



Depreciation in Quality Teaching & Learning – (A Deterrent to Sustainable Development)

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Abstract

Today, education and technology are the master keys for respectable survival and progress. Progress and prosperity of any country depends on the kind of education that is provided to the people and to make them able enough to respond positively to emerging needs, Opportunities and Challenges of today's Globalization and hence to achieve Sustainable Development. But in present scenario, one of the common debates creeping in the background of our education system is that "quality" of the teaching & learning has declined a great deal over the past few decades. Although, the argument that "quality of teaching & learning has depreciated substantially" is sometimes taken for granted, its empirical backing is actually quite thin, and not as clear-cut as some might believe. The question that still derives our concerns is: "has really quality teaching & learning depreciated over time?" This paper tries to answer this particular question and investigates the causes of this decline or depreciation in the quality teaching & learning (more precisely; in our education system). Here, investigations are made through documents, literature, experts, head teachers, teachers and students concerned; all are explained and analyzed. And thus, in the light of the reviewed literature and gained opinions, conclusions are drawn and recommendations are made. The primary or general meaning of the word "depreciation" is the fall in quality or value of a fixed asset through physical wear and tear in use or passage of time or from any cause. Depreciation takes place irrespective of regular repairs and efficient maintenance. Depreciation charge is not an exact amount but based on estimate. Depreciation is a charge against the profits. And, that's what happening actually, as; no doubt, today the literacy has increased to a great extent but we are lacking in the quality. This stage is showing that we are growing in terms of quantity but not in terms of quality. Today, we are still not that, what we could be; after so many years of our independence. The study explored that over-population, unemployment, poverty, ignorance, low enrollment & high dropout rate, low budget allocation, delays and suspensions of educational matters (recruitments & admission processes, etc.) ineffective administration, non-flexible curriculum and outmoded teaching methods used by teachers, the imperfect evaluation system and bad inspection, improper health



facilities, political interference, lacking of co-curricular activities, lack of scholarships are the main reasons of declining educational standards and quality teaching & learning; and hence declining the standards of education which thereby deterring the sustainable development of our country.

Keywords: Depreciation, Quality Teaching and Learning, Sustainable Development.

Introduction:

The education is becoming one of the defining enterprises of the 21st century with the emergence of globalization and increasing global competition. In the fast changing and competitive world, education and technology are the master keys for respectable survival and progress. Progress and prosperity of the country depends on the kind of education that is provided to the people and to make them able enough to respond positively to emerging needs, Opportunities and Challenges of Globalization and hence to achieve Sustainable Development. In contemporaneous time the common debates skulking in the context of our education system is that “quality” of the teaching & learning has declined a great deal over the past few decades. Although, the argument that “quality of teaching & learning has depreciated substantially” is sometimes taken for granted, its empirical backing is actually quite thin, and not as clear-cut as some might believe. But it is true to great extent, as depreciation ascend directly through deterioration, and deterioration is actually has been occurring through various slip-ups and thus, affecting the quality of our education in all. The primary or general meaning of the word “depreciation” is the fall in quality or value of a fixed asset through physical wear and tear in use or passage of time or from any cause. Depreciation takes place irrespective of regular repairs and efficient maintenance. Depreciation charge is not an exact amount but based on estimate. Depreciation is a charge against the profits. And, that’s what happening actually, as; no doubt, today the literacy has increased to a great extent but we are lacking in the quality. This stage is showing that we are growing in terms of quantity but not in terms of quality. Today, we are still not that, what we could be; after so many years of our independence.

It is ironical to victim the existing situation and to assert that luckily; though we are able to achieve so many developments in every sphere, though we are more developed today, though we are more educated today, but unluckily we are lacking in the quality, in focusing on the quantity. As we



are losing & depreciating that particular thing, what actually we have not yet achieved completely; and that particular thing is “quality”- quality in our teaching & quality in our learning i.e., quality in our education system. No doubt, we have achieved a better literacy rate, but this is very true that we are lacking in the quality of our education, which can adversely affect our country and to sustain its development. John F. Kennedy has correctly remarked as “Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in Education”.¹

To vanquish the depreciation in the quality teaching & learning and to attain a sustainable development side by side; we should work hard to obtain the desired quality in our teaching and learning simultaneously; by mending all the wear and tears in our teaching and as well as learning; as teaching & learning both depends on one another, and only quality teaching can deliver quality learning and quality learning will produce quality teaching thereby. It is rightly said that “**Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of intelligent effort**”.² Thus, we should be more focused towards to enhance the quality of teaching & learning and to improve our education system for a good today and a better tomorrow.

Quality Teaching & Learning - A Way to Sustainable Development:

The process of education is now one of the crucial endeavors of the present world with the emergence of globalization and increasing global competition. In the fast changing and competitive world, education and technology are the master keys for respectable survival and progress. Progress and prosperity of the country depends on the kind of education that is provided to the people and thus it is the need of the hour to maintain the quality teaching & learning; and to make the population able enough to respond positively to emerging needs, Opportunities and Challenges of Globalization and hence to achieve Sustainable Development. And, to attain a sustainable development we should be focused enough towards our education system by enhancing the quality of teaching & learning. Malcolm X has rightly said in this regard as, “**Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.**”³

¹ Daren Dalcher, Quality-“From Quality to the Pursuit of Excellence”, Further Advances in Project Management-Guided Exploration in Unfamiliar Landscapes, Ch.1, and P.12, Roulledge (Taylor & Francis Group), 2017.

² Pickett & Richard, Educational Performance, Spirit Level: Why Equality is better for Everyone, Ch.8, P.103, Penguin Books Ltd., 2010.

³ John P. Hamilton, Reasons African American Men Persist to Degree Completion Institution in Higher Education; Still Not Equal- Expanding Educational Opportunity in Society, Ch. 12, p.178, Peter Lang Publishing, Inc., New York, 2007.



Causes of Depreciation of Quality Teaching & Learning:

The various causes observed and analyzed from various resources for the present depreciation of quality teaching & learning are over-population, unemployment, poverty, ignorance, Problem of “unemployment and vacant posts”, slow and unsteady process of recruitments and administration, low enrollment & high dropout rate, low budget allocation, delays and suspensions of educational matters (recruitments & admission processes, etc.) ineffective administration, non-flexible curriculum and outmoded teaching methods used by teachers are the main reasons of declining educational standards and quality teaching & learning. It may be said that, to some extent the imperfect evaluation system and bad inspection involved in this deterioration and depreciation. Improper health facilities, political interference, lacking of co-curricular activities, non-availability of scholarships are also some of the factors which depreciating the quality teaching & learning and hence declining the standards of education.

Suggestions to Curb the Depreciation in Quality Teaching & Learning:

To improve the educational standards and to heap on the quality on teaching & learning such policies should be encouraged throughout the system; that will bring coordination, consistency, and coherence to the improvement of the process of education and to intensify and attain a quality in teaching & learning; and to adopt such practices that can support the policies and everyone concerned should move in the same direction, with the assurance that the risks taken in the name of improving education will be supported by policies and practices throughout the system. Some of the recommendations in this regard, are given as:

- Measures should be taken to control over-population, poverty and ignorance; as it is a biggest hindrance in educating the people of our country with the desired quality & to have a sustainable development.
- Adequate number of school & colleges should be available in every part of our country.
- Teacher-student ratio must be maintained properly, in every institution.
- Problem of “unemployment and vacant posts” must be overcome at the earliest. As, we are in a time, when we have the educated unemployed at one side, and the vacant posts in our offices, on the other side.
- Slow and unsteady process of recruitments and administration should be checked; delays and suspension of any process must be avoided. So that we can have adequate number of working



staff to complete the work within the required/stipulated limits of time; & to bring a quality in every system of our country to achieve sustainable development.

- Steps should be taken more effectively in order to control the increasing drop-out rate.
- Involvement of teachers in non-teaching tasks, which is thereby reducing the teaching hours and hence resulting into a depreciated quality of teaching.
- The curriculum should be improved according to the needs of ever changing time and wishes or aspirations of the society.
- Introduce high quality selection procedure for teachers and offer the candidates better incentives.
- The administration should be effective and efficient. It should keep democratic approach. □
The evaluation system should be organized and modern techniques must be used to evaluate the abilities of a student.
- There should not be favoritism or political interference in educational institutions.
- The teachers should use modern teaching methods according to the age and psychological requirements of the students.
- There should be opportunities provided to the students for participating in different co-curricular activities.
- The process of inspection should be done in proper and democratic way and the concept of favors should be out of this process.
- There should be an increase in the scholarships provided, & should be given to deserving and intelligent students.
- Various teams of experts should be involved in performing the above mentioned task of improvement and formation.

CONCLUSION:

Depreciation means a gradual but continuous decrease in value of some fixed assets; and when it is related with our education system or the quality teaching & learning, it is resulting into a serious, severe and thoughtful matter for our country's present and future developments. Depreciation arises directly through deterioration; hence we should try to control & manage the deterioration of our education system for maintain the quality teaching & learning. Thus, It can be concluded that



over-population, unemployment, poverty, ignorance, low enrollment & high dropout rate, low budget allocation, delays and suspensions of educational matters (recruitments & admission processes, etc.) ineffective administration, non-flexible curriculum and outmoded teaching methods used by teachers are the main reasons of declining educational standards and quality teaching & learning. It may be said that, to some extent the imperfect evaluation system and bad inspection involved in this deterioration and depreciation. Improper health facilities, political interference, lacking of co-curricular activities, non-availability of scholarships are also some of the factors which depreciating the quality teaching & learning and hence declining the standards of education which thereby deterring the sustainable development of our country. Hence, in order to upsurge and intensify educational standards such policies and practices should be encouraged throughout the system; that will bring coordination, consistency, and coherence to the improvement of the process of education and attain a quality in teaching & learning.

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