

## Rights of Linguistic Minorities

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Description of Module

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### Rights of Linguistic Minorities:

Linguistic minority is a class of people whose **mother tongue is different** from that of the majority in the State or Part of a State. The constitution provides for the protection of the interests of linguistic minorities.

**Article 350A:** Duty on the state to Endeavour to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the **primary stage of education** to children belonging to linguistic minority.

**Article 347:** Provides for the use of **majority language in the administration** .If a demand the population of a state desire the use of any language spoken by them to be recognized by the state.

**Article 350:** gives right to every person to submit a representation for the redress of any grievance to any officer or authority of the Union or a State in any of the language used in the Union or a State.

**Article 350B:** Empowers the president to appoint a **Special officer for Linguistic Minorities**. It is the duty of the Special officer to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for Linguistic Minorities.

**Article 29 Protection of Interests of minorities:** (i) Any Section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same.

(ii) No citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the state of receiving aid out of state funds on grounds only of religion, race, caste, language or any of them.

(iii) The Minorities have the right to establish the educational institutions basing on religion or language of their choice. Article 30(1).

Thus, a rule made by the Gujarat University prescribing Gujarati or Hindi as the sole medium of instruction and examination in its affiliated colleges was held to infringe the right of the Anglo-Indian under Article 30(1) insofar as their mother tongue was English and they would be prevented thereby from teaching through the English medium in their own institutions.

The most significant case on this point is the  
D.A.V. College, Bhatinda  
V.

State of Punjab (AIR 1971)

case. By a notification, The Punjab Government compulsorily affiliated certain colleges to the Punjabi University which prescribed Punjabi in the Gurmukhi script as the sole and exclusive medium of instruction and examination for certain courses