



Cover Page



CONTEMPORARY INDIA AND EDUCATION

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Abstract

Teachers should have a solid understanding of the philosophical and sociological foundations of education, especially in the context of India. So, let me ask you this! Do we want schools that promote unquestioning obedience to rigid rules and encourage the reproduction of knowledge without any critical thinking? Take a moment to consider this. Does your child want to just simply become like the world around him or her? Then, there is another movement aimed at preparing students for an ever-changing world by offering them more flexibility in the classroom. This is the reason I stress those elements in the system of Indian education that it to understand also require improvement.

Introduction

It is very interesting to define and give one precise meaning to the word education. Everyone knows what education is, but not what it means. We might not even be able to define it exactly. It has many problems that prevent the Indian education system from flourishing and assisting children to succeed in life. The main problem it faces is the social grading system with education. But India has a different educational system that is designed to preserve its culture, history, values, and customs. A contemporary education threads school learning into the daily lives we live, which means changing the way we do school consciously, deliberately, and intentionally.

Throughout its history, India's education system has been in transition and has emerged as a melting pot blending diverse cultures, languages, geographies, regional differences, and

philosophies through a developing democratic system of interaction and governance. For education, the country is governed under the rule of law, and the constitution represents the aspirations for our learning evolution as a nation with a strong national identity and a leading role in the global community. In order for our student teachers to understand our nation's education transformation and our egalitarian society, we must continue to evolve together. By doing so, they will be able to effectively perform their role in a large and diverse society. Teachers are also expected to appreciate the influence of the social set-up on education in the country in which they are teaching. The teacher is expected to understand the policy formulation process in India as well as contemporary Indian society.

Objectives

As humans struggled for survival and enlightenment, they developed education. In order to be effective, instructional learning frameworks should be flexible enough to be tailored to the needs of learners. Education may be formal or informal, but it refers to the general process by which human beings acquire the skills and knowledge to function in their culture. Informal education, teachers instruct students in course work within institutions. However, if the learning process is based on socioeconomic factors and not based on a modernized learning system, then education will not be effective. After reading this article, the student teachers will be able to:

1. Understand contemporary India's issues, including industrialization, modernization, and economic liberalization;
2. Understand the salient features of our Constitution and constitutional protections for diversity;
3. Understand the workings and recommendations of the various commissions and committees tasked with improving education in the country.
4. Examine the policy initiatives taken during the pre-and post-independence period in education reform in India;
5. Understanding of Traditional and Modern Education system;



Cover Page



6. Recognize the strengths of Indian diversities such as region, religion, socioeconomic factors, etc;

Equality education in India

The difference between equity and equality in education is widely misunderstood among us. Education equality means that all human beings should have the same opportunities to develop and that there should be no discrimination. It refers to equal opportunities and every child has the same chances of getting an education. It became effective on April 1, 2010, that all children are entitled to free and compulsory education. According to Article 21A of the Indian Constitution, the right to education will have the same legal status as the right to life. From 6 to 14 years of age, all children in the neighborhood will have access to 8 years of elementary education. Article 32 of the Indian Constitution is called the Heart and Soul of the Constitution by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Under Article 32, remedies for violations of fundamental rights are provided.

Children who are not admitted may be placed in a class appropriate to their age. Equality is also a cornerstone of our Constitution. The right to education allows us to accept that each citizen is entitled to basic education. However, the Indian education system is facing so many problems, we must develop effective solutions so that it will improve and create a brighter future for students. As India's population falls into the 0-14 year category, nearly 26 percent (1.39 billion) is eligible for primary education. Since 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has regarded education as a universal and fundamental human right. Therefore, education is considered a fundamental human right. Therefore, equality and equity in education will enable people to become actively involved in social, economic, political, and educational modernization. In the process of advancing modernization, equal opportunities in education are primarily sought as catalysts.

Traditional and Modern Education

In comparison with conventional education, modern education is extremely different, and conventional education is far from technologically advanced. Education has become a vital part of human development, so it must improve. Throughout history, learning methods have continually evolved along with time, and are still undergoing numerous changes on account of the advancements in technology. However, it is impossible to determine which education is superior. Both types of conventional and modern education have their own importance and both types are also similar to each other and different from one another. Traditional and

modern educations are both related to each other and different from each other. Generally speaking, modern education was inherited from tradition. However, traditional education is being neglected because of modern education, which will lead to the decline of our culture but it is important to give equal importance to traditional and modern education. Since the concept of education never stays the same, this is natural because education is a constantly changing concept. During the process of evolution, it has gone through several stages and has acquired different meanings at different stages. Educations of the past and present are both related and different from one another.

There was a time in our country's early history when there were no schools and children learned from their ancestors. They learned survival skills from their ancestors at that time. They learned to hunt animals for food, use animal skins for different purposes, and make tools from their ancestors who lived in the jungle. It was taught to them about the rituals and customs that their ancestors followed. Their stories about their gods and kings gave them good lessons on morals. During the times of the kings, their sons attended schools, called gurukuls, in India. At these gurukuls, the students were taught how to fight, protect themselves and attack their enemies. This type of school was not intended for the local people and this was only accessible to royal families. The importance of education increased throughout the country as the democratic government was established. Many schools were opened where students from different backgrounds could study. In this way, modern education was created.



Difference between traditional and modern education

Today's education landscape is completely different from what it was a few years ago. They both have their own place and importance because traditional education is better for someone who wants to learn about his culture and religion. Modern education, on the other hand, is good for a person who wants to learn about science. Experiences with various parts of the world will always be entertaining in the learning. This will not only encourage the sharing of knowledge but will also motivate the students to learn more. In a sense, modern education is just an up-gradation of traditional education. It is a direct link between traditional and modern education in the some cases with the needs of the people changing, the education system must also adapt and it's important that people accept this change. The education system initially taught children how to satisfy their own needs but their goal was to teach the children how to

satisfy their needs, and that goal remains unchanged today. However, what have changed are the needs of people. Here is a comparison of both types of education.

Traditional education	Modern education
Students receive more theoretical than practical knowledge in traditional education;	Modern education focuses mainly on practical knowledge;
Traditional education gives teachers specialized knowledge;	Students are the focus of modern education;
It is more expensive to receive traditional education than modern education;	Education in the modern age is not as expensive;
There are very few sources of learning in traditional education;	The possibilities for learning are endless;
The duration of their studies is fixed;	Duration of study can be flexible;
Teachers were more important in traditional education, so their needs came first;	Modern education puts the student first and the student's needs are mainly considered;
Traditional education has a one-way communication model where teachers would teach and students would listen;	Students can discuss their doubts and opinions with teachers in modern education, as it is more interactive and a two-way communication process;
Education was meant for only high society people;	Children do not face any discrimination when it comes to education;
At a specific time and in a specific place, students are gathered under one roof to learn.	It is primitive method of education and able to learn at own pace an convenience;

Instructional framework

Education can be improved by improving the effectiveness of teachers more than by any other factor. In addition to having a cohesive structure made up of widely recognized components, an instructional framework can be easily adapted to meet the needs of different teaching styles, content areas, and students. The five key policy developments in Indian education policy show the importance of teachers.

1. The National Education Policy 2020 was drafted with the aim to create a new education system for India that covers elementary education, higher education, and vocational training equally in rural and urban settings;



Cover Page



2. National Education Policy 2019: The aim of the policy is to universalize pre-primary education. A new curriculum and pedagogical structure is proposed, covering pupils from 3 to 18 years old, with 5+3+3+4 levels.
3. India's draft national education policy 2016 aims to address the unfinished agenda from previous education policies, including goals and targets;
4. The National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE) 2009, drafted by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), aimed to transform teacher education institutions;
5. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in India revised the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) in 2004 to improve teacher quality;

In addition to supporting effective professional learning, an instructional framework enables teachers to learn from one another, support one another, and focus on improving their practice over time. Schools achieve more and teachers teach more effectively when they use a common instructional framework so all teachers have a common approach to teaching and learning. The most effective teachers plan lessons that integrate the most proven practices in order to ensure that students meet grade-level standards or exceed them. The most effective teachers use an instructional framework to help students succeed. Teachers face the extreme challenge of consistently and systematically planning and instructing at the levels needed to ensure all students succeed without a teaching framework specifically designed for effective teaching. Teachers who use a teaching and learning framework are better equipped to plan and present exemplary lessons that engage and motivate their students to master rigorous material.

Committees and Commissions in educational development

There were many differences in the education system in 1947 compared to the present. This means pre-Independence to post-Independence. Due to widespread illiteracy post-Independence, India has successfully adapted its education system to global standards. Since independence, the Indian education system has grown considerably. The Government of India has initiated several educational measures to support the nation's social and education reconstruction pursuant to its constitutional mandate. Educational reconstruction has been one of these top measures by the government. Different committees and commissions have been appointed at different times to survey, review and recommend improvements to the existing system, policies, and programs of education.

Under many inspiring leaders, the University Education Commission was the first commission appointed in the post-independence period. As a result, it is recommended that normal life amenities and decencies be provided. After independence, the Indian Education System became more accessible to the whole society. Various education committees have been established to address education challenges, recommend comprehensive education policies, and improve the education system. The government and other related agencies have benefited from this commission's work not only in recognizing the scale and importance of the problems but in making sure opportunities are provided to all citizens throughout the country. As part of the Central Advisory Board of India, different committees and commission were set up to survey, review, and recommend improvements in education at different times.

1. Committee of the Midget
2. Kothari Committee (1964-66)
3. Verma Commission
4. Sachar Committee
5. National Knowledge Commission
6. Macolm S. Adiseshiah Committee

In fact, it covers almost all the factors that lead to the growth of knowledge in India. The report focuses largely on education for rapid and inclusive growth with special attention to expansion, excellence, and equity. In order to achieve global knowledge leadership and to take advantage of the knowledge edge, India must be at the forefront of knowledge



Cover Page



development, application, and dissemination. After the declaration of independence, several Committees and Commissions were established to analyze the problems and suggest the way forward. Their role was to provide the country with scientific and technical knowledge and an overview of key aspects, objectives, curriculum, methods of teaching, and the role of the teacher in these education systems.

Educational Planning and Financing The process of planning is the preparation of a set of decisions for taking action during a certain period of time in order to achieve a set of goals. A plan for education can be defined as, an arrangement of strategies, policies, and standards that will enable the achievement of an educational objective. In terms of both the number of students we have and the diversity of our education system, India has the third-largest education system in the world. Our education finance is an extraordinary field and that is as diverse as education itself. Without proper finance, an education system is impossible to imagine for the country. Education is as an investment in younger generations of our society, and it, therefore, leads to the fulfillment of the demand that society expects from this investment in the future. There are a number of purposes for which educational finance is necessary, including the following:

1. To provide new educational opportunities;
2. To expand the educational facilities already in place;
3. To decrease the disparities in educational opportunity;
4. To increase the quantitative aspects of education; and
5. To expansion of educational offerings;
6. To improve the quality of education;
7. In order to maintain normal educational services;
8. To improve the teacher effectiveness and involvement

We need to reform and change India's education system and all system of education needs reforms at every level. To improve the efficiency of educational infrastructure, to improve the academic curriculum, to increase teacher effectiveness, and to involve the public in the development of education, a good educational plan is necessary. To help the young and immature members of society to develop, education should be made free or substantially cheaper than it is now. In terms of economic development, education is by far the most crucial investment and education has a large impact on health, demographics, and productivity, all of which are affected by the quality of life.

Since a substantial number of weaker sections of society are receiving substantial subsidies at all levels of education because of government policies promoting equality for education, the government has increased its investment in education. It is essential to plan education so that the administrative machinery works efficiently, educational institutions' infrastructures are upgraded, teachers become more effective, and the public is involved in educational decision-making. It is an educational system in which lakhs of students enroll themselves every year to obtain quality education both in India and abroad. As a result of the recommendations of various committees and commissions, the financing of higher education has undergone tremendous changes. Providing adequate funding to higher education institutions can not only increase student enrollment but also enhance the quality of education for a brighter tomorrow for the institutions as well as the nation.

Language Policy in Education

In schools, the ideology of language and the ideology of education are closely related. The Indian government supports a language policy based on the Three Language Formula so that every student is instructed in three languages in school. However, it's important to remember that bilinguals and monolinguals develop languages in similar ways. Language policy is the way a government decides how languages will be used, cultivates the necessary skills for meeting national priorities, or is responsible for establishing the rights of individuals or groups to use and maintain specific languages.



Cover Page



But there are hundreds of languages spoken in India and the census of 2001 shows that there are 1,635 mother tongues and 122 languages. When India gained independence on 9 December 1946, the constituent assembly was established to draft a constitution, and debate about the language issue raged during the Constituent Assembly. A number of genuine issues and challenges also demand immediate attention from educators. The fast-changing language forms of today can't be taught in our current language classrooms. There were three main linguistic questions examined by the framers of the Constitution:

1. The adoption of a national language;
2. The language of the constitution; and
3. The language of the assembly;

It is a prominent feature of the overall educational policy in India. All education commissions and committees in India have clearly stressed the need for students to receive quality language education. If education is to help students grow in the physical, intellectual, and spiritual spheres of life to the greatest extent, it must give top priority to mother tongue right from the first day of education. As language planners and policymakers, our task is to tackle the complex question of multilingualism and ensure that Indian languages remain at the center of educational and national development by giving them their due place. In spite of the defective planning by policymakers at both the state and central levels, English has become the language of preference in education. Even in language learning and teaching as a mother tongue, there are still a number of aspects that are unaddressed in Indian education because it is not possible to impose any language as a mother tongue on learners. What is considered a mother tongue in education if children speak two or more languages at home as home languages.

Evolution of Education in India

Pre-independence education in India has been different from what is in use today. As a result of the changes, there has been a significant shift in school policies, teaching-learning processes, instructional strategies, as well as the relationship between students and teachers. In ancient India, education was based primarily on the Vedas, Shiksha, Chandas, Vyakarna, and Nirukta. There were no proper educational institutions established during the ancient period, but Gurukuls prevailed. There was a major emphasis on relationships between the teacher and the disciples in the Gurukul system. According to the Upanishads, a teacher was an embodiment of good qualities, a fount of knowledge, and a place of spirituality. According to the Rig Veda, the teacher is selected, then well-trained and educated. Their status within society was highly regarded and appreciated. During this period, knowledge was transmitted orally since writing was developed much later. While the Buddhist period was in effect, the role of the teachers changed. During this period, teachers had to acquire knowledge in multiple branches of knowledge.

It was European missionaries who first started schools for scholars in India before the British arrived. Then they later established schools for teacher training. During British rule in India, Lord Thomas Babington introduced the modern education system. Teacher education was considered from various perspectives in pre-independence India. These included the Upanishad and Buddhist periods, the Medieval and Modern periods. The Indian education system, which was accessible only to the elite during British colonial rule, opened up to the entire society after India's independence from colonial rule. School and university systems are adopting a variety of unique practices in order to modernize knowledge delivery in alignment with the needs of the 21st-century generation. These methodologies and innovative pedagogies enable educational institutions to develop the skills of learners in a way that sets them up to become independent, ambitious, and self-reliant. Since India attained independence, the landscape of Indian education has changed considerably.

Understanding the Social Diversity

Every one of us comes from a different background and has different experiences. India has been considered as one of the largest and most diverse societies in the world. The issue of diversity is not solely a matter of ethnicity and culture is also not the only factor contributing to it. Society is often described as being built on the foundation of education which brings



Cover Page



prosperity to society. Almost every modern society relies on it for its educational development. It is the most significant indicator of a region's overall development. As a society, we are diverse in terms of race, culture, religion, age, and ability. Every society considers education as a social necessity to benefit all these individuals. There are three universal human realities that constitute social diversity.

1. Cultures and societies are dynamic;
2. Each individual has a unique identity; and
3. Societies and individuals are interdependent;

Societies have structures that describe these patterns of social relationships. Every society has a structural system. It seeks to preserve it and does not want to change it unless there are sound reasons for it. It is a key concept in sociology. As each generation looks forward to the next, it is hoped that it will build up a nation that is better than the present. Consequently, any nation's main concern should always be educating the future generation.

It is a well-known fact that the right to education can only be realized through these patterns of social relationships. Because of the heterogeneous nature of Indian society, the national education policy ensures that all groups develop harmoniously. The education industry has evolved into a "unity in diversity" paradigm, in which new ideas about diversity and inclusivity have evolved. This concept focuses on enriching human learning and experience, generally referred to as unity in diversity. By being educated, the people will not be influenced by rumours or be driven away by selfish and religious political leaders. When Indians are educated, they will think rationally before taking any actions against any other religion.

Levels of social diversity in Indian society

Indian culture and civilization are unique in many ways and a variety of human cultural trends are synthesized organically and harmoniously into Indian culture. There are an endless number of physical features in India, as well as cultural patterns. Nearly all of the major religions of the world are practiced in India and in India, there are many caste systems. It refers to a hereditary, endogamous status group practicing a specific traditional occupation. In India, there are over 3,000 caste groups and we live in a land of diversity. Even in terms of economics, there is diversity and variation as well and no one has the same standard of living or income. Education is essential for a democracy to succeed and for a country to prosper in diversity. In spite of this, unity in diversity represents one of the most striking characteristics of the Indian population but the levels of social diversity in India are as follows:

1. Individual diversity;
2. Regional diversity;
3. Linguistic diversity;
4. Religious diversity; and
5. Caste and tribes diversity;

Education to better understand social diversity

Diversity is a complex thing to use and understand because it affects society in both a negative and a positive way, including education. Although, these diverse learning prepare students to meet the challenges of an increasingly complex and pluralistic society. They foster respect among students and help build communities through the quality of their character and their contributions. In today's era, teachers must not only be knowledgeable about imparting quality education but also be sensitive to the needs of their students, regardless of their race, color, or creed. To become an effective teacher, one must understand, and practice the ideas of efficacy, educational psychology, and pedagogy.

It can be challenging to teach when a teacher lacks an adequate understanding of cultural differences in the group of learners. This can negatively affect the 'ability of students to become successful learners. It is important for teachers to consider the



Cover Page



intellectual, social, and cultural characteristics of each student with their cultural backgrounds and experiences. Teachers must be friendly and caring towards their students, and diverse students must be able to be integrated into mainstream classes without compromising the quality of instruction. According to Article 45 of the Indian Constitution, all children must receive free and compulsory education until they reach the age of fourteen. This basic education became the foundation for the national education system.

This is actually a much broader and broader concept than integrated education, and even government acknowledges this as well. The purpose of the program is to allow all children to achieve self-confidence, allowing them to become part of mainstream society. Although, the government also taken a variety of approaches to make universalization of elementary education successful. Diversity in education gives children the opportunity to build a stronger sense of community because they need to learn to respect others and to tolerate their differences but teachers play a critical role in teaching children how to deal with differences. By leading by example, providing guidance, and setting rules, they give their children an opportunity to follow their behavior and habits.

Indian Constitutional Values on Education

Despite the fact that society today is much more advanced and better than it used to be, the question is, what will happen if the people of that society are not well-behaved? Education is valued for its ability to enrich the mind by providing knowledge that will allow individuals to make intelligent decisions. Individuals make these decisions in full awareness of the consequences. This eliminates any possibility of unpleasantness, and so brings satisfaction without a burden of a troubled conscience or disturbed emotions.

According to the Indian constitution, education is a concurrent issue and both the Centre and the States can legislate on it. To ensure its implementation, the Act lays down specific responsibilities for the Center, States, and Local bodies. As per Article 21A of the Indian Constitution, the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, also known as the Right to Education Act, was enacted by the Parliament of India and describes the modalities of free and compulsory education for children. Here is salient aspects of Indian Constitution

1. Preamble;
2. Fundamental Rights;
3. Fundamental Duties; and
4. Directive Principles of State Policy and Education;

In the Indian Constitution, several rights and liberties are based on the principle of equality. As part of Article 14, all citizens are guaranteed equality; however, Article 15 protects people from discrimination. As part of the Indian Constitution, there is a guaranty that the true value of education in the way we live our lives without any discrimination in learning. This can be seen in the way we regard ourselves and others, in how we talk, and in how we conduct ourselves in our social interactions. The purpose of the Constitution is to synthesize fundamental rights and state directive principles. The constitution's aim is to provide, establish and provide opportunities for all children, regardless of age, gender, or country of origin, to achieve a balanced development of cognitive, emotional, and psychomotor skills. Here is the fundamental Rights of Citizens:

1. Right to Equality : Article 14-18;
2. Right to freedom : Article 19-22;
3. Right against Exploitation : Article 23-24;
4. Right to freedom of Religion : Article 25-28;
5. Cultural and educational right : Article 29-30;
6. Right to constitutional remedies : Article 32;



Cover Page



Fundamental rights in India are provided by the Constitution of India, which was enacted on the 26th of November, 1949, but was put into use on the 26th of January, 1950. On the basis of these goals, the Indian Constitution makes provisions for education. There are many provisions in the Constitution that refer to basic values. The purpose of education is to provide well-being for individuals, so it must deal with the teaching of values. Therefore, it is only then that our future generations will be able to create values that are in the interest of everyone and for the good of society as a whole. Therefore, we have equal opportunities under our constitution. If we do not allow equal access to education, then this provision of the Constitution has no meaning.

Conclusion

Even though India's education system is quite old, it still exists today. It cannot be denied that the government of India is touting a lot about higher education development but higher education suffered from colonialism before independence and Indian education suffered greatly as a result. Although our education system remained influenced by politics after independence, many steps were taken to improve the standards of our educational system. In addition, the teachers deal with multilingual classrooms with children from vastly different socioeconomic, linguistic, and cultural backgrounds and with varying cognitive abilities. Children are not just taught to read books and memorize information but they holistically develop them.

They include children's mental, cognitive, physical, and spiritual well-being. As a result of the constant changes in school curricula, the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has periodically produced Teacher Education Curriculum Frameworks. Provision of the Indian Constitution provided education system to focus on improving classroom teaching and providing more practical classes for all students to improve their theoretical as well as practical knowledge. India's constitution contains several provisions aimed at making education accessible to all citizens. By providing free and compulsory education, the constitution aims to uplift all sections of society.

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