



THE ROLE OF NGO'S AND GOVERNMENT IN EDUCATION SYSTEM IN INDIA

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Abstract:

Education is a movement from darkness to light. Without education, people get caught in the inter-generational cycles of poverty and backwardness. Providing quality education to all children of India should be the top priority of both the State and Central governments. And thus, the different departments of the Government of India often support charities to bring more and more children under the ambit of their education initiatives. Education is a natural right entitled to any individual and a critical social and economic development, therefore, an article of trade in financial positions, but it varies from another service because it is a community feature. Education yields in both the private and public sector in terms of learning and higher learning more so, it benefits the society in social ways whereby a farmer may become more creative through literate skills, also a literate woman may be capable in taking good care of her family health needs, lastly an educated individual can exercise the social and political rights as a better citizen. Therefore it is essential for the government to invest in education since it yields progressive externalities.

This paper tries to explore the role of non-government organisations in education sector. Education that is necessary for character building thereby bringing out the physical, mental and spiritual culture of the human personality. NGOs create awareness and will lead us in future. The human brains behind some of the NGO's have been highlighted.

Key Words: NGO, Role, Organisation, Education System, Government.

INTRODUCTION:

Education is something very crucial for a better life. Providing education to all its children should be India's top priority. India is a vast country, both geographically and demographically, the government alone cannot bring all children into the fold of education. In such a scenario, the role of civil society becomes even more important in ensuring that the benefits of education reach the lower strata of society.

Several Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have been working at the grassroots level to extend education to disadvantaged children in India. Since independence, Education NGOs have strived to strengthen the country's existing educational system and network so that more and more children have the opportunity to go and stay in school. The best thing about NGOs is that they work at the grassroots level, connecting with the masses and raising awareness about the importance of having a good education to get ahead in life.

Governments' Initiatives

Various initiatives have been taken both by the Central and State governments to promote this important right. Before 1976, education was the exclusive responsibility of the States. But the Constitutional Amendment of 1976 included education in the concurrent list which was a far-reaching step. Since then the Union Government and the States shared responsibility on the matters relating to education. At the apex, the Central Government determines targets and prepares the educational plan required to be implemented by the country as educational planning is a part and parcel of the total planning.

The Central Government has taken various initiatives to strengthen the education process in t In order to end inequality, it is important that each and every individual in the country is educated and has access to better livelihood opportunities. The most important step is to increase government spending on education. This will help improve the government schools; the increased budget can help in training teachers, providing books and uniform on time, maintain better infrastructure in government schools such as clean, functional toilets, hand washing facilities, drinking water provisions, digital facilities and play areas.

Some of them are:

- Government of India has set-up institutions like All-India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) which provides guidance to the States in the field of Education.
- The Central Government directs and guides the State Government, local and private enterprise so as to encourage education on right lines.
- The Government of India has set up Commissions to look into the various aspects of education at different levels. These Commissions have provided valuable recommendations which have further been considered by the experts.
- The Central Government allocates suitable grant to the states, local bodies and private agencies.
- The Central Government is directly responsible for promoting and spreading education in various union territories and other central administered areas.

To achieve the goal of UEE (Universalization of Elementary Education), the Government of India has initiated a number of schemes, programmes and projects. Some of the Centrally sponsored programmes includes Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs), National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL), Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), Scheme of Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS), Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in School Scheme etc. The State Governments like that of Central Government also plays a vital role in the field of school education. There are local authorities who act as an agent of the State Government. The state education department which is the nodal agency of the State Government takes the major responsibility in this field.

Government's role

The Indian government has established the University Grants Commission (UGC) for promoting and accelerating the education system in India. This commission functions mainly for the upliftment and betterment of higher education in India. For the primary education, the government has also taken a few steps. One of the main problems in the education of India is the economic problems in the families. For this, the government has made elementary education for the children in the age range 4-14 years compulsory and free of cost. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is made mainly for the poor children. In this, children are given free education with one time meal. Added to this government has also taken steps in imparting computer education in the primary levels.

Government has certainly taken measures to improve the quality of education for all the three stages, primary, secondary and higher.

Here is the list of some of the great schemes initiated by Government of India to improve education in the country.

Schemes for Primary Education

The two major schemes for primary education are following.

1. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
2. Mid Day Meal

These two schemes targets mainly children coming from poor economic background. The schemes will help to bridge gaps between children coming from different socio economic structure.

Schemes for Secondary Education

1. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan
2. National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education
3. Girls Hostel Scheme
4. Scheme of Vocational Education
5. Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage
6. National Scholarships

Secondary education schemes targets children falling under the age group of 14 – 18. The purpose of these schemes is to prepare students for the higher education.

NCERT (National Council for Educational Research and Training) focuses on educational development in terms of both quantity and quality.

Schemes for Higher Education

Objective of higher-educational schemes is to prepare students for the job market. Young graduates can develop their skills so that they can become part of skilled workforce in the country.

Here are some of the important schemes for higher education.

1. All India Council for Technical Education Scholarships
2. Scheme of Apprenticeship Training
3. Department of Science and Technology grants and fellowships
4. Scholarship Schemes for ST Students by Ministry of Tribal Affairs
5. Post-Doctoral Research Fellow (Scheme)
6. Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities - Schemes/Programmes
7. Sports Authority of India promotional schemes

- ❖ The government can subsidize education in several forms including school fees for low-income parents. School fees could be lowered in favour of needy parents and students so that anyone can afford the school fees regardless of the financial status. Education fights poverty in the nation and the society, therefore as the country gives training to its needy citizens the government will be significantly investing in its future economy and status. Since any nation that has got a higher percentage of educated members or elites means that the country is rich. Therefore to eliminate poverty the government has to eradicate illiteracy among its people.
- ❖ Provision of meals in schools by the government could help keep students in schools. Many students fail to show up in schools because of lack of food at their homes; therefore, they fail to show up due to pangs of hunger thus, preferring to look for food than going to schools. Students in classes could also lack concentration when it comes to learning and teaching processes; therefore the student fails to understand what is being taught in the classroom. Food could be used to attract many learners to schools. One could be living in a home where there is no food, therefore, and provision of food in schools could capture many students. Parents could also see it wise to take their children to school because they are sure of the well-being of their students since hunger problems could be catered for thus smooth learning.
- ❖ Providing equality in education whereby the government ensures that the public schools offer a high quality of knowledge to the learners. The private school has always given competition to public school by acquiring high grades in their examinations thus attracting more investors in their business compared to the public (Horn and Paslov, 2014).

Private schooling has, therefore, remained out of reach for the majority since the private sector is driven by the profit gains thus exploiting parents. Therefore the government should make sure that the private sector realizes that education is an essential business for the government and it is accountable for it. More so, the Government also ensures that the teacher it employs to serve public schools should be well trained and experienced to lower the competition in the quality of results attained. Therefore as the public could be able to compete favourably with the private sector, the parents that could not be able to pay fees could have a sigh of relief (Ranson and Tomlinson 2018). Parents who could be investing in the private sector could withdraw and start investing in the public raising economy of the government.

Provision of free education could also help the needy people and the less fortunate in the country. School should be taken as the universal factor or necessity and a need for every individual. Every student who comes from poor background will be able to access education as any other student or person because the class levels could have been removed. Therefore, every student could be running for equal opportunities nationwide and as result inferiority in education could have been dismissed (Landry and Neubauer, 2016). Percentage of school dropouts in the country due to school fees could be minimized since anyone could learn freely without spending more. Free education also increases the literacy level in the country thus education development.

- ❖ A government should ensure that teachers are well paid so that they are motivated in the provision of their services. Teachers employed in the government sectors are mostly underpaid while they are overworked on the other hand. Underpayments make teachers lose morale in their work and could even make them provide inferior services to the learners, which could yield poor performance.

Government act of ensuring that teachers are catered for well at all cost will give the public education an upper hand in its functioning. The private sector mostly outshines the public because it takes care of its employees. Thus they are well paid well in that the salary is proportional to their work (Horn and Paslov, 2014). More so, the teachers in the private sector are always paid on time and with minimum chances of delayed payments, whereas the public operates on late payment of its teachers. Therefore, teachers could get no reason for teaching to work on other projects for money. Besides, the teachers should be motivated whenever there is a significant improvement in their teaching fields (Landry and Neubauer, 2016). Motivated teachers could always double their effort and compete between one another so that they are still motivated. Therefore the teachers will work towards achieving the best in the learning outcomes not just teaching for the sake of earning and finishing the syllabus. Consequently, the education performance would be improving day in day out and shining all times.

- ❖ A government should put in place rules that could check to eliminate outdated syllabus since it misdirects many teachers and learners in schools (Friedman, 2015). The wrong outline could lead to improper planning and schedules in the teaching and learning activities, therefore leading to wrong services delivered to learners throughout. Effective syllabus acts as a tool for excellent performance in schools since the teacher teaches what is tested nationally. More so, the correct plan would put all activities in track. Learners could be able to compete with other students elsewhere since they are subjected to the same thing and if the comparison can be made, it will be fair to all the learners. The wrong syllabus misdirects the whole school failing most candidates because they waste time tackling what is not tested. Frequent checking of the program could help students reach for excellent performance and desired goals since they will be working on the right lane (Ranson and Tomlinson 2018).
- ❖ A government should ensure that private institutions interested in carrying out educational activities meet certain standards. Private sectors mostly run for profit gains and not what they are licensed to do. Management in the private sector could be weak, in that the school could lack infrastructure, teaching and learning textbooks and even playgrounds. Also, education cannot be in the classroom alone since people are talented in different fields. Therefore, the government should make sure it checks out to make sure that the private institution is fit for learning and all that the institution could partake (Horn and Paslov, 2014). Furthermore, the government should ensure that the set fees in the private institutions are not higher than usual in such a way that the parents are discriminated. Fees should, therefore, be affordable by parents since other institution should be set higher prices for profit gains and also taking advantages of parents who are weak to bargain.

How NGOs are contributing to the cause of Education in India:

NGOs have spearheaded the movement to provide quality education to the most marginalized and disadvantaged children in India.

- The most important aspect to promote the diffusion of education is educating parents and communities and all children who need education.
- To improve the penetration of quality education among the most disadvantaged children is to make learning a fun experience.

- NGOs collaborate intensively with local communities to form Children's Groups (CG) and School Management Committees (SMC) and work with them to ensure that they take responsibility for children's development.

Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

- NGOs try to reach out to the most vulnerable sections of the society. While most of the government initiatives have been on the supply side of education, several NGOs have made efforts to work with communities and improve the demand for education.

- A large number of children in this country are unable to complete primary schools and drop out due to the cost of attending school. Many prefer to work for their families than to attend school. As a result few make it out of secondary school and very few go to achieve a higher education. The government is trying to fight illiteracy but the bottle neck in the system make the process largely inefficient.

Here comes the role of social organization and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Some of the areas covered by NGOs in the field of education are as follows:

- NGOs can provide financial assistance to children who have to dropout because of lack of money by giving them free education at their own expenses.
- NGOs can reach out to children who cannot go to school because of inaccessibility and teach them at their homes.
- NGOs also assist in the higher education of child and work towards imparting skill based education to them.
- NGOs plays a vital role to bring awareness among peoples specially in the field of health, diseases, medicine.

Education is an important component for the growth of a society. In India a number of children are deprived of education, most drop out due to poverty and girls seldom get a chance. It has become important for educational NGOs in India to intervene to reach the most remote areas and urban slums where the migrant population reside. According to The National Sample Survey Organization's 2017-18 household survey there are 3.22 crore out-of-school children in India (6-17 years). Seasonal migration, child labor, poor infrastructures of schools, lack of teachers, distance, lack of resources at home and illiterate parents are the major causes of children dropping out of school or not opting to go to school at all. When the pandemic hit the world at the beginning of 2020, it gave rise to more problems in education; confusion regarding continuation of schools amid strict lockdown rules, losing out on learning due to lack of access to online classes hit the underprivileged the most.

- ❖ Educational NGOs in India work together with the government to realize the objective of universalization of Elementary Education. NGOs have a tendency to work in the grassroots of the society, in small locations to first achieve the impact on ground. Based on the principle of people's participation NGOs work to improve education, social welfare, reduce poverty, and develop civil society. NGOs can be seen as alternative agencies which are working on ground to promote awareness, sensitize and to bring a change and improvement in society.

- ❖ The major objectives of educational NGOs in India are to increase the number of school going children, developing other learning skills in local schools & communities, provide inclusive education to children with special needs and work as a catalyst to bring sustainable change in the lives of the children with a life-cycle approach of development.
- ❖ The importance of educational NGOs in India is immense as NGOs can change the face of India in the fields of primary and secondary education. It is the duty of every member of the society to contribute to the cause to make the initiatives of the NGOs successful and enable change in the society.

CONCLUSION:

There is no denying that NGOs play an important role in improving access to quality education. Still, they must move beyond addressing the symptoms of inequality to focusing on structural issues related to education reform. The importance of the role NGOs can play in the spread of education to different nook and corners of a vast country like India is undeniable. Together with existing Government machinery, NGOs can ensure that no child is left behind when it comes to getting education. A government should act towards empowering school leaders and teachers towards professional responsibility and set standards and support them wholly in a quest to deliver quality learning prospects for the learners. Teachers need to be trained so that they can manage well in the school setting. Since without qualifying one is regarded as not restricted, therefore, he or she cannot take roles to lead or teach students (Friedman, 2015). Thus, the government should make it mandatory for anyone who wants to train to have passed through specialized training. Also, the government should establish training centres to cater for teachers training. Presence of training centres could motivate teachers to even further their educations to the higher level, and after that be able to give back to the community as qualified personnel.

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