

Education...

For development of education sector there is need for heavy investment in developing social infrastructure. Huge investment in primary and secondary sector has already taken place so that people can send their children to school to acquire education. But provision should be made for teachers and other supporting staff also. Over the past decade much work has been done to exploit emerging Internet and digital technologies for education. This loosely coupled combination of websites, software, and services has been promoted as a means to improve how teaching and learning is conducted in primary, secondary and post-secondary education. While there is some conflicting evidence as to the effectiveness of this emerging Education Infrastructure, development and investment in it continues at a break neck pace.

India's educational infrastructure can be studied under following broad heads.

- Elementary education
- Supportive measures
- Role of private institutions in higher education
- Open and distance learning
- Glaring failure in education

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

The no. of enrollment in primary school have increased, but no. of dropouts have also increased. The dropout rate among girls in the Scheduled Tribes is higher than among boys. This is because the opportunity cost of girl child education is quite high in the rural setup, neither in the school nor in the labor force but in doing domestic work, mostly sibling care. Higher dropout rate among weaker sections of the society, lower teaching attendance and lack of adequate facilities in schools in the form of rooms, blackboards, virtual absence of separate toilets for girls and lack of environment to retain children in studies have all contributed to our failure. India's education system is divided into different levels such as pre-primary level, primary level, elementary education, secondary education, undergraduate level and postgraduate level. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is the apex body for curriculum related matters for school education in India. The NCERT provides support and technical assistance to a number of schools in India and oversees many aspects of enforcement of education policies. In India, the various curriculum bodies governing school education system. The Indian government lays emphasis to primary education up to the age of fourteen years (referred to as Elementary Education in India. Free education and the ban on child labour are difficult to enforce due to economic disparity and social conditions. 80% of all recognized schools at the Elementary Stage are government run or supported, making it the largest provider of education in the Country.

SUPPORTIVE MEASURE

To improve retention rates in primary and upper primary schools, the government introduced the mid-day scheme (MDM) after the experience of its success in Tamil Nadu. This scheme has been extended to upper primary school. Assessment of the scheme has brought serious weaknesses of the scheme in the form of sub-standard meals, poor quality of cooking arrangements and prevalence of corruption. It has been observed that in states in which the stakeholders have been associated, the quality of meals have improved. Association of parents in vigilance by active association of parents, especially mothers.

Reduce Private Cost- Govt have decided to provide free uniforms, textbooks and stationary to students from below poverty line families. Also provision for free transport to improve attendance in school. The Govt think of providing incentives for girl children so that parents shed their apathy towards education for girls

OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING

National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) provides opportunities for continuing education to those who missed completing school education at school level. At the higher level, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) co-ordinates distance learning. The distance education council, an authority of IGNOU is coordinating 13 state open universities and 119 institutions of correspondence courses in conventional universities. While distance education institutions have expanded at a very rapid rate, but most of the institutions need upgrading of standards and performance. Most of the correspondence courses have become milch cows for their universities and create heavy surpluses which are used to fund conventional education. There is a large proliferation of courses covered by distance mode without adequate infrastructure, both human and physical. There is a strong need to correct these imbalances.

GLARING FAILURE IN EDUCATION

There are some glaring failures which deserve urgent attention-

- The country has failed to achieve universalization of elementary education, despite years of development planning
- The no. of children outside schools in elementary education is quite large. Dropout rate is also very high
- Mid-day meal scheme for children in primary and upper primary schools have improved attendance and retention rate, but serious weaknesses about the implementation of the scheme to provide standard meal have been highlighted by NGOs which need remedial action
- Glaring inter-state variation in enrolment, dropout rates and access to secondary and higher secondary level need remedial action so that these variations can be narrowed down
- Parents are prepared to pay more for the education of their children, if they perceive of good quality education in a particular category of school. Thus there is need to make more investment in government and aided schools for improving the quality of education
- It is necessary to improve school infrastructure, both physical and human in a substantial manner
- Even in Govt. aided school there is a need to charge some reasonably affordable fees so that management is provided more resources besides state grants to improve quality of education

CONCLUSION

India is not using its resources judiciously to the optimum level. Every new innovation in the field of infrastructure (be it physical or human) is seen more on paper than on grounds. Also if implementation part is carried on well then also the project is not a success because no proper analysis and supervision took place. It is not carried with the same pace and enthusiasm. People are not so much dedicated and lack sense of belongingness. They do only what is needed. Thus Education is the most powerful weapon to win the war of infrastructural development, so the qualities of education have to be improved. It's vital we re-examine such narrow education. Just the numbers of perfect scores, even in subjective fields like English literature, illustrate how mechanical our education is it will facilitate and act as a catalyst in the process of development. We still have miles to go before we sleep.

