

Problems Solutions and Structural Changes are Required to Enhance the Quality of Primary and Upper Primary Education with a Focus on Government-Funded Institutions

Manisha Singh¹, Vishakha Singh²

¹Department of Commerce Deen Dayal Upadhyaya University, Gorakhpur, U.P., India

²Qualifications- B.Tech. (EE), M.Tech. (Power Electronics)

Abstract - The foundations of the education system in India were laid by Macaulay who wanted to create 'subservient babus'. Our education system has been scarred by various deep-rooted issues that have slowly reaped over time. The education scenario has deteriorated both in terms of quality and quantity and it can severely hamper our growth trajectory. This situation is even dire when it comes to the Purvanchal region even though we have one of the highest IQ levels in the world. In the present education system, there is an information overload rather than the focus being on abilities like analytical and critical thinking. Also, the traditional work culture in government primary schools does not compete with its private counterparts. This study aims to study the current scenario and based on it suggests a complete overhaul of the current system while keeping strictly in mind the restrictions posed by both government funds and human capital and even suggests how to mitigate those. The primary aim is to help design a system that is more sustainable and healthier on its own with decent timely checks which might change the general public sentiment and our cultural ways to create a more pro-public-school environment.

Index Terms - Infrastructure, Curriculum overhaul, crowdfunding.

INTRODUCTION

Back in 1835 when Thomas Babington Macaulay entered the Education scene with the English Education Act which had complete disregard for our Indian ethos. He primarily focused on addressing the language barrier between the Britishers and Indians and designed an education system to create babus who would think mechanically and serve the British crown. The Indian education system is designed to mass produce clerical staff and not innovative, rational

human beings. Back then the East India Company needed clerks who could sit at their desks and do their jobs without getting too creative as at the time England was going through the Industrial Revolution and the clerical staff was needed to maintain logs of the work. So they created an information-crunching education system that is not of much use today. The importance of too much knowledge is largely redundant in the current scenario due to the widespread presence of the internet. What this Education system does is force-feed children with unnecessary information that damps their innate genius and also makes them disinterested to go to school. The genius that is often witnessed say in the form of Jugaad, is not because of our education system but despite it.

STATUS

The Basic education fund allocation has been raised from last year's Rs. 15,632 crores to Rs. 21,499 crores now for U.P but it won't bear much fruit if some basic Structural changes are not brought into the system. As nearly:

1. 40% of children in standard 3 cannot recognize numbers till 100.
2. 58% of children sit with other Grades.
3. 52 % of children cannot read a Standard 2 text.
4. 74.6% of children can read a story.

CRITICAL ISSUES

Need to improve access and quality of education along with creating the right infrastructure space. There is also a need to address the disparity between

Government and Private Primary Schools as if most of the students start attending public schools it will create a more uniform education environment; e.g.; in Australia, most students go to public schools and in return it gives them a more balanced exposure to society. There is a lot of delay in Funding by the government as the government also faces a cash crunch time and again. So rather than just depending on government funds a self-sustainable environment that helps fund the day-to-day tasks of government schools needs to be created which may help improve their quality without waiting for the government or any outside entity to do so. Our large population also makes it difficult for the government to fund every institution so addressing the population problem could indirectly benefit almost any problem that we face as a country. Because of the fund crunch, the pupil-to-teacher ratio is also very low. The Guardians in general have little to no education which makes it difficult for them to ask for what is needed as well to make them send their wards to school regularly as the dropout rate is fairly high. As compensation for teachers and their work environment is fairly low the Job Satisfaction amongst Teachers is also low.

TABLE 1: STUDENTS NUMBER IN PRIMARY

Year	Boy	Girls	Total
1950-51	22,92,175	3,34,948	26,27,123
1960-61	31,70,868	7,87,660	39,58,528
1970-71	67,48,031	38,67,691	1,06,15,722
1980-81	65,93,572	27,74,829	93,68,401
1990-91	78,93,063	40,68,501	1,19,61,564
2000-01	85,60,920	48,43,140	1,34,04,060
2012-13	1,29,50,502	1,32,53,658	2,62,04,160

TABLE 2: STUDENTS NUMBER IN UPPER PRIMARY

Year	Boy JHS	Girls JHS	Total
1950-51	2,78,339	69,798	3,48,137
1960-61	4,46,139	1,03,688	5,49,827
1970-71	10,95,740	2,85,166	13,80,906
1980-81	14,12,783	3,91,731	18,04,514
1990-91	20,26,314	7,21,254	27,47,568
2000-01	21,71,774	10,10,153	31,81,927
2012-13	55,44,826	59,97,720	1,15,42,546

TABLE 3: TEACHERS NUMBER IN PRIMARY

Year	Male	Female	Total
1950-51	65,110	5,189	70,299
1960-61	87,340	11,714	99,054
1970-71	1,70,857	32,502	2,03,359
1980-81	2,03,712	44,042	2,47,754
1990-91	2,09,120	57,037	2,66,157
2000-01	2,36,310	82,004	3,18,314
2012-13	2,01,579	1,62,471	3,64,050

TABLE 4: TEACHERS NUMBER IN UPPER PRIMARY

Year	Male	Female	Total
1950-51	11,605	2,900	14,505
1960-61	19,057	4,202	23,259
1970-71	41,306	10,880	52,186
1980-81	58,775	14,326	73,101
1990-91	78,814	19,415	98,229
2000-01	82,798	23,890	1,06,688
2012-13	1,22,385	1,49,575	2,71,960

TABLE 5: TEACHERS NUMBER PER SCHOOL

Type of School	2012-13	2001-02
Primary	2.16	3.29
Upper Primary	3.55	4.92

STRATEGIC OPTIONS

A Dedicated Education Services under the education minister for state the needs to be set up. The services can be central or state level. Such services will only function in the Education sector and have no other responsibilities thus Education has their complete focus. Now the question arises as to why do we need them? And the answer simply is that much like our Education System our administrative servants are trained to do everything rather than focusing on a specialized area. A Dedicated Services with slightly different selection criteria would provide better efficiency, clarity and structure to the state education system.

1. A Central state portal that serves as a database for all information regarding the education system to improve transparency, accessibility and accountability.
2. A complete overhaul of the curriculum is needed to bring a necessary change so that kids themselves want to go to school.

A WAY FORWARD

The goal of education should be overall Development and not jobs. If we do not teach our children to evolve with time and grow their skills then they will turn out to be as outdated as the versions of android phones with time. The focus of the new curriculum could be on aspects of a child such as character building, concentration e.g. Vipassana meditation could be taught to do so, focus on building an attitude of collaboration rather than competition, teamwork, physical and mental strength, logical thinking, critical reasoning, humbleness, tolerance, inculcate a sense of belonging, respect for public property, etc.

A few Basic Changes that would help achieve the above-mentioned goals: reduce the syllabus, introduce yoga, and celebrate all festivals with equal zeal. media education be it television or the internet, compulsory everyday physical training as it strengthens the mind and body both, newspaper reading, putting more focus on art as along with inculcating innovation and being stress relieving it makes us more accepting of different cultures and tradition's finally helping in the integration of society, Overhauling the grading system: The class can be divided into different groups and an individual's grade could be a sum of 80% of his grade and 20% of his group's grade. This also helps increase a sense of camaraderie and togetherness.

ACTION PLAN

1. The selection of the Education services officers can take place as follows: a basic aptitude test followed by an issue-based paper where the subjects are elementary education, secondary education, and teaching, and finally, an interview to check the candidate's experiences and ideas for the education sector as well taking into account their performance while working in the sector. The eligibility criteria can be an education-related Degree with a minimum of 2 years of experience in the education field. Also, people with 5 or more years of experience in the teaching sector can be given an age relaxation of 5 years on the upper age limit to encourage more teachers in the services. It would also serve as motivation for teachers to do better in their respective roles.

2. The centralized portal can be designed having a teacher's database which has information regarding teachers, their attendance, and the performance of students studying under them audited independently; a student database has information about kids, attendance, their marks, physical traits, sports performance to be uploaded; analysis of this data to identify outliers using data analysis in sports, studies and physical traits. Upload of infrastructural changes which may have a photograph of any expenditure on infrastructure and information regarding any talent spotted. School information covering all information regarding school such as location, faculty, facility students, etc. to be available on the portal.

3. All the below-mentioned tasks would be the primary responsibility of the education services

officer. The Teachers will need additional training to tackle the curriculum overhaul which can be addressed via the SWAYAM Portal where we can float a diploma course in elementary education with the help of NIOS. Bring a round-the-clock setup for students who have progressed to a certain standard but do not know much about lower standards, testing them and enrolling them in either lower standards or letting them do both sides by side with the help of technology. Children should have the responsibility of cleaning the school premise on a rotational basis. This will promote a basic sense of cleanliness and hygiene, teach them about the importance of keeping the country clean thus promoting swachh bharat, and also inculcate a certain degree of humbleness and respect for all sorts of jobs. A central exam paper for every standard should be set up on a zonal level as divided on the central portal so that there is no The disparity in the level of education is being imparted. Recognition for both teachers and students: Programs for teachers like Police Annual Function in Maharashtra recognize and award Teachers who excel in their work. Such motivation has a deep psychological effect that cannot be described just in words. Similarly for students inter-school or inter-village competitions can be organized.

4. Additional steps that can be taken to complement the process is that if children of government employees and lawmaker's compulsorily attended government school till the primary level then it will help keep a check on the quality of education and will put the necessary pressure on authorities to make sure that all funding and schemes are properly utilized. After graduation Fellowships can be introduced that teach teachers how to tackle the existing Education scenario may be in the name of CM Fellowship which can be similar to the Gandhi fellowship or a social entrepreneurship Fellowship like ALC-TII. Compulsory NGO work for all the undergraduate student's where they can be assigned to a primary school in their proximity: This will help the youth that generally knows more about the flaws in the education system to help bring some change. The state should collaborate with programs like Teach for India, Pratham, etc. to help facilitate them to come to Uttar Pradesh or develop programs similar to this. Biometric attendance for students and teachers should be uploaded on the central portal which will help provide transparency (no fake student entries plus would ensure teacher's presence) and would help identify

areas with low attendance. All state schemes should be available for only two children and a minimum earning criterion should be set for people who want to have children and it should have slabs for 1st and 2nd children. The new system would face resistance from existing employees in the teaching and administration of the education field.

SUGGESTION

- It is high time we stop treating our education system as a non-profit sector and work on some public-private partnerships as it will tackle most of our major challenges. We cannot change the inherent human nature but growing transparency through a central portal would help create the necessary fear to reduce it.
- If government employees are asked to send their children to public schools at a later stage of the above-mentioned process and also only till primary school then it will somewhat reduce their resistance and backlash.
- A Social security system should be designed for children dropping out of school and these children can be assigned to different families of which the minimum care cost can be sustained by the government.
- A program to educate the Guardians about the benefits of Education should be brought to extremely remote and poverty-ridden areas.
- With more public-private enterprise and collaboration with programs like TFI AND Pratham, we will have a better Pupil Teacher Ratio.
- Giving more recognition to teachers and providing scope to join Education Services will prove to be added incentives for Teachers to perform Better.

FUNDING AND MEASURING IMPACT

Crowdfunding campaigns can be arranged through sites like Gofundme.com or Discount card fundraising by partnering with local businesses, scratch card fundraisers, and spinner fundraisers. Private entities could be approached to contribute something under corporate social responsibility. Striking partnerships with the likes of Global Partnership for Education, Bill

and Melinda Gates Foundation, Tata trust, etc. A separate body or institute that deals with the certification of teachers: should conduct an accreditation exam every 5-8 years on which the salary increment of a teacher could be based. Bringing back board exams for 5th and 8th standard students. Teacher's performance record evaluation: Suppose there is a new teacher, for 3 years they should be made to work in the same school and the track record of the teacher should be measured based on the school's overall performance. We do not need individuals in cut-throat competition rather we need the community to perform better.

CONCLUSION

If we follow the proposed steps with ingenuity we will raise responsible citizens who would give this country a Glorious future. The future in all its glory will entail that we have a laborious workforce who will not be information-crunching machines but a value-added enterprise. We would have labor whose skills are relevant for jobs of the future. We would mass produce entrepreneurs whose success would produce more jobs for the masses. And lastly, we would have a more satiated, tolerant, and Happy State.

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