THE USE OF CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING TO REDUCE THE DEVELOPMENTAL INEQUALITIES IN INDIA

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Background

- The persistent developmental inequalities in India, varying across regions and socio-economic classes, manifest in disparities in education, healthcare, and income.
- Despite recent economic growth, these disparities persist, leading to limited opportunities, especially in rural areas.

Socio-Economic Status	Average Test Score
Richest Quintile	67.2
Fourth Quintile	61.4
Third Quintile	55.6
Second Quintile	49.8
Poorest Quintile	44

Critical Thinking Skills of Students by Socio-Economic Status

Objective

- To improve critical thinking and problem-solving skills through technological interventions and innovative educational approaches, helping reduce developmental disparities.
- To leverage software engineering to develop practical solutions for improving access to education and optimising public service delivery.

Challenges

- Ensuring wide accessibility of e-learning platforms, especially in areas with limited internet connectivity.
- Resistance to change from traditional educational and governance systems.

Social Group	Health Inequality Index
ST	38.6
SC	35.4
OBC	32.8
GC	30.9

Health Inequality Index by Social Groups

Action Plan

- Course of Action 1 (SMART solution):
  - Specific: Develop e-learning platforms to offer accessible, high-quality educational materials.
  - Measurable: Monitor increase in platform registrations and active users from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.
  - Achievable: Utilize current software engineering practices to create and maintain the platform.
  - Relevant: Promote even-handed opportunities for education, addressing one of the core facets of developmental inequalities.
  - Time-bound: Target completion and launch of the e-learning platform within 2 years.

- Course of Action 2 (Stakeholders):
  - Software engineers for platform development.
  - Governments for support in integrating e-learning platforms and digital solutions into public service delivery.
  - Local communities for active participation and feedback.
  - NGOs and educational institutions for collaboration in content creation and promotion.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased access to quality education across socio-economic classes.
- Optimized public service delivery, leading to improved government efficiency.
- Reduction in developmental disparities, leading to balanced socio-economic growth.

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