



## A REVIEW ON INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

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### **Abstract**

*The benefits of education that are extolled from time to time and there is much strength in that argument since the one thing that separates man from animals is the ability to advance knowledge and expertise from one generation to the next.*

*In the modern time India can be given back its status of a wealthy knowledge full land full of ethics and moral beauty. The only step to be taken is to improve ourselves and there is a need of strict laws to appreciate the good ones and to punish the wrong ones whatever the field is. India includes a system of compulsory education to all children up to the year of 14. Under this age all children must be given education in any government or private college. If any child is forced to do any other ob apart from being educated the person involved in such act will be treated as per law. After gaining the primary education a child can be given secondary education and passes high school (10th) and inter (10+2).*

*For providing this level of education both the central and state governments are involved through their boards made for this purpose. There are also private boards who conduct high school or intermediate exams. After their 10+2 a child can pursue bachelor, master and other specialization degree in many fields of their choice.*

*The government should take steps to increase the number of primary schools so that people of each village can get education easily.*

*There should be more emphasis given on adult education as it is necessary to teach the parents and guardians first so that they become keen towards there ward's education. The role of the private institutions should be made restricted and so that people don't depend too much on them. In this way they will not be taking high amount of fees as they want.*

*The condition of the government colleges and institution should be raised to a reasonable level. New curriculum should replace the old ones so as to provide latest knowledge to students. Education loans should be made available easily so that even poor students can afford high level of education. There should be strict laws regarding the cheating and coaching mafias. Also the system of education should be made free of corruption. Everyone should be given equal opportunity without discriminating on the basis of rich and poor or on the basis of gender. Especially girl's education should be given topmost priority.*

### **Knowledge Is Power**

It is usually the benefits of education that are extolled from time to time and there is much strength in that argument since the one thing that separates man from animals is the ability to advance knowledge and expertise from one generation to the next.

Our country India has always been famous for gaining education since the Vedic period. The dynasties which ruled this land of knowledge were taking more care of the education and giving knowledge to the world. Due to this India was esteemed high in the

eyes of the world and even the foreigners of that time were interested in gaining knowledge from this rich country. Therefore, from all around the world people came to India and gained a variety of knowledge which they spread all over the world. Due to this India was given great recognition throughout the world and ancient universities in India were famous for imparting knowledge.

### **Change in the System**

Until the 17th century India was considered to be the richest country in the world. But due to the arrival of the foreign colonizers and the wrong policies of the then rulers, India lost almost all its richness wealth wise as well as knowledge wise. The colonizers (English, French and Portuguese) were clear in their approach. They knew that if they want to gain full profit from India they have to befool the people. For this they entirely changed the education system and made it out of the reach of common peoples. Even the rich ones were in less numbers and they never considered the new government as their enemies.

### **Post Independence Period**

After the independence was won the leaders and the government gave education huge priority because it was the only way to mend the rotten down economy. Educated people will know how to carry their responsibilities and how to improve the condition of the country. For this various systems and schemes were included to give education to all. And now even though not all but a major portion has become literate.

### **Prevailing Education System**

The modern education system has been based on one formula: 'cheap, compulsory and common education to all'. Even people are able to decide by their conscience that what way of education will be best suited for them. But still there are many people who know nothing about words and literacy. So they are in the most of the need to get a proper education. It is needed to provide education to all because other nations are way ahead in the field of education. It's all in the hand of the government that what should be the exact type of system in which education for all is secured. And even the government has taken great measures to increase the level of education.

### **The Main Features of Modern Education System in India are as Follows:**

A system of compulsory education to all children up to the year of 14. Under this age all children must be given education in any government or private college.

If any child is forced to do any other ob apart from being educated the person involved in such act will be treated as per law.

After gaining the primary education a child can be given secondary education and passes high school (10th) and inter (10+2).

For providing this level of education both the central and state governments are involved through their boards made for this purpose.

There are also private boards who conduct high school or intermediate exams.

After their 10+2 a child can pursue bachelor, master and other specialization degree in many fields of their choice.

### **Advantages of Education**

**Human Capital** – To build upon the previous point, when looked at from a macro perspective, an educated population provides a more valuable human capital base to the economy. A developed economy has maximum concentration of jobs in the tertiary sector which requires a highly skilled work force which has expertise in specific fields. For instance the most developed country in the world, the USA has the most skilled human resources with



maximum efficiency. Also, developing countries which adopt tried and tested technologies from other nations require skilled engineers, technicians and managers who can put it to good use. This can only be achieved by providing quality education to the population at a primary, secondary and higher secondary level.

**Broadens perspective** – This is one of the key advantages of education. Even if we consider economic benefit of education but its most important contribution that it helps in changing minds of people. Education makes people understand other cultures, religions, places and culture. It helps gain understanding of what the world is all about. This very important if we see from perspective of developing nations which are plagued by old notions. In countries such as India girl and boy child are differentiated. Even worse women are considered cause of girl child while science tells that it is the other way round. Similar old style dogmas exist everywhere in the world and the only way to eradicate them is proper education.

**Hones potential** – An education provides individuals with the ability to develop their potential to a much greater extent. Exposure to different fields and interests allows a person to choose between a numbers of options and hone in on the one field that they have the ability to excel in. This also helps develop interest in a number of other non-academic fields such as art, culture, music, all of which are important to have a wholesome life. It improves interaction between people and results in more efficient exchanges.

**Better job prospects** – The conventional way of proceeding in life through the ages has been in four stages: childhood and education, putting knowledge to work by obtaining a career, raising a family, growing old and retiring from the daily conundrums of life. The logical step after the initial childhood years is to attend an educational institute and gather as much knowledge and information as possible for a better life in the future. This helps in developing a better base for securing a career later thus advancing the individual into the next phase of life. This helps in providing the basics such as food, water and shelter as well as a host of other needs. Thus, a better education will ensure higher returns and subsequently a better quality of life. Advantages and disadvantages of education

**Dispels inequality** – For individuals who do not have a wealthy or fortunate background, the provision of quality education puts them at the same footing as the vast majority of job seekers allowing them to rise from their present level. This phenomenon, also known as distributive justice, helps in reducing inequalities, both economic and social, in society.

### **Disadvantages of Education**

Though it is widely accepted that education is essential for the growth and development of an individual, the medium through which this is carried out can vary from one place to another. Some societies may be of the opinion that education can be transmitted just as well through unconventional media as it is through schools, colleges and other education institutes. In olden times knowledge was passed on over generations through learning on the job and elders' stories; a formal route of attending school and college was not stressed upon. Here we explore some of the disadvantages of education.

- **Status symbol** – These days a quality education has become a means for discrimination. As if the regular economic and social barriers weren't enough, now the level of education and place from where it has been obtained, have become valid grounds for looking down upon people. People who attend other less prestigious schools are regarded with disdain and the entire concept of self-worth is derived from the grade or CGPA system. People are judged by the numbers they carry around – GPAs, ranks, grades which may not be a wholesome representation of who they are or what their

potential is. Although it is no crime to nurture excellence, refraining from making it a criterion to judge people on is important.

- Restricts ideas – Some forms of education blindly impose ideas upon young minds instead of teaching them to think for themselves. The whole purpose of an education is to allow the learner to apply themselves to think bigger and better. However a faulty education system can do more harm than good in this respect. It can be argued that those without a formal education are more ready and equipped to handle a dog eat dog world. They may have gathered their knowledge from experience for which there is no substitute. Hence, unless the mode of education is wholesome and nurtures all aspects of an individual's personality, it may not be as advantageous as expected.

After exploring both aspects of the argument, it is safe to say that the advantages and disadvantages of education point toward one direction. Though it has its drawbacks, if implemented correctly, an education system is very helpful in improving the quality of human life. It helps in transmitting knowledge, skills, customs and values, all of which are essential in the development of an individual. Thus, this discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of education have led us to the conclusion that the importance of education far outweighs its negatives.

### **Drawbacks of The Modern Education System**

The major drawback of the prevailing system of education is that it is not easily affordable. Today in India more than 37% people are living below poverty line. So they can't afford education even at primary level.

The government schools have not been able to perform as expected and they don't possess a good image among people.

The next option is the private institutions who give degrees from private to post graduate. But they are very costly and also the admission procedure is too complicated for common man to access.

People in some parts of the country are still conservative and apprehend modern system of education.

The privatization in all sectors is the major drawback.

There is a craze among people for some particular courses while some courses with equal opportunities are simply rejected. This has led to the business of coaching as there are more aspirants than seats available in some institutions and for some courses.

### **Other Drawbacks**

#### **No Practical Knowledge**

In schools and colleges, lots of attention is given to theory and books and practical knowledge is completely ignored. When these students pass the exam, they forget all the things they have studied due of lack of practical experience. In India, parents and teachers expect their students to score high in the exam (rather than acquiring the quality knowledge) and thus the education becomes a rat race. Practical knowledge and skill based education is still far away from the reach of students studying in schools, colleges and universities.

#### **Lack of Research or Critical Analysis**

Problems solving skills are one of the most important things that are required when students complete their studies and look for jobs to earn money and build up their career. This can be learned by participating in problem solving projects with the use of creative and critical thinking. In India, despite the fact that we have the highest number of engineering graduates, still we lack technological innovation. Students must have capability to solve the

problems and difficulties that the country is facing today. Most of the students don't have their own approach towards any problem and they do so only on the instruction of their parents, teachers, neighbors and friends. Schools and colleges must pay attention to case studies, research based assignment and problem solving project so that students can get the fresh ideas about their surroundings and can easily solve the problem they face.

### **Absence of Personality Development Program**

Schools and colleges in India demand student's performance in terms of marks and they are not well exposed to the external world. When students complete their graduation and enter into the job market, they face problems to get a job as per their capability simply because they don't meet the criteria and skills required for the job. Companies want to hire those individuals that are aware of the course of the action. It is highly essential to start personality development program in schools and colleges to improve the education standards.

### **Absence of Entrepreneurship Development Scheme**

The majority of the students want to get a job after finishing their education. They don't like starting their own business because they are of the view that they can't become a business person and face the challenges during the circulation of their business. The absence of Entrepreneurship abilities is halting the progress of our country in several fields. Our education system should be such that it should generate enthusiasm to become a business person and it should also produce scientist, writers, thinkers, designers etc only that India can be knowledge based economy and claim to be regarded as superpower.

### **Cast Reservation and Paid Seat**

In Indian education system, seats are reserved for reserved cast and rich students. The education system should give equal chance to all students irrespective of their cast and creed. In India, the child of good a rich family gets good education just because of ample money whereas the child of a poor family hardly gets the primary education. The government data discloses the better reality that only one child out of 7(that takes birth in India) goes to school. This problem should be taken into notice as soon as possible and do some serious work to change the situation as soon as possible.

### **Outdated Syllabus**

There is an urgent need to change the present system of higher education in the country. We need to ensure quality in education as well as quantity. Students are getting the knowledge from outdated syllabus. Lots of technological and scientific improvements are taking place in India and therefore the courses are Graduate and post graduates must be updated as per the industrial and technological development.

### **Other Problems**

- 1) Expenditure in our universities is as high as 50%
- 2) Many schools and colleges use foreign languages as the medium of instruction which hampers the natural educational growth of millions of students who are not at home in foreign languages
- 3) Too much importance to examination and Political interference in schools and colleges
- 4) Rapid increase of irrelevant college and universities and
- 5) Absence of library, laboratory and other facilities in schools and colleges.





## Steps to Improve the Current System

**Following steps can be taken to improve the current education system and bring it in everyone's reach.**

The government should take steps to increase the number of primary schools so that people of each village can get education easily.

There should be more emphasis given on adult education as it is necessary to teach the parents and guardians first so that they become keen towards their ward's education.

The role of the private institutions should be made restricted and so that people don't depend too much on them. In this way they will not be taking high amount of fees as they want.

The condition of the government colleges and institutions should be raised to a reasonable level.

New curriculum should replace the old ones so as to provide latest knowledge to students.

Education loans should be made available easily so that even poor students can afford high level of education.

There should be strict laws regarding the cheating and coaching mafias.

Also the system of education should be made free of corruption.

Everyone should be given equal opportunity without discriminating on the basis of rich and poor or on the basis of gender.

Especially girl's education should be given topmost priority.

In this article the features of prevailing system of education in India is discussed. Though this we are able to understand the flaws in the current system and new steps can be taken into account when it comes to improve it. Through this article we can know what the needs of education are and the prevailing system of education will be more clear. The conclusion that we can draw is that even in the modern time India can be given back its status of a wealthy knowledge full land full of ethics and moral beauty. The only step to be taken is to improve ourselves and there is a need of strict laws to appreciate the good ones and to punish the wrong ones whatever the field is. The answer lies within the question. How to improve the system of education? And the answer is "Education". The only way to improve education is education.

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