

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF RURAL AREA AND ITS IMPACT ON QUALITY EDUCATION: AN OVERVIEW

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Abstract:

Education is a boon for human world .whatever progress our society has made over the centuries is because of education. It plays a significant role in achievement of success. Whatever progress our society has made over the centuries is because of education. To understand the world around us, access to basic education is crucial and quality education enables people to develop all of their attributes and skills to achieve their potential as human beings and members of society. It enables people to lead a healthier and more sustainable life and it is essential to foster tolerance and peaceful societies. Quality education is an essential tool for gaining the best knowledge. In India during ancient period history witnesses a well developed education system which had evolved a unique system of education called “Gurukul” which meant teachers home. Nalanda, Taxila, Ujjain, Vikramshila universities were well known for higher education and imparted education of high quality. In due process the education system of India has undergone various changes. In Middle Ages some monasteries developed into true universities. The modern education system was started by British in India. Macaulay Minute laid the foundation stone with the intention to create an elite group of knowledgeable people who could serve the East India Company. The introduction of western education in India can be taken as the commencement of Modern Higher Education. However independence of India opened a new chapter because democratization of education system no doubt boosted the growth of higher education in India. Whereas in 1947 there were only 27 Universities and 500 Colleges increased to large number of 723 Universities/University Level institutions and to over 36,634 Colleges in 2013- 14. These numbers of Colleges ensured the expansion of education no doubt but the qualitative Expansion remains unfulfilled. High Quality Education in real sense In India still remains a dream. Besides the development and growth in Higher Education Institution has not taken place uniform throughout India. Most renowned Universities and Colleges of the country are established and located in urban areas and the requirement needed for the development of the quality education in Colleges of rural areas are far from satisfactory. Colleges played crucial role in producing

future decision makers and make them skilled to cope up with the complexities of changing world. It plays vital role in development of nation. If rural India is deprived of the quality education in colleges that means the majority of the people devoid the right to get quality education. On the other hand 21st century is highly struggling, intense and demanding therefore quality education in colleges of rural area is urgent need of the society. Rapid changes are occurring in all walk of life and people need to update information and knowledge. Quality education help in the development of the country by ensuring better jobs for the youth and enabling the country to compete internationally. Our country needs an education system which can provide a notion of quality of life, skill to face the challenges, ensure the fulfillment of basic needs properly through dignity and enable them living effectively in the world. Until the education system of rural areas in India is equipped and fully prepare to face the new challenges and realities, unless the majority of the people who lived in rural areas are capable to meet the demand of the time and skill to face the challenges in the next decades they lag behind in the competition of the global world. Therefore, the colleges in rural India need to restructure their academic forces. In today's knowledge based society across the globe, India is well placed with potential brains needed for revolutionary changes. If the challenges are properly met and opportunities availed effectively Indians are also supposed to march ahead along with other developed countries by developing skill and strength through education.

Keywords: Quality Education, Gurukul, Nalanda, Taxila, Ujjain, Vikramshila, Revolutionary.

Objectives of Study:

The specific objectives of the study intended to-

1. Highlight the importance of quality education.
2. To explain the impact of socio-economic condition of rural India on quality education.
3. To evaluate challenges faced by rural colleges in imparting quality education and
4. To provide some suggestion for the improvement.

Methodology:

The study is purely descriptive no complicated model and tools were used. The study is compiled with the help of secondary data which has been collected from various books, journals and other relevant literature.

Significance of the study:

Quality education has the capacity to transform the society into a balanced society. Providing quality education is now concern of our country because the future of the country depends on quality education being provided in every educational institution (school, colleges, and universities) and it plays a major role in providing young adult with the life skills mandatory to become productive

member of society. Currently India's population is more than 1.27 billion which can become the nation strength helping the economy to grow. It is said real India resides in rural India because about 70% of its population is settled in rural area. Approximately with 70% of India's workforce is from rural areas that will make the majority of tomorrow's workforce. The more the rural India learn and sharpen the skill, the better it would help the economy of country to grow. Education in urban areas has progressed rapidly during the last few decades but there are still some villages where education is not given sufficient priority. Besides educational institution in some rural areas facing various challenges in providing quality education. Colleges' plays vital role in developing the economic environment college education is important to have stability in life. It helps to learn innovative skill and creativity. It enables the student to choose their career path make them prepare for better job opportunities to secure their future. However, most of the colleges about 60.56% are in rural areas of India but the literacy rate in rural area is lower than urban areas. So it is the time to keep concern with the challenges and problem faced by rural higher educational institution, to find some solution because access to high quality education in rural area can be one of the contributory factors to local economic development and help the people of villages to adopt to a fast changing environment. quality education not only helps in development of the country by ensuring better jobs for the youth it also enable country to compete internationally.

Quality concern in higher education in India:

21st century has given rise to the global competitiveness and thus the world has become a global village. The world is changing very fast and leading to the rapid development in science and technology which influence all walks of life of people. so the quality in education is the need of the hour. Quality improvement becomes the biggest challenge before the higher education system in India. Quality does not have unique definition. It is a subjective term for which each person his/her own definition. The oxford American dictionary defines quality as "a degree level of excellence". In the context of education quality can be defined in term of satisfaction level of stakeholders' viz. students, parents, government and society at large by developing appropriate knowledge and skill. Society at large is responsible finally for the cause of nation building. All parents, students, educationist, faculties, head of the institutions, trainers, trainees everyone are part of the society. If all of them play their designated role, the desired goal will be achieved. The quality of nation depends on the quality of citizen. Education is most important tool to create such type of citizen. So the quality of higher education including colleges has always been remain a concern of government. The government of India initiated a planned development of higher education in the country with the establishment of University Grants Commission (UGC) in 1994 in order to assess institution of higher education. The NAAC has been assessing institutions through 7 (seven) criterion- curriculum aspect. Teaching-learning and evaluation. Reaserch, Consultancy and Extension, Infrastructure and Learning Resources, Students Support and Progression .Organization and Management. Innovation and best practices. Through these criterions they give a total view of institutions.

Impact of socio-economic condition in the rural colleges of India:

India is seventh largest country of the world with a population of 1.27 billion. The size of area, population, socio-economic differences have also contributed to the issue which the country has faced in the field of higher education. On such condition it is not an easy task to provide quality education to everyone and to enable them through education living with capability and dignity in this competitive world. Though our educationist are working hard to provide standard in higher education including colleges and extending its co-operation as advisor in international level joining hands with WTO, the expected dream has not perhaps been fulfilled. Introspecting the history of Indian educational system various commission, committees, policies reports etc. it is found that many attempt have been made to improve the status of Indian education system. Education system of India expanded exponentially over the past five decades along with the enrolment at every stage. However the issues and problem of access, equity, relevance and inclusiveness in education remain the same. Beside certain disparities are observed in the regional basis in rural and semi-urban areas particularly in the North-East region and Assam. Imparting of quality education in the rural colleges of these region are not satisfactory and as such weak in term of infrastructure and geographical isolation from the rest of India. In the year 1940's and 1950's very few students had graduated from rural areas characterized education in India. Initiative has been taken for the establishment of more colleges in these areas and numbers of colleges in these areas tremendously increased after 1980's. In second five year plan the scheme of rural institutes was launched and a large number of institutions were opened in rural areas of India. Rural areas in India started to cope up with the growing demand and need of youth by opening new colleges at their door step. Hence qualitative gap in higher education between rural and urban areas still persist. Most of these institutions have not so far prepared to face the challenges of changing world.

Besides improving provision of higher education in rural areas there is a need to resort to some specific action for the improving access of economically and socially underprivileged rural areas students of colleges. There is also need to narrow down the quality gap that exists between rural and urban areas. Every education system is part and parcel of society. It implies that the socio-economic condition determine the education system while at the same time the education system play an important role in bringing about desirable changes on socio-economic condition. Keeping these in view an attempt has been made in this paper to examine the socio-economic problem and its impact on higher education in rural areas.

Socio-economic condition is an important determinant of education outcome and on the other hand education play vital role in socio-economic development. Society is what society does. It is society which plays an important role in influencing and forming one's life. Survival of society is possible so long as it makes adequate response to challenge of time. Therefore quality assurance in higher education is fundamental necessity for its survival (Rashmi Rekha Saikia).parental guidance expectation, encouragement and support influence a lot to the students towards pursuing higher education. Rural students have less likely to have college educated parents who can encourage them to go to college. So they lack confidence in their ability to compete successfully at college level. Parents in rural areas also do not have timely information about the opportunity of higher education. In absence of

proper guidance and support from the family students in rural areas become aimless and can't determine educational goal and attainment. Hence, in such condition colleges in rural areas lack whole hearted support of the students which is important to enhance the quality education. Besides weak primary education in some rural areas become hurdle in the way of higher education. Most of the schools in rural areas lack basic infrastructure facilities. Most of children complete their schooling without undergoing adequate training. Memorization without realization at the school level makes them forget when they go for higher education. When they go to college they face a lot of difficulties. In rural areas another major problem is of medium in which they study. Most of the students in rural areas study in regional languages at school level. They find it difficult to study in English when they go to college. As the world is moving fast and therefore communication skill have become most important these days, whether we like it or not English has became the decider of fate of future generation in job market. Moreover rural population in India is also covered with backward mentality. Many rural families are nervous to teach girls after certain age. Students belongs to rural areas are mostly in attentive about career and importance of education. 'Cultural and economic' environment or both these factor may reduce the effect of class attendance on academic performance.

Economic Factor: Financial crisis is another problem in the way of quality education. For Amartya Sen poverty is the lack of capability to function effectively in society .Inadequate education thus is considered a reason of poverty. In the developing world it is necessary to provide education that motivate people to study, gives guidance to develop to develop their skillful the employment market and opportunities for higher education. On the other hand economic growth is becoming increasingly linked to a nation's ability to acquire and apply knowledge. The number of poor people in India according to country's eleventh National Development Plan, account to more than 300 million. Almost one third of the countries occupation more than 1.1 billion continues to live below poverty line, and a large proportion of poor people live in rural areas. Poverty remains a chronic condition for almost 30% of India's rural people (R.N Swamy),with weak financial condition the parent in rural areas cannot provide proper financial support to their children to meet necessity of higher education. At college level students need text books, many reference books, journals for the clear understanding of the subject and for better result in the examination. Due to poverty they cannot purchase that all. Many student willing to learn computer education and application are deprived of the facilities due to financial constraint. During last more than one decade private sector has entered the field of professional education in a big way. Some of the private institutions are also established in some rural areas of rural areas of India. But the fee charged by these institutions is unaffordable for the rural people due to poverty factor. Even most of the colleges in rural areas suffer from financial crisis that causes lack of infrastructure and poor academic resources. Quality education is not possible without proper infrastructure and learning resources. Most of the colleges located in rural areas could not reap the facilities of adequate classroom, laboratories, libraries computer lab, canteen, sports facilities etc. As the Govt. not fully committed to increase public funding in higher Education it is necessary to augment additional resource from various sources. But it is very tedious task particularly in rural areas as the scope for generating additional resource is very limited because there prevail rural nature of the economy. For the lack of adequate fund many rural colleges in India cannot provide IT facilities

internet, fax, and Library network to the students. These colleges cannot provide service, learning facilities to the students and staff. Thus the poor monetary condition is the major hazard in the rural areas. There are very few industries who can sponsor the rural colleges. Students with poor economic background cannot take interest and so cannot operate and attend the audio visual classes or cannot spend time for special classes due to their hectic and busy agricultural activities and household work.

Impact of socio-economic in the rural colleges of Assam: The same situation is visible in Assam also. Though Assam remains the pioneering state of all educational activities in North East region by establishing the Cotton College in 1901. Later on a number of colleges has been established in different areas of Assam but quality level yet not touched by the state and disparities in rural urban areas has also been seen in the state. "It is very disheartening to see higher education in Assam has not been its manifold purpose. It has become a factory of producing a large number of graduates, post graduates or professional what is nothing more than a burden on society which is already over burden with such education unemployed or rather unemployable youth"(Dr. Subha Lakshmi Nath)

Youth of Assam especially in rural areas are facing various problems. They suffer from aimlessness and proper guidance from family that degraded their enthusiasm to participate actively in academic activity. They cannot provide proper guidance to their children and thereby many of the students waste their valuable time by not choosing appropriate discipline. Most of the students in rural areas are educated in vernacular medium. Hence in spite of good academic result at school level they failed to compete with the students educated in English medium school at college level. They fail to perform adequately in examination due to their unaccustomed habit in writing. If parents remain vigilant quality in college is sure to be improved because Principal, G.B. Librarian remain conscious towards duty being watched by the responsible guardian, but in rural colleges in Assam when parents meet are held hardly any parents turn up. . These meets are forum in which parents can put questions to the principal, teacher, and librarian and employees regarding teaching learning and management of the colleges.

Besides a conducive environment is also an important factor needed for the development and growth of education. The study of various source indicate that many students in rural areas express their dissatisfaction over disturbance caused by violence. Teaching still takes place through traditional method in much rural college of Assam which cannot help in proper development of youth. They are not well informed with modern method of teaching. In last decades many rural colleges teacher had irregular salary and no one can work well with half fed stomach. That creates negative impacts in the attitude of teacher and they did not get motivated to use teaching aids due to their laziness and irregular govt. salary. Being demoralized they did not pay attention to motivate students that affected the criteria of consultancy and extension of quality educating. Student's progression also has impact due to less involvement of students in academic activities.

Some suggestions:

1. Quality infrastructure should be made available to the institutions of rural areas.
2. Training remuneration and status of teachers should be enhanced to improve the teacher's performance and motivation.
3. Most of the colleges offer traditional courses which should be upgraded and introduction of new courses should be done according to the real need of the society and time.
4. Teaching method should be improved and made interesting with the help of audio visual teaching aid
5. In the rural areas industry institute linkage should be made available to provide proper training and to encourage them to the students of professional course.
6. Governance of college should be made more dynamic. Inter college bonding should be strengthened to improve mutual understanding.
7. Creative skills of the students need to be encouraged. Eminent educationist and researcher should be invited to the colleges of rural areas to deliver lecture in the relevant subject areas or in areas of common interest.
8. The Govt. should make provision for training of the college teacher on how to teach, motivate, and inspire student, to participate in teaching learning process before they are appointed as college teacher.
9. Orientation program should be organized for the head of the institution to encourage their managerial efficiency.

Conclusion: Whatever wide dimensions and creative pedagogical method have so far been conquered and materialized, the horizon of quality education seems to be scarce corner to reach. But some innovative ways with dedicative efforts made, the farthest horizon of quality education will no longer be so. Higher education and adequate employment opportunities in conjunction with primary education can work wonder for human development in rural India and India as a whole.

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