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British Council calls for adopting language-responsive education systems

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The British Council has launched a global position paper urging countries to adopt language-responsive education systems that reflect learners' linguistic realities and promote inclusive and effective education.

The paper highlights the growing importance of multilingual education systems, where students often learn in languages different from those spoken at home, said a press release.



While recognising the global role of English in education and employment, the British Council said there is no one-size-fits-all model for language in education.

Instead, it recommended context-sensitive and evidence-based approaches, allowing policymakers to make decisions based on local historical, social and economic realities.

According to the paper, language-responsive education systems integrate language considerations into curriculum design, teaching methods, learning materials, assessments and teacher training.

It stressed that successful language policy depends not only on the choice of language for instruction but also on how effectively education systems support learning.

The position paper also emphasised the need for strong English-as-a-subject teaching, alongside support for learners' familiar languages and language-sensitive teaching practices.

British Council director of English and school education Michael Connolly said language played a central role in learning and that education systems must respond to learners' linguistic realities to create inclusive classrooms and improve learning outcomes.

The paper is accompanied by a global literature review on English-medium education systems.

Tags

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