

# A STUDY ON THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN INDIA'S SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

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**ABSTRACT:** Social transformation and social growth may be achieved via education. When the current social structure or network of social institutions fails to meet the demands of society, social change is unavoidable. Also, as new requirements, discoveries, and innovations emerge, as well as when society's thinking shifts. Education was traditionally assigned a conservative role as an important force in society. Its primary goal was to familiarise future generations with current worldviews in order to keep society functioning. There has been a strong emphasis on education's role in a nation's service throughout times of rapid cultural progress like the 20th century and now. Experimenting in education is possible and promoted at relative wealth and peace times, and more practical and idealistic aims may be pursued. Of course, education dramatically impacts one's moral and ideological outlook. Changes in social, national, and international issues profoundly affect how people live their lives today. A shift in people's outlooks and ways of thinking can be sparked and directed by widespread education. This study focuses on how education may transform the way people interact with each other and grow in society. It also explores the nature & causes of social change and how education contributes to and is affected by these processes.

**KEYWORDS:** Education, Development, Rural India, Social change.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

In modern, complex industrialised civilisations, education has a significant societal impact. Information and knowledge may be gleaned from it more tangibly than from any other source. Socially, it has an impact. In today's culture, the function of education as a catalyst for social change and progress is widely recognised. For its own growth and success, society must adapt from time to time. Changes in nature, social structures, social behaviour, or social interactions are all examples of social change. Accepting new ideas may lead to evolution and growth, which is why change is so important. Various factors contribute to social change, including changes in both the social and nonsocial environments. Society is bound to change. One of the most critical factors for growth is education in all forms. Human capital investment is essential to a country's long-term economic growth. Education improves people's self-awareness and global perspective [1]. As a result, their quality of life increases as well as that of society at large. A crucial part of the development process, education is a tool for societal transformation and development. The importance of education in human capital management cannot be overstated. Entrepreneurship and technical developments are fueled by education because of its ability to increase productivity and creativity in individuals. To ensure economic and social growth and improve income distribution, it is very important. Poverty may be eliminated by providing access to a wide range of work options through education. Adapting to today's rapidly shifting social and economic conditions necessitates regular updates to the educational system. A more practical approach to education is preferred over a focus on abstract concepts. Instead of focusing on the academic components, students should be given hands-on experience. To create a strong learning environment, the use of information technology (ICT) modifies how students interact with knowledge in a self-directed and constructive manner. There are many ways to incorporate ICT into current teaching techniques, but it is also recognised as a crucial tool to encourage innovative ways of teaching and learning [2]. There are several disciplines where technology is a concern, including education. This is because technology has taken over as the primary means of transferring information in many countries.

## **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL CHANGE:**

All civilisations are prone to change and to oppose change at the same time. In a culture, dynamic mechanisms stimulate new ideas and new ways of thinking. Changes for advancement are readily socially accepted for the sake of its well-being when they are necessary. Cultural shifts occur in society as a result of the transfer of items and concepts from one culture to the other. There will be a loss of culture when new cultural norms take their place. Changes in society's well-being might be expected due to this process. The

roots of traditions, superstitions, ignorance, and backwardness may be broken down by education. A characteristic can spread from one culture to another, but its cultural meaning will not follow. Invention and cultural loss are two of the factors that contribute to society's evolution. Technological or ideological inventions include inventions of tools, scientific equipment, or transportation techniques and the development of new mathematical theories [6]. A protracted period of social transition can be a time of cultural imbalances and societal shocks. Still, education can help prepare the community for these and help the people resist instant satisfaction in favour of long-term goals for modernisation, which can be accomplished through education. The power of education to effect positive social change refers to the character, institutions, behaviour, social interactions of a society, group of people, and so on, and the overall structure of society as a whole. Interdependent: Education and social transformation go hand in hand. For the advancement and expansion of civilisation, both are essential. Educating and changing the world are two-way streets. For the preservation and transmission of the entire cultural heritage, education serves as a means and prerequisite for social transformation. To bring about societal change, education is the first step. Preparation for change in society is facilitated by education. In order to bring about societal transformation, education is the most important factor to consider. For social change, education is the most potent force. Only education for everyone, at all levels and at all ages, can bring about the required societal transformation. There are two ways in which education and social transformation are linked: education as a tool and education as a product. "An educational tool is employed to bring about desired social change, and in the latter scenario, educational structural changes follow as a result of the social changes already in place.

### **In terms of education and social transformation, there are three main types:**

Social change cannot occur without education. Throughout the history of sophisticated countries, it has been shown that education is a prerequisite for any social revolution. Because of their lack of education, illiterates are content with their lives. Their current social and economic statuses have nothing to do with their efforts to improve them [7]. Instead of acting rationally, they are influenced by dogma, tradition, or fate. Education teaches people how to think logically and objectively, making better decisions.

Education as a Means of Changing the World Education and social transformation are mutually reinforcing. In addition, it affects the way people live their lives. On the other hand, societal change directly impacts the diffusion of education. Education is a byproduct of social transformation. Pre- and post-societal shifts serves a vital role. In the beginning, there are societal changes, and then there are changes in the teaching process. The educational system adapts to the changing requirements of the community.

As a Means of Changing the World, Education As a tool of promoting social change, education is viewed as a means to that end. Education alters one's perspective on social and economic issues and challenges one's preconceptions. The children's talents and knowledge are honed. Industrialisation is a major shift in society, and it is aided by technical education. As a result of education, society's cultural traditions are preserved and passed on to the next generation. Motivates youngsters to embrace new patterns so they may stay dynamic and forward-looking. A well-rounded education serves the needs of society and propagates concepts that encourage social progress in all aspects of life, including the workplace.

A lot has changed in society over time. As a result of both individual and group acts, new ideas have evolved, and societal transformations have been brought about. When diverse cultures, languages and faiths coexist in a society, there will inevitably be societal shifts. Cultural shifts occur as a result of these societal changes. As part of cultural transformation, there is a shift in the structural and functional of social organisations.

### **SOME OF THE MAIN CAUSES OF SOCIAL CHANGE:**

The following are the causes that cause social change in a society: A look at the demographics: It is undeniable that changes in population size and composition significantly impact societal transformation. Living standards and social structures are both altered due to the rapid increase in humankind's size and diversity.

There is always room for new patterns to form because of the competition between generations. The next generation rejects some parts of social life, while others are accepted and innovated upon by the current one.

Technology has a significant impact in societal transformation since it alters the structure of the entire society. Society's views, values, and even its customs have changed dramatically as a result of these rapid

technological breakthroughs. Despite our best efforts, we are unable to control the elements of nature, including weather, which has a significant impact on our way of thinking and our traditions and rituals. The absence of natural resources makes it harder to advance technology in a country. Legislations: The law is ever-evolving. It affects people's behaviour, attitudes, and values, resulting in societal transformation.

Humans are always looking for a new challenge. No one wants to be bound by the same surroundings, traditions, and customs that he holds dear. Humans are open to new ideas that can help improve the world around them. Modernisation occurs as a result of these developments [8].

### **EDUCATION AS A TOOL OF SOCIAL CHANGE:**

All spheres of life can benefit from educational programmes that meet the demands of society. Consequently, education has become a social process through which society shapes children to fit its requirements and accepted norms of behaviour. As a tool for social transformation, education has the following functions:

- Education stabilises eternal values, defends them from the negative impacts of social changes, and promotes their awareness and acceptance in a way that, despite social changes, people in general maintain their confidence in these values. Our culture holds moral and spiritual ideals in high esteem. These principles should be protected, preserved, and promoted through education.
- Increasing the scope of one's expertise For the advantage of the person, education fosters the ability to expand one's horizons of knowledge. As a result, new avenues for inquiry and exploration are opened, allowing for positive cultural transformations to take place on the material and non-material levels. As a result, education helps provide the groundwork for social change to take hold.
- The Social Change Leadership Role As a result of education, people may take the lead in social transformation. People who have received an education are more equipped to combat societal ills, conventions, blind traditions, and lead the necessary social reform. As a result, people are able to express their actual selves to the fullest extent possible and contribute to the greater good of society.
- The assessment of social change Only once this testing process is completed, the desired social changes are spread, and the unwanted ones are eliminated, are desirable social implemented modifications.
- As a result of education, social change is accelerated. Through diverse social reform programmes, political activities, social service schemes, and 'required social adjustments and reforms,' education aims to eradicate societal problems, blind norms, and traditions.
- Education prepares people for social change by preparing them mentally. It teaches people how to accept and adapt to societal changes more quickly. As a rule of thumb, people are only willing to accept a new approach or pattern if they see it as beneficial and desirable. In order for these societal changes to be accepted by everyone, education provides a healthy and suitable atmosphere. Attempts are made to eradicate the mental eight reservations and complexes that hinder transformation. Education offers students with the skills and knowledge they'll need to succeed in a wide range of careers in contemporary industry, business, higher education, and other non-profit organisations. For the good of society, education is intended to improve people's values and attitudes.

### **EDUCATION'S ROLE IN SOCIETY:**

In modern, complex industrialised civilisations, education has a significant societal impact. Complete socialisation is one of the primary goals of the school. Since families can no longer provide enough socialisation, other institutions and religious organisations have stepped in. Education is a powerful driver for social integration because it communicates values that connect people from all walks of life [9]. Children may be deprived of important social skills and values if their parents or caregivers do not teach them. Through education, a child's inborn talents may be nurtured and cultivated. Education helps to change one's prior conduct through learning and other educational institutions. Children's physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual growth is the primary goal of education. Children may make a living with adequate education, which has a high level of production when they complete their schooling. It should be tailored to each child's interests when it comes to education. The child's physical, intellectual, moral, social, aural, and spiritual development is facilitated [4]. He's well-known in the community.

**EDUCATION IN THE CURRENT TIME:**

That India has produced many scientists and intellectuals over the last six or seven decades is undeniable. They have succeeded in their disciplines and have also had an impact on the world stage. Although the current period is one of immense progress and rapid technology, it also presents certain obstacles and mysteries to education. There has never been a more competitive and career-oriented world today than there is now. Now, education is so intimately linked to employment that it's practically a given. Technology is a must-have resource for anybody involved in educating others or receiving instruction themselves in today's world. However, in addition to preparing students for the workforce, education should also make contemporary technology more accessible, acceptable, and useable [5]. The population of India is enormous. An increasing population, rather than a problem, should be viewed as an advantage that may be used to improve economic and social development [3]. To do this, education is the only way to achieve human progress. And this is where the current educational system faces its first major hurdles. To achieve the aforementioned objectives, adjustments must be made to the current educational system. Some of the current educational system's shortcomings can be summarised as follows:

- The current educational system develops and reinforces, but only partially, the information that is useful and relevant to our rapidly changing society.
- When it comes to employment, investment, or universal usage, a certain stream of knowledge may not fit India's current development stage.
- To prepare citizens who will lead the country toward peace and growth, we need a value framework that is lacking in today's information- and career-centred education.

Education is both a means and an end in and of itself. It's not, and it shouldn't be, a promise that everyone will reach high social standing and higher positions. There is no doubt that education may help people achieve their ultimate goal of self-actualisation by providing them with all the necessities of a pleasant existence, which is the ultimate goal of education. In addition, education is a vehicle for social mobility in its most basic form. As a result, it substantially impacts ensuring that everyone has equal access to the same opportunities.

- By making it feasible for everyone who wants to be educated and enlightened citizens of their nation to profit from education.
- By encouraging an impartial and scientific perspective.
- Through the creation of an inclusive society that values diversity in religion, language, caste and class, etc.
- by ensuring that everyone has equal access to social mobility in society.

**RIGHT TO FREE AND REQUIRED EDUCATION BY THE JUDICIARY:**

The judges took a strong interest in ensuring that all children under the age of 14 have access to free and compulsory schooling. As a result of two Public Interest Litigation suits, the Supreme Court of India ruled in favour of the right to education in the case of Mohini Jain and UnniKrishnan. Although both decisions dealt with the impact of particular state regulations on private educational institutions, the Supreme Court used the opportunity to establish a precedent that also governs the public provision of basic education.. Under Article 21 of the Constitution, a citizen's right to education cannot be denied by imposing a higher cost known as the "captivation fee," the Supreme Court said in Mohan Jain vs. the State of Karnataka. A person's right to life entitles him or her to the right to an education. In this case, there has been an appeal against an order issued by the Karnataka government to control private medical institutions' tuition fees under the Karnataka Education Institution (Prohibition of Captivation Fee) Act 1984. A two-judge panel ruled that collecting captivation fees for admission to educational institutions is prohibited and amounts to a denial of a citizen's right to education under Article 21 of the constitution and violates Article 14 by being arbitrary, unreasonable, and unjust. When it came time to revisit its judgement in the Mohini Jain case in Unni Krishna vs. State of Andhra Pradesh 14, the Supreme Court was requested to do so. The right to education is essential under Article 21 of the constitution because it 'directly springs' from the right to life, said a three-judge panel of five judges. As far as its content, however, a court partially overturned the Mohini Jain decision and declared that only children under the age of 14 are entitled to free public education, but those older than that

are only guaranteed that right if the state can afford it and develop it. By creating its own institutions, the state can fulfil its commitment under Articles 41, 45 and 46, or it can recognise and give affiliation to private organisations. Consequently, the Supreme Court has established a basic fundamental right to an education by correctly and harmoniously construing the provisions of Part III and Part IV of the Constitution of India. Providing basic education to children who work in various industries or factories is the solemn duty owed by the state to them, and the Indian Supreme Court has urged the government to take such measures and devise a plan that ensures education for all children either directly by the industry or in coordination with it. Due to funding deficits caused by the system, educational institutions were unable to comply with Article 19(6) in *TMA Pai Foundation vs the State of Karnataka*<sup>16</sup>. The court's decision in *Unni Krishnan* was deemed an unjustified limitation within the terms of the constitution. As a result of this, all governmental orders and directives made in support of *Unni Krishnan's* case were declared unlawful. According to a court ruling, an institution's ability to accept students, determine fees, form a governing body, and select personnel is included in the right to establish and operate an institution. Article 19(1)(g), which refers to education as a "vocation," was first invoked in the *TMA Pai Foundation* case, which, as a result. Most agreed that Article 19(1)(g) and Article 26, which allow all citizens and religious groups to create and sustain educational institutions, respectively, are constitutionally mandated. The freedom to create and run educational institutions of one's own choosing is also guaranteed under Article 30(1). An additional problem developed in the *Islamic Academy vs. the State of Karnataka*<sup>17</sup> about the assessment of fees in private unaided professional educational institutions. According to the claims made in this case, managers have been granted total control over admissions and fees, which might include a suitable surplus for the growth and extension of education.

## CONCLUSION:

In India, education always has been and continues to be one of the most powerful tools for societal transformation. Education helps people grow by altering their perspectives. On the other hand, education should not be seen as a tool for policing and preserving cultural heritage in today's multi-national society. But in a varied country like India, it should only be seen as an agent working with other more prevalent factors to bring about positive social change. As a result, enacting and enforcing new regulations is necessary for improving Indian education. Legislation should consider the country's geographical, linguistic, and cultural diversity. Education has the power to alter society because it provides individuals with chances and experiences that allow them to grow and adapt to society's changing requirements and philosophy. Every area of human existence, including social, cultural, economic, and political, must be carefully planned to ensure a good societal advancement. Planning for education must consider the aspirations and requirements of the entire population. Education is seen as a tool for social change by sociologists, social psychologists, philosophers, politicians, educators, and educational planners. And last, it's important to remember that those involved in education, teaching, and schools themselves have a heavy burden of responsibility for societal transformation. Fake social transformations are the result of a lack of education. For society to go in the correct direction, attention must be paid to an education system, which is both a product and a cause of social development. Education and character development are still heavily influenced by the student's surroundings and socialising.

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