

Rural Education System in India

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Abstract

The system of education in rural areas has been undergoing many changes and transformations. In the present existence, there have been developments and progressions taking place in the system of education in rural areas. But still much improvements need to be made and it is not at par with the urban system of education. With developments taking place in the system of education in rural areas, the rural communities are able to recognize the significance of education and sustain their livelihoods better. There have been development of opportunities for adults as well to enhance their educational skills and abilities. The main areas that have been taken into account in this research paper are, objectives of rural education, scenario of rural India's education sector, differentiation between urban and the rural system of education, measures to make improvements in rural education, fundamental principles of the high quality rural education program, and measures formulated by the government.

INTRODUCTION:

From ancient times, India is known as „Home of Rural Life“ and people living in villages represents the true images of „Real India“. Currently India's population is more than 1.31 billion and three fourth this population can become the nation's strength, helping the economy to grow. Out its total population 60% above people lives in rural area. More the rural India learns and sharpens its skills, the better it would help the economy. In shaping the rural economy the role of education is crucial. If a country's rural education is performing well, it reflects on the entire economic state of a county. In India, Right to Education (RTE) is a fundamental right, which states that every citizen of India between the ages of 6 to 14 years will get free and compulsory education irrespective of caste, creed, religion, and economic conditions, it gives equal opportunity to all. Even though education is a basic right of every citizen, many are deprived of this right. Compared with the education facilities available in urban areas, the schools in Rural India have a scarcity of basic needs like drinking water, transportation facilities, and competent teachers. Even though the population residing in rural area is very high, not much attention is given to the rural education system. Though government schools exist in rural areas, but when compared to private schools then quality and access to education is major issue. There are few schools in rural areas and students have to travel far away distance to get education and basically girl students face more problems in travelling long distance to attain school, leading to increasing in the number of illiterate and dropout of students in rural areas. Though the rural people are aware about the importance of education and it is the only way which can bring improvement in their economic, social and political conditions but due to lack of money they are not able to send their children to private schools and hence depend upon government schools for education. Since 70 years passed from independence still the rural education has not been improved to that extent as compared to private schools. However, due to lack of literacy and education, the rural India witnessed many draw backs. However, in most of countries, rural sector is less developed than the urban sector and in India where rural sector is almost neglected; the rural

education is really a serious matter of concern. India now suffers from the twin challenges of unviable sub-scale schools and a severe shortage of teachers which makes in-school interventions only marginally fruitful. The basic objective of rural education is to ensure that every child in rural India to receive free and compulsory as well as quality education which will prepare them to compete in every challenging situations. In such a situation, education in rural India needs to be strengthened with diversified objectives. Rural education initiative in India.

Hurdles Faced in Rural Education

- Financial Issues
- To begin with, low incomes make education a secondary priority.
- Education is often viewed as a cost instead of investment by rural people. They would prefer the kids to work hard and earn money.
- Whenever it concerns higher education, the dearth of suitable colleges nearby forces students to consider relocating to cities, which increases their costs. As a result, enrolment rates are low, while dropout rates are greater.
- Lack of Faculty and Infrastructural Facilities
- Children seem to have little access to fundamental learning resources like well-equipped and infrastructural good classrooms, computers, laboratories, and playgrounds, to name a few.
- Teachers are frequently unqualified or fail to appear, resulting in low educational quality. Students' motivation to join or attend school suffers as a result of this.
- Lack of Proper Guidance

- Students from remote regions have enormous potential and thus are willing to learn, but they lack the proper coaching due to the poor rural education scenario. This is necessary for the kids, as well as for the guardians.

- One of the major issues in rural education that still persists is gender inequality and lack of girl child education.
- Women are not permitted to attend school in certain areas. Or, if permitted, it is restricted to a specified age range. They are not permitted to leave their community in pursuit of higher education and better employment opportunities.
- Digital Dividend

- Rural communities, unlike metropolitan ones, lack access to advanced learning resources.
- The emergence of digital platforms and tools, for instance, is the most recent educational instrument.
- Unfortunately, these sophisticated learning aids are not available in rural locations. Rural communities face issues such as poor internet connectivity, digital gadgets, and efficient or uninterrupted supply of power.

How to improvement in rural education system:

Reduce barriers and boost free education - Free education should reach to all remote corner of rural area because poverty is one of the most critical and common problems in rural India. This is one of the major obstructions in the development of the rural education. This problem can only be solved if free education provided to all. This will bring up literacy rate more and more parents will show their eagerness to send their children to schools if they are not required to bear the educational expenses.

Opening up of new schools - In rural area people are basically depends on government educational institution to educate their children. The scarcity of schools/colleges in rural India made it difficult for the students residing in remote areas to reach schools and learn. If

more schools were setup, parents would be prompted to send their kids to schools, it will definitely improve the educational standard of students in rural India. Moreover, government should focus on other basic facilities like free text books, library facility, study rooms and other facilities so that education would not like a burden to their parents.

Filling up the vacancies of teachers - The average number of teacher per school in rural areas is 2.92 at primary, 6.53 at upper primary, and 3.50 at elementary level as compared to urban area figures of 4.83, 8.37, and 4.91 respectively. It means schools located in rural area suffer from shortage of teachers. As far as distribution of female teachers in rural area is concerned, rural schools are poor in having female teachers in comparison to urban schools. Appointment of highly qualified, experienced and competent teacher in rural areas could probably be an effective educator with fewer resources than an untrained, poorly educated, and inexperienced teacher. This problem must immediately be solved in order to smoothen the rural education system.

Excelling Scholarship Programmes - In order to encourage the efforts of students an to motivate them in academic and in extracurricular activities, some type of scholarship either in form of financial assistance or other form of incentives should be given to those who perform well in the class. This will motivate other students in improving their performance.

Provision of Transport and Communication Facilities - In rural areas, students have to walk miles of distance to attain their schools. Basically, in remote tribal villages there is lacking of all weatheric condition of road facilities, as a result, it is tedious for the students to walk, due to this, they express lack of interest in studies and do not take pleasure in coming school. Hence, it is essential to bring about improvements in roads in rural areas and transport facilities to the students.

Computer Education- Computer education and information and communication technology (ICT) based education must be compulsorily taught in rural schools, which will not only help in improving their skills and abilities but also in making of them competent in the present digital world. Curriculum and Teaching-learning Process- It is essential for the teachers to communicate with students in a friendly and polite manner. Teachers need to be kind and courteous towards the students and help them in the achievement of their goals. Make sure that teaching-learning processes should be well-organized, child-centric and adequately implemented. The curriculum of rural education can be updated and can include vocational education related to local needs.

Promoting Extra-curricular Activities - Rural schools are such platforms where students can blossom their hidden talent, skills and abilities in extra-curricular activities. Making physical education, games and sports and other extra-curricular activities as an integral part of curriculum in schools for holistic development of children and making provision of infrastructure for the same. Special programmers for girl education - Still a large number of girl students from remote rural India are not able to get education due to several social and economical constraints. So special programmers for girl students in providing accessible education and ensuring their full retention should be the important objective of rural education system

Conclusion

Rural India faces challenges in acquiring education due to a shortage of institutions and facilities, a scarcity of instructors, religious and cultural traditions, a significant distance between home and school, and a general lack of understanding of the need for education.

The development of schools in rural areas, the provision of suitable infrastructure as well as other resources, the use of contemporary technology in education, and the creation of awareness regarding the value of education are all ways to improve the current state of rural education.

References

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