

Quality Improvement to Rural Education Development in India

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Abstract

India has the largest education system in the world after China. However, issues of Quality education and access remain challenges in some parts of the Country. The role of education in facilitating social and economic progress is well accepted. Education is recognized as one of the keys to fighting poverty, but despite the awareness of that fact too many children in rural India of which is poverty itself which forces families to put children to work or into other situations because they cannot afford to keep them at home and in school. In addition, some social customs deny education to girls, and children who are orphaned are almost always placed in situations that reduce their chances for education. According to Annual Status of Education Report 2017, about 25 per cent students in the age group of 14-18 years could not read basic text fluently in their own language and the number of students completing elementary school has increased over the years, they, however, lack foundational skills. Extracurricular activities play an important role in a student's school life. These can make learning more inviting and motivate teachers to improve their teaching methods using smart technologies.

Keywords: Fluently, Foundational Skills, Elementary School, Extracurricular, Language

Introduction

In India, education in the rural segments is not only important to eradicate poverty and illiteracy, but also for a variety of other social, economic as well as cultural and political reasons. After the independence of India in 1947, the policy makers realized that education is the most compelling means to initiate social alterations and improve community development in India. The role of education, both urban and rural, is huge in growth of the country's economy. Although education in the urban areas have progressed rapidly during the last few decades, there are still some villages where education is not given sufficient priority. There are several reasons as to why rural education in India should be enforced efficiently, even in the most remote regions.

Rural development

The rural development generally refers to the process of improving the quality of living of the rural people. The development of rural areas is increasing in the recent times. Poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and problems related to agriculture are some of the problems faced by the people in the rural areas. The main aim of the study is to analyse the development of rural areas and implementation of policies in rural areas. The government and the voluntary efforts are taken to improve the rural communities in Tamilnadu. Nearly 70 percent of the total population lives in the rural areas. Poor nutrition and health status are the characteristic feature of the rural area.

Objectives of Rural education

The principal objectives of rural education are as follows:

- To serve as a national advocate and representative for rural education at all levels:• Local – State – Regional – National.
- To provide Co-ordination, at the national level, for rural education programs and activities.
- To provide leadership for rural education – related conferences and workshops.
- To provide a forum for all those involved in public education in rural areas – including teachers, administrators, board members, and members of the rural community at large whereby they may come together professionally and exchange ideas.
- To promote state, regional and local delivery systems which bring about efficient and effective education for children in rural areas.
- To encourage the collection and dissemination of promising practices, statistical data, and other appropriate information relating to rural education as well as co-ordinating the sharing of services and resources among educational organizations and agencies.
- To encourage colleges and universities to develop materials and resources specifically for rural schools and to train personnel to work more effectively in small schools.
- To stimulate discussion, research, and policy development regarding equal• educational opportunities for all students.
- To stress the need for public or private agencies to develop specific educational• materials and technology appropriate to children in rural areas.

Quality of rural education

Majority of India still lives in villages and so the topic of rural education in India is of utmost importance. Rural education is one of the important factors in regional development. Local governments have to be effectively linked with national levels as well as with local communities.

In addition especially with increased demand and diversification of economic activities mainly due to the growing emphasis on globalization and associated changes. Though efforts are being made, they are not in the right direction.

Quality and access to education is the major concern in rural schools. Majority of people living in villages have understood the importance of education and know that it is the only way to get rid of poverty.

Government schools are not as good and private schools are expensive. This results in a very low number of students actually clearing their secondary education and taking admission in a college for further studies. So the drop-out-rate at the secondary level is extremely high in villages.

Only parents who can afford college education send their kids to secondary schools. If parents are not able to send their wards for higher education then all their previous efforts get wasted as completing just secondary education means a low paying job and the person is again struck in the same never ending cycle of money, life and poverty.

Most textbooks are in English and since people in rural areas either speaks their native language or Hindi, but not English that defeats the purpose.

This results in lack of their interest in studies. Though some of the students from villages are really brilliant, as they have a wealth of practical knowledge and know how to survive even in very harsh conditions of life, difficulty in understanding their textbooks, lack of facilities and their poverty is a hurdle in their education.

Tamilnadu government to improve the quality of education of students in the rural area mainly depends up on knowledge, skills and expertise are the key enablers for maintaining our economic growth momentum, especially in a scenario of technology-led disruptions like Industry 4.0, where skills and expertise requirements are ever-changing.

Now, the next stage would be to ensure that students remain enrolled, and learn -- so that they become empowered and productive citizens, who can be the key participants in nation-building and growth-linked economic development.

To achieve this, an enabling ecosystem will have to be developed which comprises school premises along with facilities that are inviting for students, teachers who have a passion for their chosen vocation, pedagogy that transitions from rote learning to conceptual methods that can keep both teachers and students engaged and engrossed -- among others.

Tamil Nadu to read Class 1 and Class 2 level texts has come down over the last decade. An average of 21% children aged between seven and 14 could read Class 1 level texts and 30% could read Class 2 level texts. When it came to mathematical competence, about 25% were able to subtract two-digit numbers with borrowing, 15% could perform division of a three-digit number by a single digit.

The government has been paying special attention to provide all facilities to school children and enhance quality of school education to make all students skilled and highly competitive, he added.

Concerted efforts of teachers and education officials were needed to achieve this goal. Uplift of rural mass could be possible only through enhancement of education, he added.

Officials should take care of the welfare of retired teachers. They must also assist retired teachers in getting retirement benefits at the earliest.

The rural education mainly based improvement of school infrastructure, toilet facilities, and provision of drinking water and maintenance of school buildings.

Measures that can enable the right ecosystem needed for imparting quality education

Maintained infrastructure

A clean, spacious school building having basic facilities including:

- Spacious classrooms with requisite furniture, boards, electrical fittings like lights and fans
- Clean and hygienic toilets
- Accessible drinking water
- Activity and play areas
- Laboratories with requisite instruments and equipment
- Computers for students to learn and experiment with

2. Quality of teaching and teachers

- Teachers are key in ensuring that students get the requisite lessons that keep their minds ignited for seeking knowledge, Students' likes and dislikes for attending classes, or interests in a particular subject, can be linked to their teacher and his/her quality of teaching. The challenge of improving quality of teaching by training teachers and supporting them with modern teaching aids, tools and methodologies -- like smart classrooms and digital course content -- needs to be taken up, so that teachers take pride in their jobs.
- This will also encourage more people to take up teaching as a vocation, thus assisting in solving the vacancy of seats issue

3. Extra-curricular activities

Extra-curricular activities are also a key component in sustaining a youngster's interest at school. Schools should have requisite sporting facilities and avenues for cultural events, which together contribute to building a student's life skills and personality.

However, vast majority of the youth does not have access to such facilities and quality teachers due to issues like affordability and their location -- especially those residing rural areas.

The recent initiatives of having **smart classrooms** in public schools could go a long way in addressing this need of an enabling ecosystem with features and facilities like digital content, broadcasting classes conducted by experienced teachers, interactive classes through video conferencing, etc.

Conclusions:

Indian rural schools' problems may be solved by advanced technologies and tools. Desktop and storage virtualization helps the rural students to get the study, knowledge, subject and learning materials. Clouds computing also help the student to get any learning materials over internet. The helps to rural students in interactive learning and to get proper directions. Other technologies support rural school students in many ways.

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