually, students from ages 14 to 17 study in this section. These schools may be affiliated to national boards like CBSE, ISC, NIOS or various state boards. Education is compulsory until age 14. Traditional second stage in formal education.

Types of Private Tutoring:

➤ **Home Tuition:**

Private home tuition is one of the most common forms of tutoring. Tutors will have direct contact with their students. Tutors will be able to dedicate their full attention to the particular student, making the most use of the time available. Tutors will be more able to assess the learning of a particular student and adopt their tutoring accordingly. But private home tuition is more expensive than online or group tuition.

➤ **Online Tuition:**

Online tuition is tutoring that takes place over the internet using a communications programme. Such as Skype or Google+ to communicate with a tutor in either a group or one to one situation. Online tuition is likely to be cheaper than private home tuition as the tutor will not be required to travel. Using online tuition will make it harder for the tutor to build rapport with the student which is often a critical factor in the student being able to engage with the tutor.

➤ **Group Tuition:**

Group tuition is simply that attending tuition sessions where the tutor will teach more than one pupil at a time. If the initial problem is that the student struggles to get the attention that they need in school, they may suffer the exact same problem in group tutoring situations. Group tutoring is often offered at low rate.

Objectives of the study:

The objectives of this paper are-

- I) To find out the causes of private tutoring in secondary level.
- II) To study the nature of private tuition.

Research Questions:

The researcher has conducted the study on the basis of the following research questions,

- I) Does private tutor provide standard notes?
- II) Does private tutoring increase student's academic performance?
- III) Do the students take private tutor for tough subjects?

Methodology:

Name of the Study	The researcher used survey research design of descriptive research method.
Population	All the students of secondary level (WBBSE) in West Bengal.
Sample	200 students of class X were selected as sample.
Sampling Techniques	The purposive sampling technique was adopted for this study.
Tools used	The researcher Formulated one questionnaire in Bengali version with 37 different items.
Statistical Techniques	Collected data was analyzed by using statistical techniques like graphical representation-Bar graph.
Validity & Reliability	The validity of the questionnaire was estimated by the expert and content validity has been maintained properly in the study. Test-retest reliability method was applied and the coefficient of correlation was found to be 0.85.

Graphical Analysis:

Statement 1: “Private tutor provides standard notes.”

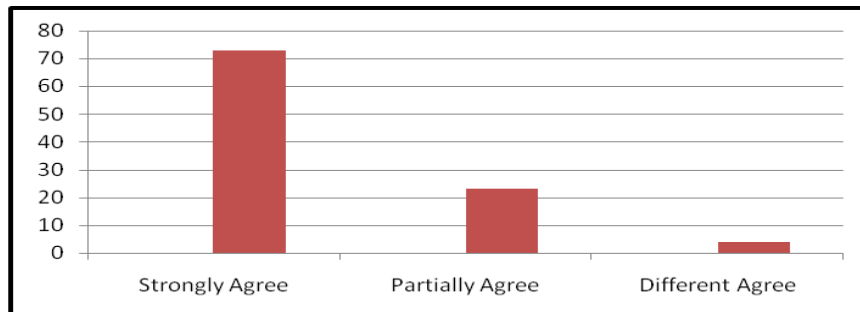


Figure:1

With above statement, 73% students are strongly agreed, 23% students are partially agreed, 4% students have different view of secondary level.

So, from the Bar graph it is observed that 96% students of secondary level believe that private tutor gives better notes than school teacher.

Statement 2: “Private tutor helps the students to find out their weakness of study and try to solve them.”

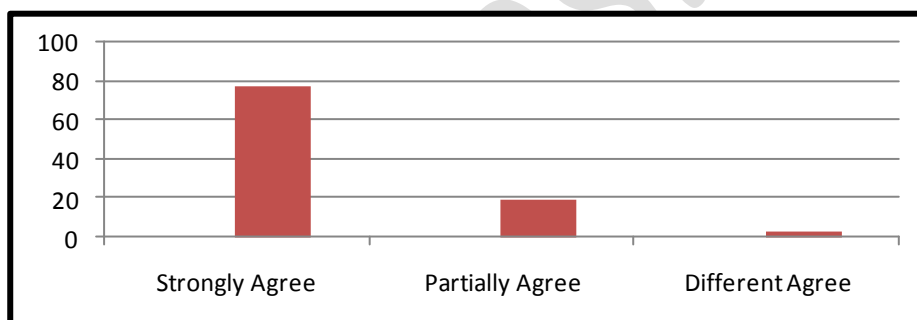


Figure :2

With above statement ,78% students are strongly agreed,19% students are partially agreed,3% students have different view of secondary level.

So from the Bar graph it is observed that, 97% students believe that Private tutor helps the students to find out their weakness of study and try to solve them.

Statement 3: “In the competitive field of education private tutor is needed for staying ahead.”

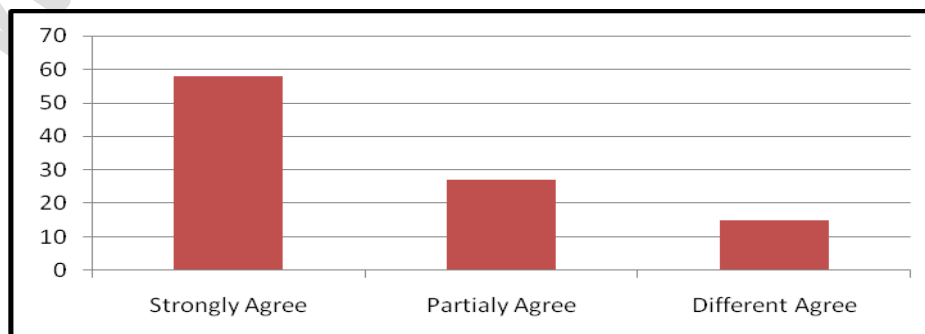


Figure : 3

With above statement ,58% students are strongly agreed,27% students are partially agreed,15% students have different view of secondary level.

So from the Bar graph it is observed that, 85% students believe that in the competitive field of education private tutor is needed for staying ahead.

Statement 4: “Private tutor is needed for tough subject like Mathematics, English.”

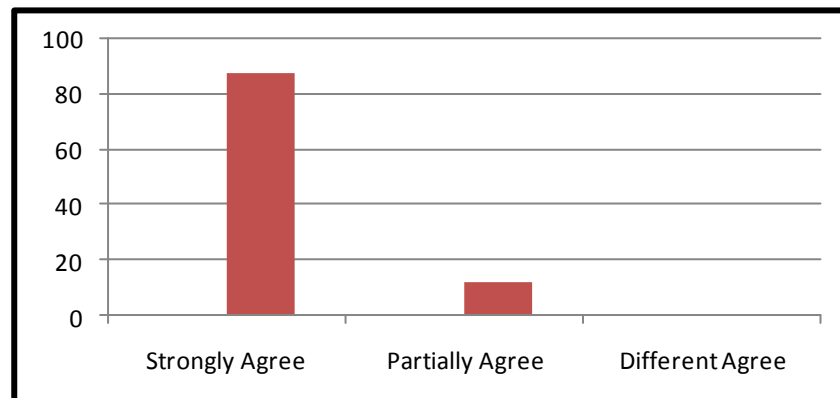


Figure : 4

With above statement ,88% students are strongly agreed,12% students are partially agreed and they have no different view of secondary level.

So from the Bar graph it is observed that, 100% students believe that Private tutor is needed for tough subject like Mathematics, English.

Statement 5: “Private tutor completes the syllabus before the specific time.”

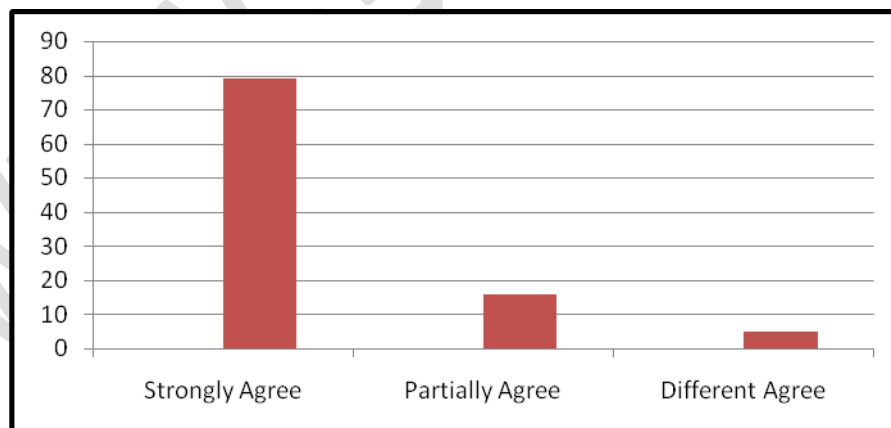


Figure : 5

With above statement ,79% students are strongly agreed,16% students are partially agreed, 5% students have different view of secondary level.

So from the Bar graph it is observed that, 95% students believe that Private tutor completes the syllabus before the specific time.

Statement 6: “School can’t fulfill the needs of students but private tutor is to fulfill their knowledge.”

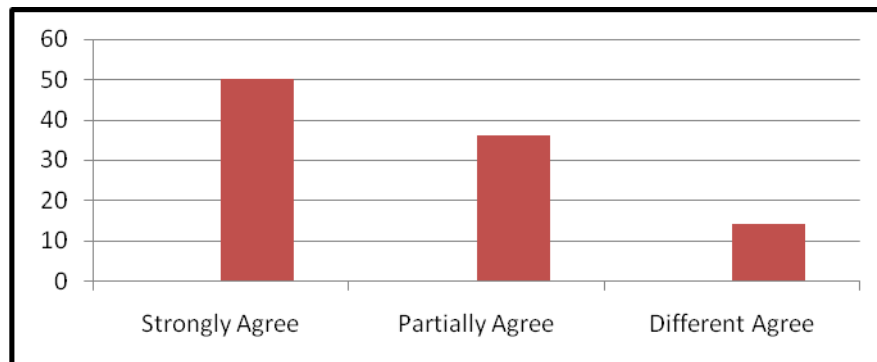


Figure : 6

With above statement, 50% students are strongly agreed, 36% students are partially agreed, 14% students have different view of secondary level.

So from the Bar graph it is observed that, 86% students believe that School can’t fulfill the needs of students but private tutor is to fulfill their knowledge.

Statement 7: “Guardian forces their child to take private tuition.”

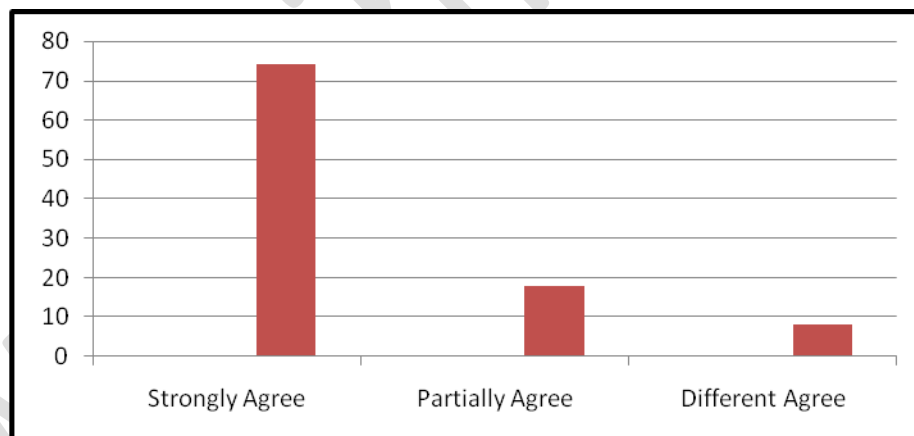


Figure :7

With above statement, 74% students are strongly agreed, 18% students are partially agreed, 8% students have different view at secondary level.

So from the Bar graph it is observed that, 92% students believe that guardian forces them to take private tuition.

Statement 8: “Private tutoring increases student’s academic performance.”

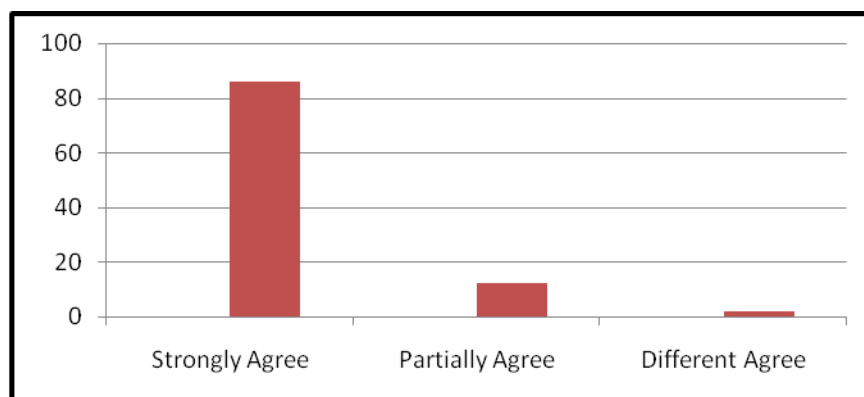


Figure :8

With above statement, 86% students are strongly agreed, 12% students are partially agreed, 2% students have different view at secondary level.

So from the Bar graph it is observed that, 98% students believe that Private tutoring increases student’s academic performance.

Nature of Private Tuition:

After analyzing various aspect of private tuition, researcher observed the following nature/characteristics of private tuition.

- ❖ The students receive private tuition in individually or in group.
- ❖ The students receive private tuition for tough subject like Mathematics, English.
- ❖ Private tutors are generally school teacher, educated unemployed person.
- ❖ Private tuition can be given various places like coaching centre, student’s home, tutor’s home.
- ❖ The main aim of private tuition is to help the students to stay ahead in the competition field.

Conclusion:

Through above study the researcher has come to the following view-

- ❖ Maximum no of students receive private tuition for tough subject like Mathematics, English, Science.
- ❖ In the competitive field of education private tutor helps the students to staying ahead.
- ❖ The students take private tuition for standard notes.
- ❖ The students receive private tuition because tutor completes the syllabus before the specific time.
- ❖ School can’t fulfill the needs of students but private tutor is to fulfill their knowledge. So the students take private tutor.

- ❖ Some students receive private tuition because their guardian forces them.
- ❖ Private tutoring increases student's academic performance.

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