

THE INDIAN ECONOMY AND EDUCATION SECTOR

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Abstract

The main growth of the economy and the development of a country is depending upon the Education system of that particular country. Curriculum is the backbone of any education system. It plays a very important role in the development of various pedagogical schemes, developing new educational strategies and evaluation methodologies for the school education. The Indian Education sector is amongst the largest in the world, with an extensive network of more than 1.4 million schools (with over 200 million students enrolled) and more than 850 universities and 40,000 higher education institutes. In India duration of schooling is about 12 years. These 12 years are divided into different levels as per their age. Indian education system is not course-based but it is examination- oriented. The government of India is making all efforts to achieve the 100% literacy rate. Different schemes have been started in this direction. Privatization of education is another step which is taken by government to fulfil goal.

Keywords: Education, economic growth, curriculum, schools

Introduction

India has been known for its teaching and learning from centuries. Gurukul system was prevalent in India in ancient times. In this system, there was a close connection between guru and the disciple. The teaching takes place in the natural setting at guru's place where students learn more in practical and education was linked to the nature and life. The guru taught his students languages, Holy Scriptures, mathematics, philosophy of life, metaphysics and all related subjects which according to him were important for the development of the student. the ancient education was about understanding and learning and it was not confined to the rote memorization of the information. It had many renowned universities which are among the best universities in the world even today.

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Indian education system has changed a lot from ancient gurukul system to present virtual learning in the modern schools. Lord Thomas Babington Macaulay brought the modern education system to India in 1830s. All the modern subjects like English Mathematics Science Social Studies were included in the curriculum. The teaching and learning started taking place in the classrooms and with the passing of time the link with the nature was broken and relationship between the student and teacher also changed.

The first education board was set up in India in 1921 was the Uttar Pradesh Board of High School and Intermediate Education. By 1929, other states also established their state boards after independence, in 1952 with the amendment in the constitution the board was renamed as Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). It was adopted by all the schools in Delhi and nearby regions. The main function of the board was how to design the curriculum, print the textbooks and the examination system for the affiliated schools. Today thousands of schools from all over India are affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education and follow the same pattern set by the board. Different states have their own Board of Education which is followed by the government schools.

The government of the Republic of India cherished a dream of free and compulsory education for the children of 6 to 14 years. This was included in the article 45 of the constitution as a directive policy. The government is taking many steps to make this dream come true, it made the primary education as a fundamental right for every citizen of India. Different policies have been made to bring the students to the school. As a result, in 2011 about 75% of population in between the age of 7 to 10 years literate. This improvement in literacy rate is quoted as the economic development of India. Achievement has been made for the primary education but As far as the secondary education India has still to achieve a lot.

According to the Annual Status of Education Board, around 96% of students are enrolled in Primary schools but 40% of students attend the secondary school. The reasons for the poor quality for education includes the poor education system, absence

of teachers from schools and low income of families etc. the government has still to go a long way for 100% literacy rate in India.

Role of Education in the Economic Growth

India is a under developed though a developing economy. Many of population lives in the conditions of misery. The main growth of the economy and the development of a country is depending upon the Education system of that particular country.

School Education

The education in India is broadly followed as 10+2+3 pattern. In this pattern first 10 years are for secondary school, next 2 years are for senior secondary school and 3 years are for the bachelor's degree. The first 10 years are further divided into different levels. This system of education was created with the recommendation of Education Commission (1964-66).

Levels of School

In India, duration of schooling is about 12 years. These 12 years are divided into different levels. These levels are divided according to the age group of the students. Here we will discuss the different levels:

- a) Pre-primary education (3-6 years)
 - b) Primary education (6- 14 years)
 - c) Secondary education (14- 18 years)
- a) **Pre-primary education (3-6 years):** This stage is known as base for the children's education, knowledge, behaviour and skills. This is the foundation for primary education of a child which helps him to understand the basic things related to his environment. In rural areas of India, pre-primary education is mostly not available for the children but on the other hand it is quite popular in the urban areas. So total 1% of children under the age of six are enrolled for the pre-primary education.
- The levels which are included in pre primary education are Nursery, LKG and UKG. These classes prepare the student physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. Students are prepared to grasp the knowledge and they are connected

with the nature and practical life. This stage follows the interesting and easy curriculum where teachers do the best to make this learning process enjoyable and playful for the children.

- b) **Primary education:** This level it's divided into 2 that is lower primary (class 1-5) and upper primary (class 6-8). The Indian government is making different laws to fulfil the dream of elementary education for every child in India. The child labour has been banned by the government to ensure that every child must go to school. The child labour is very popular in India where children have to work in unsafe working conditions because of the poverty economic disparity and low standard of living among people. Ban on child labour and free education for the age group of 6 to 14 has improved the condition than before.

There are still many gaps like high ratio of teacher and people, improper teacher trainings shortage of infrastructure, shortage of resources, corruption, absence of proper number of teachers etc which creates the barriers for the achievement of goal. Free and compulsory education comes under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009.

Another program named as District Education Revitalization Programme (DERP) Wall started in 1994 which also aimed on universalisation of primary education in India. The Central government released 85% of the funds and remaining 15% was done by the states and under this program total 1.6 lakh schools were opened which opened the doors for around 35,00,000 children. It was also supported by UNICEF. Kerala is the only state In India which has achieved 100% of primary education under the program named Athulyam.

Another scheme which is run by Central government for universalisation of education is SarvaShikshaAbhiyan. This is among the largest education scheme run by any government in the world. One more initiative taken by the government is Mid-day meal. In this scheme, students are provided free meal in the schools. This has also been done to increase the enrolment in the schools. With the help of this scheme, there is an improvement in teacher-student ratio and enrolment of girls has gone up in the schools.

c) **Secondary education:** Children from the age of 14 to 18 comes under secondary education level. Secondary class i.e. 10th and Senior secondary class i.e. 12th are known as the important classes for further studies. On the basis of these classes, a child can take the admission in higher classes for graduation. The exams are controlled by HRD ministry for the fair treatment with every child. When child successfully completes the secondary stage then he/she can apply for further studies which is controlled by UGC. He further can pursue his studies in the field of his choice as medical, engineering, humanities, arts and commerce.

Indian education system is not course-based but it is examination- oriented. Students take these exams and prepare themselves for competitive exams which are centrally administered. along with the grades of 12th class, students are required to pass the centrally based tests or college-based entrance tests to get admission in the colleges or universities in India. Colleges and Universities have rigid pattern of subjects and working hours. Flexibility in subjects and timings is not possible due to lack of budgets, teachers and other such factors.

Types of Schools:

Schools are divided into two types i.e. government schools and private schools.

Government schools: According to the data by Ministry of Education 65.2% of the students go to government schools. Students who study in these schools are mostly from the poor families who are not able to pay the fees and buy new books for their children. In these schools, education is free upto 8th standard. These schools are run by the state governments and some of these are run by the Centre government. The schools which are run by the centre government deals with the different groups of students. Some examples of such schools are: Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya for SC/ST/OBC girls, Kendriya Vidyalaya for students in urban schools, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya especially for the gifted students, Indian Army Public schools for the children of soldiers of Indian army. Such schools are also known as National schools.

Indian Army Public schools and Kendriya Vidyalaya were started with the thought of providing the similar education with uniform syllabus to the children of the employees who are in Indian army and for the government employees respectively,

so that children shouldn't suffer in their education due to the transfers to the different places.

Private Schools: As per data, total 29% of the children are going to private schools in India. Private schools are owned by any one person with total investment made by that one person. Such schools and do not receive any funds from the government, due to which these schools take high amount of money from parents in form of fees. Private schools are in more trend in urban areas, it makes around 50% of total students to be enrolled in these schools. Slowly and gradually, private schools are also getting popular in rural areas.

British rulers gave us the first private school St George's School, Chennai which happens to be the oldest private school in India. Another change of schools which is provided by Maria Montessori is Montessori education. This chain Provides pre-school education to the students.

In private schools, English is the medium of education. All subjects are in English. Along with this Hindi and mother tongue is also taught in schools. The private schools follows the state-board or centre-board system of education. Along with that it also focuses on all round development of the students. To achieve this aim, They include co-curricular activities into their curriculum. The activities like sports, different competitions, science fairs, social study fairs, general knowledge quiz, music, art and drama etc. Other than this, the student-teacher ratio is taken care of in the classrooms. The classrooms are fully equipped with modern technologies which we call the 'smart classrooms' where students are taught with the smart boards and interesting and easy methods of teaching are been adapted for teaching the students. The teachers in these schools are highly trained and well educated. They are familiar with the new methods of teaching and they can easily operate the technologies used in the smart classrooms.

In present scenario the private schools are giving the better results than the government schools. Lack of infrastructure, difference in pupil teacher ratio, methods of teaching, availability of teachers, use of technology are among the few reasons due to which the government schools lack behind.

Type of Education

Formal Education: It is pre planned. It is consciously and deliberately planned for the modification of behaviours, with a particular objectives in view.

Informal Education: It is not pre-planned. This type of education starts from the birth of child and continues till death.

Milleu Education: This type of education takes place automatically, eg to eat certain food and to avoid others to live in houses etc.

Organisations related with education:

There are different organizations which play an important role in developing different policies and making programs for education. National Curriculum Framework is prepared by the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT). Curriculum is the backbone of any education system. So, it plays a pivot role in development of curriculum, pedagogical schemes, developing educational strategies and evaluation methodologies for the school education. The State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT) is its counterpart. NCERT makes the guideline and normally SCERT follows those guidelines but along with this, state can make its own strategies according to the conditions of the state. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) are the board which frames curriculum and conducts the exams for the students. All these institutions are related with the school education.

Higher education: India has the third largest education system in the world.

University Grants Commission is the main governing body for the tertiary level of education. It helps to build the coordination between the center and state education bodies, sets standards for curriculum which is to be followed by different colleges and universities and advises and helps the government in making plans and policies related with the education. As of 2016, India has 799 universities which are as 49 central universities, 402 state universities, 124 deemed universities, 334 private universities, 5 institutions established and functioning under the State Act, and 75 Institutes of National Importance which include IIMs, AIIMS, IITs, IIST and NITs among others. Distance Education Council deals with the open education and

distance learning. Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) have approximately 3.5 million students across the world which makes it the largest open university in the world.

In the above discussion, we can see that government of India is making all efforts to achieve the 100% literacy rate. Different schemes have been started in this direction. Privatization of education is another step which is taken by government to fulfil goal. Although a lot have been done but still, we are lacking behind in many aspects of education. To mention a few are: evaluation system which gives emphasis on three-hour exam rather than the development of student through-out the year. Another is rote learning over understanding. Rote learning does not provide the understanding of the concepts, as a result the learning is not long lasting. Learning among the students is short lived, in other words we can say that learning lacks sustainability.

Large number of education systems fail the test of sustainability around the world. In such systems energy, talent and time of a student is wasted. A strong curriculum is the best guide for the best strong education system with the help of which students can develop and sustain the knowledge. The curriculum of the curriculum of 21st century has to be changed to face the major issues and threats which our world is going through. The following changes can be made in the curriculum to make students learn better and live the present and future lives:

- **Use of knowledge:** Schools and Colleges are importing the knowledge to the students but they need to know that where they can use this knowledge in their daily lives to solve the complex problems. The sustainable education for 21st century has to be Solution oriented which can help them to cope with real life challenges.
- **Use of communication and information** Young students need to know that how they can use the information, critically evaluate and organise for best use. They need to communicate clearly to find the ways and to summarise the results with the help of which they can share their views, ideas and thoughts resulting into Open minded discussions and constructive dialogues
- **Use of creative powers:** Mostly students are not allowed to think out of the box and follow their heart. The 21st century curriculum should allow the next

generation to get the new and creative ideas. Such ideas can be used to bring innovative methods to deal with the new age problems.

- **Use of technology:** Young students should know that howspare they can use ocean of technology to make the lives of people better, easier, rational, safer and peaceful. The curriculum should be designed to use technology for the people and should not be used to make next generation makes lazy and unproductive.
- **Let the change come:**Next generationshould not be afraid ofany changes but they should always be ready accept the challengers and deal with them with flexible and rational way out. They should develop their behaviour and decision making powers in such a way that they should be able to strike a balance between thepresent and theneeds of coming future.
- **Use of own learning:** The curriculum of 21st century should be such that the students should know how and where they can use their own learning strategies, they should learnto develop the skills and attitudes to sustain learning. It will be very helpful to develop the confidence and willingness to use their lifelong learning.
- **Sustainability of the planet:** It is the need of an hour to make everyone aware about the planet earth, the changes which are happening in environment. Everyone should know the ways to protect the earth, it ecological system and environment for the coming generations.

Need and Significance of Education: Education is that movement which is considered crucial for the development of Human resources. The various kinds of developments such as Intellectual, Social, personal are enhanced through education system and this further develop the society, Community and Nation.

Conclusion: In this article the concept of education has been explained. Indian education system has changed a lot from ancient gurukul system to present virtual learning in the modern schools. In India duration of schooling is about 12 years. These 12 years are divided into different levels as per their age. Indian education system is not course-based but it is examination- oriented. Colleges and Universities have rigid pattern of subjects and working hours. Schools are

divided into two types i.e. government schools and private schools. National Curriculum Framework is prepared by the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT). Curriculum is the backbone of any education system. So, it plays a pivot role in development of curriculum, pedagogical schemes, developing educational strategies and evaluation methodologies for the school education. The government of India is making all efforts to achieve the 100% literacy rate. Different schemes have been started in this direction. Some changes has been suggested in the curriculum to make students learn better and live the present and future lives. The Indian Education sector is amongst the largest in the world, with an extensive network of more than 1.4 million schools (with over 200 million students enrolled) and more than 850 universities and 40,000 higher education institutes.

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