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AN OVERVIEW OF AN INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM AND WEB BASED EDUCATION IN INDIA

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Abstract

Education is a powerful tool through which an individual can live a worthy life. Education brings an economic and social development in any country. It refers to the–learningprocessforpersonalandsocialdevelopmentthroughimpartingknowledge, practice, training, transmission of culture, enhancement of academic progress, building a body of knowledge by creating a learning environment and learning society and the availability of factors conducive to continuous lifelong learning. This paper covers the current scenario of Indian education system and web-based education in India.

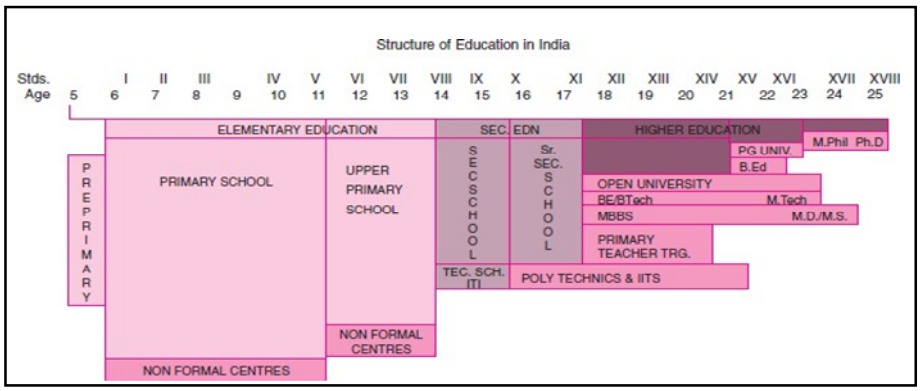
Keywords: Education, Economic, Social, Learning, Scenario.

Introduction

Present Scenario of Indian Education System: The Indian Constitution resolves to provide quality education to all and takes effort to fulfill the educational needs of the country specifically for the diverse societies and cultures of the country. The government has formulated different educational categories: Elementary education, Secondary education, Higher education. By improving the educational condition of a society, the multi-faceted progress of its people can be guaranteed. The scenario of the education in schools is changing. The Indian Government is dedicated to provide elementary education for everyone through **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.** Education in India is provided by the public and private sectors.

Structure of Education in India: The basic structure of education in India follows creating a sturdy base for the students.

Figure1.1: Structure of Education in India



Stages of Education in India: There are basically four stages of schooling in India: primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary, sometimes preprimary school is considered as fifth stage. Table No: 1.1 gives the information of stages of education in India.

Sr. No	Stage	Age Group	Classes
1	Pre-Primary School (Kindgarten)	4 to 5years	Jr. Kg. to Sr. Kg
2	Primary Education	6 to 10 years	1st Std. to 5th Std.
3	Upper Primary Education	11 to 13 years	6th Std to 8th Std
4	Secondary education	14 to 15 years	9th Std to 10th Std
5	Higher Secondary education (Junior College)	16-17 years	11th Std to 12th Std

Table1.1: Basic Stages of Education in India

The primary education has the initial years of formal and structured education during childhood. In primary education, the child stays in steadily advancing classes and moves on to the secondary schooling. The Secondary Education serves as a bridge

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between primary and higher education which gives young person entry into higher education. On an average, the schooling in India goes through duration of 12 years, staring from Class 1 to Class 12th (10+2). Higher Education in India sometimes offer focus in particular field which includes technical schools like Indian Institute of Technology etc. also including related colleges and universities.

Basic Types of Schools in India

Sr. No	Basic types of school
1	Government schools those run by local bodies
2	Private schools aided by the government
3	Private unaided schools
4	Unrecognized private schools

Table1.2: Basic Types of Schools in India

The first three types of schools presented in Table No 1.2 are recognized by the government and the fourth is totally unrecognized. In India, along with the government schools, the private educational institutions have come up in response to growing educational requirements of the pupil with the desire of good quality education. The private education institutions have their own management and Board, for instance ICSE. Schools affiliated to different board patterns all over the country have more or less same educational objectives. Schools in India differ in methods of teaching, infrastructural and man power facilities, curriculum, medium of instruction, discipline, curricular and co- curricular activities, pedagogy, syllabus, examinations and evaluation procedures, their affiliations and accreditations standards, etc.

Educational Boards in the India: There are 33 different educational boards in the country, including the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) which is the umbrella for ICSE and ISC and the various State Educational Boards. All the schools in the country are governed by the rules of the respective boards under which they run. Besides the state boards (SSC), the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Council for Indian School Certificate Examination (ICSE) and National Institute of Open schooling are some of the boards that look after school examination in India. Out of the 33 educational board patterns this research focuses on mainly three educational boards namely Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Indian Council of Secondary Education (ICSE), Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (SSC).

Various Acts, Commissions, Councils and Policies in Indian Education system are University Education Commission (1948), Secondary Education Commission (1952), Education Commission (1964), National Policy on Education (NEP) (1968), Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) (1985), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (2001), Right toEducation Act (2009), Rastriya Madhyamic Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) , National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) , State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) , Department of Information Technology (DIT) and many more.

Web based technology in teaching learningprocess

The globalization has brought the whole world near where education is used as a useful tool to raise awareness of environment, peace, culture, social diversity and increased competitiveness. Through Internet information flows freely all over the world. Anyone can get any information on any subject with the help of the World Wide Web. The internet has enabled the new generation to get information at just one click. The scenario of the schools in India has also been changed where schools are well equipped with all modern technically sound devices that facilitate the learning environment. The use of projectors, DVDs, smart boards, and other modernized devices is an indication that India is also developing in an equal pace with the whole world. Different international schools are also making their appearance in India. But the education has more impact urban India compared to rural India. Internet and the World Wide Web and online technique of learning, children residing in distant parts of the country can take the benefit of lectures that are being delivered in some other parts of the country exclusively through the online mode. This is beneficial to many parents as it saves time and is economical to apply for onlineadmissions.

Status of Web Based Learning

(a) **In World:** Web Based learning strategies are implemented all over the world in order to enhance equity, quality, share instruction technology resources, compete in global environment of education and meet the rising demand for education. A large number of universities in Africa are making positive attempts to implement Web Based learning strategies. Japan has also implementation of information and communications technology (ICT) in education and online learning in their schools. A project called E- Japan

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Strategies emphasizes the educational use of ICT and progress in the implementation of ICT in schools.NewcurriculuminJapanemphasizestheuseofICT and has powerful inducements to educate students with a certain level of knowledge and skills. The e-learning element of the course implemented in Technical University of Kaiserslautern, Germany gave students an opportunity to deal with the concepts mentioned in the lecture and the literature through online chats and forum discussions and offered students a way to prepare better for the examination by creating such resources as online quizzes and lists of central concepts. The online activities benefited the students and the teachers where students made an extensive use of the online material performing better in the examination and teachers become more precise in their planning and gaining an additional way to estimate how competent students make use of the concepts taught in the lecture.

(b) **In India:** Government of India has visualized the role of Information Technology in the contemporary world setup a high power _IT Task Force 'to break India 's shackles andmake her –a Global IT Superpower and front runner intheage of Information Revolution. Government of India through education ministry has taken serious initiatives so that the country can successfully exploit the demographic dividend, inherent into the Indian population. To bridge with the digital divide and communicate with the rural masses powerful Information and Communications Technology such as Satellite based education has launched. Schools in India have to think in an innovativeway of using the power of modern information and communication technology to extend the reach of education. The Indian higher education system must integrate information and communication technologies (ICT) into the system for both academic and administrative tasks. The Indian higher education system must integrate information and communication technologies (ICT) into the system for both academic and administrative tasks. Governments of India can collaboration with private organizations, such as NIIT, Aptech, Microsoft, and Infosys for large investments of e-learning in higher education.

(c) **Maharashtra**: The Maharashtra state is called an educational hub which has rich and notable educational services at the schooling process. It is recognized for its excellent educational facilities at the primary school, middle school and secondary school levels. The literacy rate in Maharashtra is 82.91%, the male literacy rate is 89.82% and female literacy rate is 75.48% [4]. Education setup in Maharashtra has undergone various changes over the years to make the academic curricula more student-friendly. In January 2010, the Maharashtra State Board of Secondary Education decided "Best of 5" asthe criterion applicable for students appearing for their Senior Secondary Certificate Examination. In 2010, the school education system setup State Curriculum Framework (SCF), so that school education was contemporary and relevant. Maharashtra has good HRD (Human Resource Development) infrastructure in terms of educational institutions, engineering/diploma colleges, industrial training institutes and many universities. In Maharashtra many schools use internet-based teaching for effective collaboration, communication and interaction.

(d) **Satara**: In Satara, many residential schools have wifi campus; provide the students and teachers access to various web resources. Also, many e-learning companies have come in market to make teaching learning process more interesting andinteractive.

Web Based Learning

Web based learning is often called online learning, e-learning, virtual learning, distributed learning, network learning as it includes online course content, discussion forums via email, videoconferencing, and live lectures possible through the web. Web based courses provide static pages such as printed course materials. E-learning in education is learning and teaching process conducted using the information and communication technology which improves the quality of the process itself and the quality of its result [6]. Electronic learning has become widely accepted in both entirely online learning environments and in blended learning contexts. Web based learning is also referred to the intentional use of networked information and communications technology in teaching and learning. E- Learning applications and processes include: web-based learning, computer-based learning, virtual classrooms and digital collaboration. Through e-learning, content can be delivered via: The Internet, intranet /extranet, audio or video tape and satellite TV, or CD- ROM. E-learning can be delivered as self-paced or instructor-led and can include media in the form of text, image, animation, streaming video and audio. The success of E- learning certainly depends on several factors, including the availability and affordability of Internet access and also culturalissues.

Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

ICT is universally acknowledged as an important catalyst for social transformation and national progress. ICT refers to the fusion of computers and telecommunications. Indiarecognized the importance of ICT in education in 1984-85 when the Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) Project was initially introduced. ICT designates multimedia and the Internet (the Web) as a medium to enhance instruction or as a replacement for other media [14]. ICTs are transforming schools and classrooms by bringing in new curricula based on real world problems, providing scaffolds and tools to enhance learning, giving students and teachers more opportunities for feedback and reflection, and building local and global communities that include students, teachers, parents, practicing scientists, and other interested parties.

Web-BasedEducation

The web changes the education process in the form of web-based education. Web- based education means the form of online education that uses streaming videos and the more advanced functionalities available in educational software and where there is no actual face to face contact between the teacher and the student. For example,Educomp, Tata Smart Classes, Technext Education, Digi classes etc. Media and ICTs: From radio/TV/VCRs to telephones, facsimile machines, copiers, computers, and access to the web. Benefits of Web-based education are classroom independence and platform independence. Developments in web-based education provide students with a wide variety of teaching/learning alternatives that have expanded the educational process beyond the traditional classroom. The aim of introducing web-based technology into the education system is to improve education processes to gain better results and satisfaction among students, and to make students more competitive. Web based education strategies and models survive with the limited interaction available through Web technologies. With very easy use of Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) tools like Microsoft FrontPage, lessons can be created and modified to suit individual classes or even for individual students.

Web Based Technology

Web based technologies enable Communication, Collaboration, Participation and Sharing. Electronic learning refers to computer enhanced learning with the use of mobile technologies such as PDAs and MP3 players, the use of web-based teaching materialsand hypermedia, multimedia CD-ROMs or web sites, discussion boards, collaborative software, e-mail, blogs, WIFI's, text chat, computer aided assessment, educational animation, simulations, games, learning management software, with combination of different methods. The benefits of using Web based Technology in the classroom are virtual reality, better understandability, basic concepts become clearer to the students, knowledge of diverse nature, sharing of content over the Internet with other teachers and students and effective feedback.

Conclusion

Web-based technology in teaching process is effective as it increases level of knowledge, learning and thinking ability, ability to reproduce concepts, grasping capacity, ability to recollect lessons, increases ability to correlate concepts in real life, communication between students and teachers during learning process and communication among students of theschool.

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