

# **A Critical analysis of present education system in India and its impact on economic development**

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## **Abstract**

A sound education system equipped with innovative techniques and methods of teaching, learning and research as well as having all-encompassing knowledge centers, learned and energetic academicians and adequate infrastructure is a pre requisite for the overall development of any nation. An urgent need of restructuring and overhauling the present education system in India has been an issue of debate since independence. A significant number of Indian citizens are still either illiterate or they don't have sufficient knowledge. If India were to attain the target of literate and skilled manpower in real sense, it would have to develop the result oriented education system together with vocational courses providing training and skills for the self employment. The present paper tries to examine the current status of education system mainly at primary level and also to find out the obstacles in the extension of education facilities to masses along with modus operandi to revive the system.

## **Introduction**

Though the history of education in India is very fascinating and it had attained a great position in the world, but today's education policy and procedure has not been found very effective and relevant so as to make entire population of India educated and skilled and employable. In ancient time Indian Gurukul system of imparting knowledge was famous all over the world. In Mughal empire period an interface between the Indian and Muslim education was seen. The present scenario, characterized by three tier education system, is the arrangement made by Britishers in colonial rule. In fact a Strong restructured education system is the bloodstream for the growth and development in the post liberalized era of Indian economy which if infused in proper potency, could accelerate the optimum returns to be achieved in strategic national planning.

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Education has also an impact on society in a significant manner. Any drastic change in society and social values is possible only through educated people. Education dispels superstition, inculcates a proper understanding of importance of hygiene sanitation, environmental pollution and vaccination toward off diseases. In nutshell education helps ensuring a disciplined and peaceful social life is possible only through the proper education.

In post independence period, India's attention was focused on increasing the literacy percentage. In pre independence era literacy percentage was only 18%. In those days, educated youths were scarce and who so ever passed higher secondary or graduate level of education got job quite easily. Although, in post independence period attention was focused on improving literacy percentage but the education system remained the same as propounded by Lord Macaulay which aimed to rule Indians through educated Indians.

Though general awareness in masses about education has improved a lot but there is still need for considerable improvement, particularly in rural areas where literacy percentage is just 58%. In the case of female the literacy percentage is just 54.16% for whole of the country. It is low because in rural areas , female child even in modern times, is supposed to be an alien in her own home as per the notions that ultimately she has to go to other family and manage her own affairs. Accordingly, she is made well conversant with domestic duties rather than to go to school. Moreover, because of

inadequate security in rural areas, people fear to send their female child to school, which may not to be in close proximity. Needles to stress that denial of education to the female child perpetuates ignorance and superstitious belief, which take a heavy toll each year. In fact, education of female child is all the more important because she is the one who can build up the character of her children i.e. the younger generation.

In the case of male child, the position is also not very encouraging. despite the general awareness about the education and various odds blocking education viz. economic poverty of parents to bear the cost of education ,books , stationary , dresses and above all the help that get in agricultural operations ,people send their male child to get educated and get a good job but the un congenial surroundings , poor condition of school buildings , lack of basic facilities of life lavatories ,seating facilities and above all the teachers , who besides teaching are saddled with other duties , both personal and official , tend to slacken interest of students in education. Teachers merely ask the students to copy from the books. The result is that though they may be able to write letters, their level of knowledge is extremely low .The fault lies not with the students but with the teachers who take little interest in grooming the young generation .

Such gross neglect of education at the formative stage in rural areas results in drop out at V standard. These young boys ,in order to earn some money to live a life of their own and help the family , pick up work as domestic servant , helpers in dhabas, tea

stalls etc. where they toil from morning till night to earn their bread. It is not uncommon that these frustrated youths fall an easy prey to unsocial element, who promise them good income on the satisfactory performance of jobs assigned to them. The job can vary pick pocketing to drug smuggling, chain snatching, thefts etc these activities pose a serious law and order problems in cities and towns.

Those who manage to reach secondary or higher secondary stage are faced with multiplicity of education pattern i.e. ICSE, CBSE Board of education of the state. For parents on transferable jobs seeking admission for their children is a horrible job. These young students find hard to complete with their field colleagues coming from English medium schools. Medium instruction is English. Paucity of Hindi version of authentic books dampens their enthusiasm for studies. They start talking interest in activities other than education and some even get political backing for getting elected to assemblies and parliament. The fate of economic development of the country can well be imagined in such a set up where self interest reigns supreme.

Such a chaotic socio-economic situation would not have arisen had the youth been provided with adequate skill during the period of their studies to earn and lead an honorable life. The problem is how to channelize and motivate the young generation to economic activity, particularly when educated youths shun manual labor and prefer white collared jobs. No doubt, short term entrepreneurial courses have been

introduced in recent years to generate self employment, they often brings tears when the project fails, simply because manual labor is shunned in the present day society.

### **The Way Out**

Thus A great challenge before our economy is how to disentangle the society from this pitiable situation and place it in a sound economic condition. This could be most likely achieved through a well planned strategy and full commitment of the planners as well as executors working at various levels. We have to transform the present education pattern to make it as a source of earning through self reliance educational policy may be able to inculcate in the younger generation a will to do something new and physical strength to achieve their goal. Almost similar recommendations were made about 50 years ago at the National commission on female education when chair person Mrs. Durga Bai Deshmukh had recommended that girls be provided such skills which may earn them some money while learning and their earning should be dispersed to them weekly so that education may no longer remain a bar for their earning activities. A good idea indeed which remained in cold storage.

The so called 'earn while you learn' or 'self reliant education policy is to be drawn up not by the educationists or by the education department of various states but has to encompass the co operation of the grassroots level administrators, polytechnics, industrial training institutes, sports authority of India, the private sector and above all a complete

rescheduling of our industrial policy. Much of the success of the above program depends on the active co operation of grass root administration i.e. the Panchayats and Gram Sabah's where it has to be introduced fast. It has to be impressed upon them that such a pattern of education, adopted at the primary level, will bring them an income rather than an expenditure on the education of village youths. They may even have some share in the income received by way of the products produced by the students and sold into the market. It is not intended to perpetuate child labour. It only means earning while learning. It will make schools more popular.

### Modus Operandi

Let it be clear that in the proposed self reliant system of education, the curriculum of studies shall be the same all over the country up to the higher secondary level. Such a curriculum of studies has to be practical oriented rather than theoretical one. Whatever book or curriculum of studies are recommended by the NCERT or any other such apex body has to be followed in all states with minor modification in consultation with state concerned on the basis of their geographical conditions. The medium of instruction shall be in the mother tongue. The books recommended by the apex body of the education shall be suitably translated in various languages to meet regional requirements. A word of caution is however needed that the common technical terms should be adopted as such along with their regional equivalent terms so that students when they go for higher studies may not find themselves in deep sea.

In the present educational system students are taught various subjects without any consideration to the child's aptitude or interest in any subject. If he fails in any of the subjects (May be on account of lack of interest in the subject) he fails to get promotion to a higher class. In our day to day life a common man who has studied up to the higher secondary level, most of the subjects have little relevance in his day to day transactions for earning his livelihood. What a common man needs is a knowledge to read, write and simple arithmetic i.e. addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, percentage, ratio, proportion and simple and compound interest. Thus the main thrust in the new educational pattern envisaged above shall be on:

- a) Basic three R 's(Reading, writing and arithmetic)
- b) Arts and Crafts(needle work, painting, greeting cards, soft toys, refine pottery, repairs of tube bails, generator, thresher, Winnower)etc.
- c) Practical science(Preparation of compost manure ,preservation of fruits, jams)etc
- d) Sports (Kabbadi, Football, hurdle race, Volley ball, Wrestling) etc.
- e) Health and hygiene and sanitation, environmental pollution from primary to higher secondary level.

It may be mentioned here that aptitude test shall be taken at class Vth , VIIIth and XIIth so that a student may be diverted to respective field of his choice . Such aptitude shall be conducted by psychologists and private sectors experts. Professional courses

shall be available from v to xi standard so that a student eager to earn some money may opt for them.

This does not however mean that it is intended to strangulate higher studies at the cost of technicians and crafts men. All the subjects being taught at present shall continue to be taught but with a practical touch, wherever necessary. Even if a student fails in any subject, other than basic R's and crafts, he shall be eligible to get promotion to higher classes. At the time of their entry into the graduation courses it would be presumed that the student has the requisite knowledge to peruse higher studies. A rigorous elimination test shall be conducted to weed out students not interested in higher studies. The bulk of the students failing to qualify in the admission test can very well establish their own business on the basis of their technical knowledge of arts and crafts, they studies and practiced up to higher secondary stage.

In the fast changing technologies of the modern times as also frequent changes in the tastes and demand of the consumers, it is absolutely necessary to keep such artisans and craftsmen abreast with the latest technology being developed every day. For this, it is proposed to establish reorientation courses of short duration in various branches at all ITIs, polytechnics and research center. Persons desirous of improving their skill and quality and output of products or services can join such center by remitting requisite fee for such courses.

While selecting teachers for degree colleges and universities, due emphasis has to be laid on their professional knowledge

and above all their communication skills. A teacher/professor may be an expert in ones own field but he lacks good communication skills, he would not be able to transmit his knowledge to the students in the most acceptable and intelligible form as result of which students may develop a short of allergy or fear complex in that subject .While sharing his vast knowledge with the students, the teacher has to wean out portions irrelevant to their level and communicate his or her knowledge at the students level of terminology . Such teachers / experts with good communication skill be employed on per lecture basis or short term contract say 2-3 years. In fact, rating of teachers and experts be carried out at all levels on the basis of their knowledge and communication skills.

Professional experts having excellent communication skill can also be given a sort of royalty for their audio and video cassettes of their lectures. It would not only mean more income to such talented experts but will also immensely benefit the students who may have missed some of the lectures for reasons beyond their control. Such audio and video cassettes be made available at all libraries and the facility may be made available to students at nominal charges. This will require equipping the libraries to play these cassettes and even prepare photocopies of the lectures. This may prove a boon in the field of distant education system being taken up now a days.

Universities shall also have to formulate a policy of introducing courses much needed in the present day economic activity .For this they shall have to be in constant touch

with the industrial requirement and the type of trained youth they may like to have to man their economic and industrial programmes. At the post graduation level screening tests for scholarly and research temperament shall have to be introduced. At the research level, besides fundamental research, stress should be laid to solve problems facing the country in the field of technology. Those interested in continuous research programs, laboratory facility be provided to them at Regional Science Centers on annual membership fee basis. This fee would be needed to meet the expenses on maintenance of delicate instruments and supply of necessary research materials.

As the future research program shall be more problem oriented, the industry shall have several options open:

- (1) To select candidates for probationary training and absorption, if their progress suits their requirements.
- (2) To off load their short term and long term problems to the universities and research institutions.
- (3) To sponsor such programs for their own benefits.

With the above concept of education in view it would defiantly require defining sectors for domestic /cottage industries and big industries. Goods being produced in domestic /cottage industries sector may have to be barred for big industries. The big industrial unit can produce small equipments /products needed by domestic and cottage industry sector. Another way to cut the competition between various sectors can be

way of assigning production of various components of the product domestic / cottage level and their final assembly and brand marketing and quality control by big industrial units.

Such a plan of radical restructuring of the education system would require complete cohesion and co-operation of all concerned in alleviating poverty, unemployment, social tension, law and order problem and better export oriented programmes. To the industries it will mean better trained personnel at all levels, a scope of earning livelihood to the dismayed present day unemployment youths and better products and services at cheaper rates to the public. When the per capita income will increase the consumption pattern and demand for quality product will increase invariably. Naturally, the industrial growth will get a boost. With better and effective quality control, foreign markets in developing and even in developed countries can be utilised to earn more foreign exchange for the country. India is large country with variety of climate zones, plants, mineral resources and a huge labor force much cheaper than in other countries. Identification, cultivation and processing of real herbs, collection and processing of animal products like milk and milk products, preservation and packaging of fruits, vegetables and flowers and better utilization of indigenously available raw material for production of quality handicrafts for international markets can easily be for seen. Production of solar lanterns and their repairs and solar battery cells can also be taken up by given them proper training.

Local latent for producing new gadgets and innovations must also be encouraged and awarded with due recognition. All this can happen if all sections of the society actively participate in this programme of remodeling the education pattern, which is the prerequisite for industrial and economic growth of the country. Let not the egoistic attitude and self-interest of few thwart an attempt to restructure our education pattern best suited for India emerging as an economic power.

## Conclusion

This has been largely experienced that no country could ever progress economically merely by having a large unskilled labour force. The potential for economic development may be there in abundance but to exploit them, technically qualified persons are needed. If we fail to produce such technically qualified persons, we cannot fully utilize our resources. If we depend on foreign expertise then naturally we shall have to hire them on their terms, which in the long run may not be in the interest of the country. For this purpose we shall have to restructure our education system especially on the primary level in such a way that parents and children both become aware of the benefits of education directly in the form of 'earning while learning' and indirectly in the knowledge and skill enhancement what would be required in future for employment. This would definitely help increase in efficiency of workable population which, in turn, will accelerate production capacity of the

workforce. It is quite natural that when production increases at a fast pace and at lesser cost, it not only means higher per capita income, better nutritional standards but also inflow of foreign exchange by way of export of goods produced.