

# A sociological study of education system in lieu of changing village structure of India

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## Abstract

Indian villages have seen a major structural change since independence. The change has been phenomenal with respect to development and every aspect of it has been impacted with that path of growth and development. Indian education system is one of those aspects which have come a long way in the past few decades. Education is one of the important pillars for rural development and its importance cannot be undermined in any way. Government has taken measures to support the rural education system but there is still a huge gap which needs to be catered. This research paper talks about the existing problems in rural education system and proposes solution to tackle those problems.

**Keywords:** Village communities, Indian education system, Sociological studies, Village structural change, Modern education system.

## Introduction

A considerable amount of population in our country resides in villages and forms a major part in the growth and development of our country. Hence the understanding of rural education system cannot have any lesser importance. Rural sector has seen a lot of developments in the past few decades but education reforms have not kept up with the pace. With the development of infrastructure and technology, education system needs equal attention.

Though the number of children attending schools in villages has increased over the period of time, the quality of education has always been the major concern. In villages, poverty is the major hurdle and parents cannot afford private schools for their children and the quality of education in government schools are not up to the mark. This is very evident from the knowledge of children assessed in different subjects, especially English and Maths. Moreover, the number of children dropping out of the school has increased with the increased number of children starting schools. The difficulties these children are facing and the reason for drop outs is very important to analyse. The government reforms have loopholes which have not been able to solve these problems and we need to think of alternate solutions to solve these problems. The children are the future of any developing country and the foundation of a successful nation. So let us analyse the education system of India and the story of its change and development. [1, 2]

## History of education system in India

Indian education system started in small ashrams in the villages where the traditional Indian religion, ancient mathematics and logic were taught. The concept ran on simplicity and discipline. An ancient Indian learning centre, Nalanda, is one of the examples of such education systems.

The course curriculum used to be defined as per the caste system and students from every caste have a different course curriculum. The Brahmins learned about scripture and religion, Kshatriyas got the training on the warfare and its various aspects, Vaishyas were taught about commerce and were given vocational

trainings, Shudras being the working class were trained on the relevant skills required for their jobs. Teachers were known as gurus and the education system was not commercialised in those times. [3]

Later, with the introduction of British rule in India, the caste system was abolished and the face of Indian education system changed a lot. The British government introduced English language in the course curriculum and all the subjects were taught in English, especially in the private schools. The gurus were replaced by trained teachers who followed the English style of teaching. That era of education system was importance due to the development in education reforms and the construction of modern universities. Later, different subjects like science and engineering were also introduced to impart technical and scientific knowledge to the students as per the demands of the nation's economic development. [3]

Post independence, India brought another set of reforms in the Indian education system. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) were established in the second half of twentieth century to impart the technical education in our country Technology is the base of nation's overall development and hence it became an important factor in shaping the country's growth and development. Many education reforms like 'Sarva Siksha Abhiyan' was introduced by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, which aimed at providing free primary education to the children aged between six and fourteen. In year 2009, 'Right to education' act was passed which gave every child a fundamental right to have primary education. [5]

Education system in our country has been changing ever since. Government reforms and educational campaigns have been trying to increase the country's literacy rates, but not much has worked in the favour here. The rate of increasing population has surpassed the development of education structure and the reforms to make it suitable to the existing demands.

### **An analysis of the existing problems in rural education system**

When it comes to education, there is a huge divide in urban and rural sectors. In cities, we have a lot more schools and colleges as compared to the villages. However, the population residing in urban and rural sector are otherwise. More number of people reside in villages compared t the cities. Moreover, the quality of education in Indian villages is not up to the required standards. If you select a student from a village and a city studying in the same standard, there will a huge different in their knowledge base. It would be surprising to know that because the course curriculum defined would not have much difference. Then what is bringing this disparity. What is causing the limited growth of knowledge and learning in the children living in villages. It would be an interesting study to analyse the reasons behind such surprising fact. Let us have a look at the existing problems acting as an important factor behind this gap.

**Quality of education:** Villages have a handful of private and government schools. Amongst them, the government schools' condition is a major setback in the education system of rural India. The infrastructure available does not meet the current demands of education. The quality ad number of teachers available in those schools also remains a matter of concern. Children are set in those schools just for formality and not much learning happens there. However, the private schools in rural sectors are slightly better compared to the government ones, but every parent living in villages cannot afford that. As poverty is another setback in the villages, the access to those schools remains limited for these parents. [6]

**Early dropouts:** The quality of infrastructure is also a matter of concern with the quality of education. Many girls drop out from school after their primary education due to the lack of proper toilets in the government schools. Moreover, children in villages are also expected to work and support their family income after a certain age. And hence parents prefer to take their children out of school and make them work to earn a livelihood. The importance of education in rural India has been undermined.

**Infrastructure:** The condition of schools in villages does not support the serious learning. The current education system demands much more than the existing facilities, available in the villages. The technology needs to be upgraded as per the existing demands. Computers should be included in the course curriculum and accordingly the infrastructure should be built to support that. Learning materials should be arranged for the children so that parents do not have to think about it while making a decision for sending their children to school.

**Language:** The native language is given much more importance in villages. And since the course curriculum is in English language and children in villages are not comfortable with it, the problem of losing interest is always there. Also, they have to work extra to grasp the language and then understand the subject. [7]

**Poverty:** Education required money and free education is not accessible to every family in rural India. The affordability is always a problem while enrolling the children for schools. Only the well off families can afford the private schools whose education is slightly better compared to the economical government schools.

**Conservatism:** Many families in villages still believe that there is no point in sending their girls to school as they will get married and will have to take care of their family. Education would be of no value add to a female child. This mindset of people in rural India acts as another hurdle in the dream project of education for very child our nation. [8]

## Solutions

Children are the future of our country and the pillars for the growth of our nation. For the inclusive growth, rural India has to be given equal importance and the education system is one of the important areas to work on. The existing problems in Indian education system need a strategic planning and implementation in the long term to solve the existing problems. A lot has been done in this regard but there is still a huge gap that needs to be addressed. Both government and the nation need to hold hands to work in tandem to make this dream become a reality. Now let us have a look at the possible solutions to tackle the need of the rural education system

**Conceptual learning:** More importance can be given to the concept rather than mugging up the chapters and passing the examinations. Practical way of learning needs to be introduced here to make the children aware about the application of the concepts learnt in schools. This will also develop their interest in learning the new concepts and seeing their applications in daily life.

**Inclusion of technology:** Currently education cannot be imagined without the amalgamation of technology. The students need to be aware about the latest technology available and used in the education industry and should be acquainted with its use. This would keep their interest intact in learning and would prepare themselves to compete equally with the children all over the nation. [9]

**Adequate number of schools:** As the population has increased, the number of schools has not increased at the same pace. The ratio of number of schools to the number of eligible children is huge and this gap needs to be addressed by opening more government schools with a good quality of education. There should not be overcrowding of schools where each child cannot be given a proper attention and the required learning ecosystem.

**Innovative learning:** Children do not have the understanding about the importance of education and learning the concepts taught in schools. Hence it becomes very important to catch their attention with innovative learning techniques and keep their interest involved in the education. A lot of work can be done in this area to improve the course curriculum and make it more interactive for children. A two way

communication would be more effective than one way method of imparting education. The change in concept of learning will surely bring a positive change in the rural education system in the long run.

**Literacy programmes:** Government needs to become more active in making the people in villages aware about the importance of education for their children. The rural India needs to know how a proper education can break their family history of poverty and transform the life of their future generations. Government need to keep on launching interesting awareness programmes to involve the villagers in promoting the education system in villages and making school an integral part of the life of their children. [10]

### Future Scope

India has always been in the favour of equitable distribution of the available resources. However, this is not true for the education system in our country as the number of schools available in urban India is way more than in rural sectors of the country. The dearth of the required number of schools to match the existing demands and the quality of education has been the matter of concern here. Moreover, the available options are not pocket friendly for the poor section of rural society who cannot afford to spend much on their children's' education. And the economical government schools do not have quality education and even the number of teachers is not as per the requirement.

The need of the hour is to provide the quality education in the budget of every class of rural Indian population. Every child in our country irrespective of its economic background should have access to quality education and should be able to pursue it without any hurdles. The parents of those children should have enough motivation to send their children to school instead of sending them to work and earn for the family. The government should launch awareness programmes to make the parents understand the importance of education for the long term development and growth of their family as well as the country. The rural India should be educated about the power of knowledge and education in shaping the personality of their children. Only education can break the cycle of poverty existing from generations in the village communities.

The existing problem cannot be solved in a day or two. Long term planning needs to be done and the implementation has to be even more disciplined. Awareness programmes and free education perks needs to be provided to motivate the poor section of society to send their children for school. Moreover, innovation can be used here for the unconventional way of teaching. Children would learn faster if they are taught out of the classroom concepts. Government can work on the way of bringing innovation in the Indian education system and design the course curriculum accordingly. Concept based learning is the need of the hour. Children would enjoy and learn more in these unique set ups and the takeaways would be much larger in such cases.

Overall, the education system in rural India needs the right kick to start falling on track. Children have to prefer going to school rather than staying at home or going to work with their parents. Quality of education needs to be improved. Proper infrastructure and learning materials need to be provided to support this revolution. Parents have to provide the equal cooperation in this movement. As we say 'be the change before demanding it'. This can be achieved only with the mutual efforts of government and people of village communities. The future of rural education system looks brighter with the implementation of a proper



strategy. A very positive change can be expected in the long run if a considerable amount of effort will be taken in this direction. The future of our economy will depend on it.

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