

Review Study On Importance Of Rural Education In India

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Abstract: Quality and access to education is the major concern in rural schools as there are fewer committed teachers, lack of proper text books and learning material in the schools. Though Government schools exist, but when compared to private schools then quality is a major issue. Majority of people living in villages have understood the importance of education and know that it is the only way to get rid of poverty. But due to lack of money they are not able to send their children to private schools and hence depend upon government schools for education. Above that, in some of the government schools there is only one teacher for the entire school and if they don't show up at work, then it is a holiday. If the quality along with number of teachers and, that too committed teachers can be improved in these schools, then aspiring rural children and India can fulfill their dreams of doing something great. Some government schools in rural India are overly packed with students, leading to a distorted teacher- student ratio. In one such remote village in Arunachal Pradesh there are more than 300 students in class X which makes nearly 100 students in each classroom. In such a situation it is impossible for teachers to pay full attention towards each and every student, even if they are willing to help.

Key words: Rural Education; Annual Status Of Education; Second Grade Text Books;

INTRODUCTION

Every village is not provided with school which means that students have to go to another village to get education. Owing to this parents usually do not send their daughters to school, leading to a failure in achieving rural education in India. Poverty is another setback. Government schools are not as good and private schools are expensive. This results in a very low number of students actually clearing their secondary education and taking admission in a colleges for further studies. So the drop-out-rate at the secondary level is extremely high in villages. Only parents who can afford college education send their kids to secondary schools. If parents are not able to send their wards for higher education then all their previous efforts get wasted as completing just secondary education means a low paying job and the person is again struck in the same never ending cycle of money, life and poverty. Most textbooks are in English and since people in rural areas either speak their native language or Hindi, but not English that defeats the purpose. This results in lack of their interest in studies. Though some of the students from villages are really brilliant, as they have a wealth of practical knowledge and know how to survive even in very harsh conditions of life, difficulty in understanding their textbooks, lack of facilities and their poverty are a hurdle in their education. Quality related issues are far powerful than poverty. Students are not at all encouraged to think but they are asked to memorize pre-defined questions for exams. So for many students clearing examination at the end of the session, passing their

exam becomes more important than gaining knowledge. Also as per the new CBSE rule, every student is supposed to be promoted to the next class irrespective of marks in their examination. Hence majority of students do not bother to study, which means a decline in their education level . Neither students nor teachers take any interest in studies which is why the level of education is declining in India despite many efforts. The foundation to turn India into a strong nation has to be laid down at primary and rural levels and so the quality of education right from the beginning should be excellent. Education and text books should be made interesting. For rural students textbooks related to their culture, their traditions and values should also be there so as to create their interest in studies. The reasons behind so many drop-outs in spite of free education should be found out as this is a hurdle on the road to progress. Improvement in the condition of government schools, education quality, committed teachers and more salaries to these teachers should be part of development.

Difference Between City And Village students

There is a difference between city and village student not in terms of brain or development but their initial environment, skills, learning ability, availability of infrastructure, and access to different facilities. All of these must be considered while making the curricula which should not be different but how it is going to be taught would make the difference. Encourage the genuine rural students who are interested in education and make them competent. There are many examples of success in

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rural education in India like the Barefoot college, 8 Day Academy and Gurukul School in Bihar. These are innovative and successful examples of schools running in rural India. It is the time to replicate such efforts as our country and its rural population is very vast which means one of two stories of these kinds won't make any difference. Instead of this large number of such schools are required in rural India. It is also absolutely mandatory to evaluate the success of the schools and students at each and every level. Timely assessment will throw light on present problems and achievements. Let us try to build a solution around these problems which will resolve the overall issues of rural education in India.

Use of technology in rural education of India

Mobile phones, internet, tablets, iPads, their applications, social media even traveling, cooking, communication etc are part of our lives from the start till the end of the day. Technology is touching every aspect of society and changing it dramatically. But there is one very important and indispensable part of the society that has also been tapped by new innovations and discoveries and that is education. Like all other areas, in this case also urban areas are influenced to a greater extent than rural one. So much more could have been done to bring the revolution in learning process in rural areas of India. In India illiteracy is one of the biggest problems. Lack of easy access, lack of teachers, lack of interest, poverty, gender differentiation, lack of infrastructure, common curricula are few of the reasons which are holding back the progress in rural education. But with the use of technology mass education can be given and situation can be changed. To reach rural areas, first of all study material can be distributed to the students then online interaction and online videos can be made with teachers. Online teaching creates extended classroom communities for discussions, virtual classrooms and for interaction. There is another option in which classroom courses can be recorded in a real time and used for teaching the students who cannot attend these classes. This creates an expanded access to education. Rural education needs e-learning technologies. Apart from this audio conferencing and video conferencing should be made part of the education system in rural India. Teachers at the schools are not well equipped with the gadgets. So teachers should be given printers, laptops, for giving notes and notices to the students. By using technology the problem of unqualified teachers can also be solved.

Boost free education

Poverty is one of the most critical and common problems in rural India. This is also one of the major obstructions in propelling the education in rural India. This problem can be solved only if free education or education at very minimal fee is being offered. This is certainly going to bring up the literacy rate as more and more parents will be eager to send their kids to schools if they are not required to bear the expenses of their education.

To those who come from very low financial background, the government must provide for their textbooks, library and laboratory facilities so that they are not left with any reason for not attending the schools.

Establishment of more schools

Fortunately, with the changing times, the changes are being witnessed in the rural society as well. There is an increase in the number of parents in rural India who understand the importance of education in their children's lives.

However, there exists a problem of lack of ample number of schools in India.

Even if the private schools are established, they are beyond the pocket of common people because of being overtly expensive. The solution can be found only if the government takes an initiative to establish affordable schools which are pocket-friendly to the middle as well as lower economic groups of the society. The rural educational institutions suffer a lot due to the lack of proper infrastructure. The schools in rural India do not possess adequate number of well-trained teachers. Also, the student-teacher ratio is quite improper which makes it even more difficult to pay attention to every student. This leads to low quality education, hardly serving any purpose. If we are to lay the foundation of strong educational life, it needs to start right from the beginning and this can only be done if the school infrastructure is done well. The level of education has gone a notch up in urban areas with newer teaching techniques being introduced; the state of teaching techniques is still primitive and traditional in rural India. The rural schools are still stuck on inculcating rote learning in its students. This has to change. These schools must start adopting concept learning to develop their students holistically.

Computer literacy

Our country is progressing technologically; however, sadly, the imprint of this advancement has yet not reached to the rural areas. This has led to a digital gap in urban-rural India. The schools in rural India are required to get equipped with

computer education and need to be imparted with technological education as well. This will help them being at par with the level of urban education and develop themselves better. Even though the government is working to improve the state of education in the country, there is still a lot to be improved. There is a growing awareness among people about education; however the lack of infrastructure is being a major obstacle which needs an active intervention of the government. One of the biggest concerns of educators across the world, and especially in India, is making the present generation learners future-ready. India is relatively young as a nation with around 28 million youth population being added every year. More than 50 per cent of its population is below the age of 25 and more than 65 per cent are aged below 35. In 2020, the average age of an Indian is expected to be 29 years, while it will be 37 for China and 48 for Japan. However, India's high youth population won't be of help to the economy if universal education is not achieved all over India. The main problem India now faces is that all the pedagogical innovations are fit to improve the quality of urban education while the rural learners and their education remain largely neglected. With 65 per cent of the population residing in rural India, education there truly deserves much more attention, especially when it is plagued with so many problems - dearth of teachers, teacher absenteeism and poor quality of teachers.

Non-permanence of teachers and de-motivation

Most of the schools in rural areas are run by the government. They appoint ad hoc teachers, instead of permanent ones, who are poorly paid as compared to the huge remuneration of a full-time Trained Graduate Teacher (TGT). Moreover, promising career prospects, which is quite a motivation booster, is almost nil for the non-permanent teachers. This leads to dissatisfaction, eventually resulting in a dearth of teachers because they move away to more permanent jobs. Lack of accountability of teachers and school authorities has raised the rate of absenteeism. School Development and Management Committees (SDMCs), comprising parents and members of the local community, have been entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing teachers and their duties. However, research suggests that the committee has hardly seen success. Moreover, non-teaching duties like election invigilation often keep teachers away from schools. Furthermore, teachers often have to report for duty far away from their home. With an inadequate transport system in rural India, the distance only adds to their woes and often results in absenteeism. Several states have exempted candidates from Teachers' Eligibility

Test (TET) as only 20 per cent of the aspirants clear it. This wrong move, in an attempt to quickly fix the issue of dearth of teachers, has deteriorated the quality of education in the states even further. However, quality of teachers is a major concern not only in these states, but across the entire country.

Lack of quality in teacher training

There are many private teacher-training institutes in India, but the quality of the training they provide is unsatisfactory. Continuous professional development is a motivator for teachers, and enough attention is needed in this regard. Many remedies such as surprise school inspections, teacher-training courses etc. have been attempted to salvage the rural education scenario. Without being dismissive of any of these, I would like to point out the effectiveness of digital aids in battling the challenges plaguing our education system. This front has benefited, and gained visibility, thanks to some potential ventures by both government and non-government initiatives alike.

Government initiatives

Attuned to the Modi government's Digital India initiative, a couple of projects have been introduced in the school education segment. For instance, E-basta aims to make digital education via tablets and computers accessible to learners in rural areas. Digital learning can help develop critical thinking skills. The project aims not only to benefit learners in learning concepts, but also to make them comfortable with technology. Steps are already being taken to introduce digital aids in preschools. Though digital aids can never really replace teachers, initiatives of these kinds can make quality content available to them. Again, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), in partnership with state governments, is dedicated to enhance the capacity of all teachers in Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

Many teachers are not tech-savvy, and the teacher-training courses never really prepare them to handle digital aids in classrooms. Such schemes can go a long way in keeping them motivated besides improving their competence.

Non-government initiatives

eVidyaloka, a non-profit organisation, connects rural learners and teaching volunteers through digital classrooms. The passionate teachers are a varied bunch, consisting of housewives, IT professionals and retired defence personnel. The eVidyaloka team organises Skype classes according to the availability of volunteers and batch sizes. Although there is a shortage of teachers in our country, a huge number of college pass-outs

remain unemployed. The organisation tries to properly channelise the supply in the sector where there is a demand. However, frequent power cuts and poor internet connectivity in rural areas affect the productivity of the classrooms. Performance trends reveal that urban learners always secure better grades than their rural counterparts. It is not calibre that affects their performance, but the resources and opportunities available to them. Again, we cannot say that teaching is not a motivating profession. There are truly passionate teachers out there to make a difference. However, poor remuneration and inadequate training are discouraging. Technology, on its part, has the potential to positively affect the quality of education, and also to break the digital divide plaguing our system.

CONCLUSION

Majority of people living in villages have understood the importance of education and know that it is the only way to get rid of poverty. But due to lack of money they are not able to send their children to private schools and hence depend upon government schools for education. Above that, in some of the government schools there is only one teacher for the entire school and if they don't show up at work, then it is a holiday. If the quality along with number of teachers and, that too committed teachers can be improved in these schools, then aspiring rural children and India can fulfill their dreams of doing something great. Some government schools in rural India are overly packed with students, leading to a distorted teacher-student ratio. Quality and access to education is the major concern in rural schools as there are fewer committed teachers, lack of proper text books and learning material in the schools. Though Government schools exist, but when compared to private schools then quality is a major issue. Majority of people living in villages have understood the importance of education and know that it is the only way to get rid of poverty. But due to lack of money they are not able to send their children to private schools and hence depend upon government schools for education. Some government schools in rural India are overly packed with students, leading to a distorted teacher-student ratio. Thus, this paper has presented *Review study on Importance of Rural Education In India*

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