**Problems in the Indian Education System**

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**Abstract**

Education is meant to prepare an individual for life, equip him physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually to deal with the challenges of life with self-assurance, audacity, making the right decisions, and broadening their perspectives. The primary objective of education is to direct the individual to live his life in a useful and in a meaningful way. One of the prevailing problems in the education system in the present existence is the variation in the quality of education; the quality of education tends to be the reflection of the prosperity. For a person to prosper in the society, education is considered imperative. The main purpose of this research paper is to understand the problems in the Indian education system, the main areas that have been highlighted are, need and significance of education, issues in the Indian education system, challenges in the Indian education system and suggestions for making improvements in the Indian education system.

**Keywords:** Indian Education System, Significance, Issues, Challenges, Suggestions, Improvements

**Introduction**

The education system in India produces millions of graduates each year, many skilled in Information Technology and engineering. This progress that has been implemented regarding human resources reinforces the economic advancements of the country, on the other hand, produces problems within the education system. While the demographics in India are generally perceived to provide it an edge over the economies of the other countries. With 35 percent of the population under the age of 15 years, India’s education system experiences numerous challenges. Successive governments have pledged to increase the spending on education to six percent of the GDP, but the actual spending was around four percent. The top business schools, Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and universities experience scarcity of staff and personnel (Lall, 2005).

Education has been observed as the crucial development tool. The system of education in India has become a great movement, both in terms of resources allocated and the number of persons involved, these include, teachers, students and the administrators. During the post-independence period, there was expansion in education in India at all levels. Depending upon the levels of control and the patterns of management; educational institutions in India can be divided into four categories: government institutions, where funding and management is the responsibility of the government, government aided or grant receiving institutions, which are funded by the government and managed by private enterprises, private institutions that are recognised by the government but do not receive grants from the government and completely private institutions that are neither funded nor recognised by the public authorities (Varghese & Tilak, 1991).

**Need and Significance of Education**

Education is a movement that is considered crucial for the development of human resources. The various kinds of developments, such as, cognitive, intellectual, social, personal are enhanced through education. In the system of education, higher education incorporates management, engineering, medicine, technology, science etc. these fields contribute a major role in the impartment of knowledge, information, values and skills amongst the individuals (Chakrabarty, 2011). It also plays a vital role in increasing the growth and productivity of the nation. The development of the society, community and the nation is an imperative concern; human resources can work towards the development of the community and nation, when they possess the knowledge, awareness and the skills, hence, the generation of knowledge, awareness and the development of skills will be applicable only through education.

Besides, management, engineering, medicine, technology, science, there are number of other fields in education such as, mathematics, English, Hindi, arts, education, political science, history, geography, hotel management, business administration and so forth that contributes in enriching the aptitude, capabilities and proficiency amongst the individuals, so that they are able to accomplish their desired goals and objectives. In educational institutions, the subject that people select are usually on the basis of their interest, hence, in order to understand the subject in an efficient manner and to make use of it in employment opportunities, a person should be diligent, resourceful, creative and ingenious. It entirely depends upon the individual how he understands his field and works towards it. Teachers and instructors can guide the learners towards the right direction, but the learners themselves have to follow the right path through dedication and hard work.

In leading to growth and productivity of the nation, the government is committed to making provision of primary education and certain facilities and subsidies are also required for higher education. The cost involved is high in the management of the higher educational institutions and private sector in the present existence is contributing towards the operation of educational institutions (Chakrabarty, 2011). The main objectives of education are, the individual should be educated regarding all areas that are necessary to enhance ones living, such as, norms, values, ethics, social skills, academic knowledge, cultures, and they should learn to use the critical thinking skills. When an individual acquires higher education and becomes a doctor, engineer, lawyer, teacher, manager, administrator etc. then this is apparent that he works to sustain his living conditions as well as the conditions of his family, but it is vital that he should contribute towards the welfare of the community. Education and learning should be implemented throughout the lives of the individuals, they are regarded as lifelong processes and a person should always focus upon learning new things in his day to day life.

**Issues in the Indian Education System**

The emerging issues in the Indian education system have been stated as follows:

Teaching Attribute is in a Low State – In most of the educational institutions and training centres within the country, the quality of teaching is not in a very developed state. The main factors that lead to the deprived teaching methods are, shortage of teachers, the curriculum and the instructional methods are not well developed, the teaching-learning methods are not well organized, lack of appropriate communication between the teachers and the students, lack of modern and innovative techniques and financial problems. Due to these problems, the teaching that takes place in educational institutions is not of improved quality and measures need to get implemented to make it useful (Chahal, 2015).

Financial Constraints – There are many students who belong to minority groups, marginalized and socio-economically backward sections of the society. They show interest in their education, are diligent and aspire to become professionals such as, doctors, lawyers, engineers, business administrators, teachers and so forth. But low income of their families and financial constraints serve to be impediments within the course of the acquisition of education. Students usually migrate to urban areas to get enrolled in higher educational institutions and besides, tuition, they have to pay for their living, food, books, e-resources, and other expenses (Challenges in Indian Higher Education, n.d.).

Traditional Teaching Methods – In educational institutions, traditional methods of teaching are adopted, and teachers do not make use of technology or audio-visual aids in teaching, particularly in nursery schools. There is requirement for technology and internet within the education system, particularly in rural areas. The investment made in the technological infrastructure will contribute in facilitating learning amongst the rural masses. The testing and the evaluation systems need to be made more creative by recognizing the significance of technology, adopting innovative teaching-learning methods, and ways to solve the problems in an efficient manner (Thanky, 2013).

Privatization - Privatization of higher education is actually a new but a wanted trend and is indispensable to sustain resourcefulness, adaptableness and superiority. The economic track of liberalization and globalization demands for it. In India, both the public and the private institutions function simultaneously. Almost 50 percent of the higher education in India is imparted through private institutions, primarily unassisted comprising of high cost. However, the condition is not considered to be very unassuming. Private providers, in the interest of maximizing profit, have every motivation to minimize the costs by negotiating on the quality of education available in their institutions (Chahal, 2015).

Inadequate Facilities and Infrastructure – Educational institutions and training centres in India in some cases, do not have adequate facilities and infrastructure. In the provision of education, it is vital that there should be availability of proper furniture, technology, machines, cooling and heating equipment in accordance to the weather conditions, clean restrooms and so forth. These are regarded to be important in the provision of education, as the physical environmental conditions of the educational institutions should be comfortable. The facilities and the infrastructure are mainly found to be in an underdeveloped state in schools in rural areas. Due to these, there would be a decline in the enrolment of students, hence, measures are required to be implemented to make provision of facilities and development of infrastructure (Chahal, 2015).

Reward Creativity, Original Thinking, Research and Innovation – At all the levels of education, it is vital that creativity, logical and rational thinking, research and utilization of innovative techniques and methods should be encouraged. These will contribute in making learning pleasurable. There are students, who do not take interest in learning or attending classes, this results in an increase in the rate of absenteeism. Therefore, in the teaching-learning methods, the teachers and the instructors are required to be imaginative, so that they can make the lesson plans interesting for the students. It is vital for the students to learn the research techniques, as these are imperative in higher education.

**Challenges in the Indian Education System**

The challenges that the Indian education system are experiencing in the present existence have been stated as follows: (Chahal, 2015).

Heterogeneous Education System – The education system within the country is of heterogeneous nature. The main factors that lead to the heterogeneous nature of the education system are based on geographical locations, caste, race and ethnic origins of the individuals, rural and the urban establishments and differences in the backgrounds of the individuals. There have been different varieties of colleges, universities and educational institutions that make available numerous programs. There are various programs, courses and quality of education that are offered in educational institutions. There are institutions that make provision of qualitative education and there are also institutions that get involved in educational malpractices.

Involvement of Political Factors – Most of the institutions, when they are imparting education, are owned by dominant political leaders. The political leaders in the present existence are contributing the main role in governing of the educational institutions. They have established their own youth stands and encourage the organization of the students on a political basis. The dynamism of the students is made use of for political purposes. In some cases, students do not find education manageable, hence, they even begin to protest in order to get their needs and requirements fulfilled and in some cases, students even forget their educational goals and objectives and begin to develop their career in politics.

Economic Difficulties – Economic difficulties are regarded to be the most imperative transformations that the system of higher education has imposed upon the communities. There are students enrolled in educational institutions, who belong to minority groups and find it difficult to meet their basic requirements. The increase in the economic difficulties have been due to increasing prices, people have the habit of spending money on luxury items, there is an increase in the population, and so forth. There are number of students who experience financial problems, they get engaged into part time jobs in order to pay for their education. They are required to focus on their job and education. In the present existence, there are about 75% students who are experiencing financial problems. The implementation of part time work and study cannot provide assistance to their economic difficulties in an adequate manner.

Lack of Moral Values – In the present world, the growth of science and technology, innovative methods, modernization and industrialization has minimized the moral values. In educational institutions, in some cases, when teachers are not satisfied with the performance of the students, they may reprimand them, on the other hand, the students do not establish appropriate terms and relations with the teachers, when they experience any kinds of reprimands. In the present existence, everybody would like to be treated with respect and courtesy, older students do make an attempt to raise their voice against the teachers and the staff members when their needs and requirements do not get fulfilled.

**Suggestions for making Improvements in the Indian Education System**

The suggestions for leading to improvements in the Indian education system have been generated from various sources and these have been stated as follows: (Singh, n.d.).

Towards a Learning Society – As there is occurrence in the advancements towards the learning society, every human activity will require contribution from proficient individuals and professionals, this will place the entire sector of higher education in attention. There is a need for the implementation of measures to cultivate, differentiate and upgrade the higher education and research programs.

Connection between Industry and Academics – It is vital to establish a connection between industry and academics. In the present existence, individuals should develop skills and knowledge amongst themselves to ensure employability and to make use of the knowledge, skills and abilities in an operative manner in the performance of the tasks and functions. In educational institutions, the programs and the courses should prepare the individuals for employment opportunities in various organizations.

Incentives to Teachers and Researchers – Industry and the students expect that specialized courses should be offered to enhance their educational qualifications. Incentives should be provided to the teachers and researchers to make these professions more worthy to the students. Vocational and diploma courses need to be made specialized to facilitate the programs being offered to the students.

Innovative Practices – The emergence of new and modern technologies lead to progress in the present world. It makes available opportunities for economic growth, improved health and nutrition, enhanced delivery of services, improved learning, curriculum and instruction, and socio-cultural advancements. Efforts are required to be made to make innovative practices more usable in the system of education.

Mobilization of Resources – Operative measures are required to get implemented to mobilize the resources that are required for higher education. In most cases, finances prove to be problems for the students, therefore, they have to regulate the fee structure to the capacity of the students to pay for their education. The availability of scholarships have also motivated students towards acquiring education.

Advancement of the Information Age – The world is making an entry into the information age, the developments of communication, information and technology will produce new, innovative and cost-effective approaches for providing higher education to the individuals. Continuing education is required for meeting the demands of the progression of information, fast changing nature of the occupations and lifelong education.

Student Centred Education and Dynamic Methods – Methods of higher education has to focus upon four learning areas, these are learning to learn, learning to do, learning to be and learning to become. It is vital for the teachers and the educational institutions to adopt innovative curriculum and instructional methods, new approaches and strategies to facilitate learning amongst the students and contribute towards their growth and development.

Public Private Partnership - PPP is fundamental to bring about excellence in the higher education system. Governments can ensure PPP through a suitable policy. University Grants Commission and Ministry of HRD should play a major role in developing a determined interface between the universities, industries and National Research Laboratories (NRLs) as a phase towards PPP. Funding to NRLs by the government should ensure the participation of institutions of higher education involved in research activities to assist in the accessibility of latest refined equipment.

Provision of Need based Job Oriented Courses – The educational programs and the courses should be formulated in a manner that should assist the individuals in obtaining jobs and employment opportunities. A person gets enrolled in higher educational institutions to enhance his skills and knowledge to obtain a good job. Hence, job oriented courses should be established which are based on the requirements of the individuals. In higher educational institutions, it is vital to organize workshops and job fairs, where students can obtain information about jobs and employment opportunities.

International Co-operation – International co-operation is gaining prominence in the development of the education system. With an increase in the development of transport and communication, a global village is witnessing an increasing emphasis on international co-operation and actions are considered necessary to find satisfactory solutions to the problems and higher education is one of them.

Towards a New Vision – The expansion of the education system within the country would largely contribute towards its enrichment, growth and development. The society is influenced by physical, emotional, dynamic, intellectual, ethical, aesthetic and spiritual potentialities, hence, education will contribute in the development of modern and innovative approaches, strategies and methods that will lead to advancement.

Cross Culture Programs – In India, there are different cultures, castes, religions, races, ethnicities, arts, fields and so forth. Education will enable people to understand and acquire knowledge regarding each other’s cultures and backgrounds, so that they will be able to live in unity and will not discriminate against each other. Acquiring information of other cultures and backgrounds will enable people to co-operate and work with each other as a team.

Action Plan for Improving Quality – To ensure excellence and superiority in all the aspects of academic activities, it is vital to conduct academic and administrative audit once in three years in colleges by experts and professionals. Colleges and the universities should recognize the need and the requirement for quality education that if implemented in a productive manner would lead to progression in the system of education.

Individuality – Within the education system, it is vital to encourage extra-curricular activities, so that the individuals take interest in learning and find it pleasurable. The various kinds of extra-curricular activities would include, sports, physical activities, music, dance, artworks and handicrafts. The involvement of students in these activities stimulates their mind-set and enable them to render their performance to the best of their abilities.

Privatization of Higher Education – In any nation, education is the basic necessity that leads to the socio-economic development of the individuals and the society. It is necessary to formulate measures and procedures to encourage education amongst the individuals, as in India, the rate of educated people is low, and it has to be increased to bring about development of the country.

Quality Development – The development of quality in the field of education is relating to the development of academics, curriculum and instructional strategies, teaching-learning methods, academic programs, research and scholarship, staff, students, building, facilities, equipment, technology, services to the community and the academic environment. The exchange of knowledge, mobility of the teachers and the students, interactive networking and international research projects are the main areas leading to quality development.

World Class Education – There are number of Indian students who are going to foreign universities in the countries like USA, UK, Australia, etc. These universities allow higher education for foreign students through correspondence courses as well. In the same way, Indian universities also make provision of education to the foreign students. Therefore, adoption of international syllabus is vital within the educational institutions.

Personality Development – The system of education should enable the development of the personality of the individuals in an appropriate manner. It should not just enhance the academic knowledge but should also facilitate in making the individuals more creative, inventive, resourceful and ingenious. A well educated person is aware of how to communicate and deal with other people at home, workplace and within the community.

Status of Academic Research Studies – In higher education, research is considered to be an imperative area that is required to get implemented in an effective manner. In doctoral programs, students are required to conduct research on an extensive scale in the collection of data and other information. There are two kinds of research, one is field research, which is implemented in the field and involves communication of the researcher with other people within the organizations, institutions or other areas and another kind of research is done in collection of information through books, documents, articles, journals, newspapers and the internet. Therefore, it is vital to implement measures that would lead to improvements in the academic research studies.

Availability of Scholarships – In India, individuals have recognized the significance of education, even those who belong to deprived, marginalized and socio-economically backward sections of the society aspire to attain education. In most cases, finances serve to be the major problems for the individuals who are willing to study, these problems are impediments within the course of their acquisition of education, hence, availability of scholarships and stipends for the students would largely contribute in the attainment of education.

Fair Quality Assurance System - Colleges and private institutions are required to establish the internal quality assurance system and must adopt a minimum standard to give the degrees. The quality assurance system must be autonomous of political and institutional interaction and it must have a foundation in the legislation. There should be operative, economic and educational self-government combined with responsibility. There is a requirement of an independent authorization agency with a corporation of the government, industry, academia, society and so forth, it means all the stakeholders of the education to ensure that the students are not taken into account.

To Increase Quantity of Universities – There should be an increase in the number of universities. The increase in the number of universities would lead to formulation of innovative procedures and methods that are required in the development of the system of education. The teachers and the staff members that are recruited should be well trained and qualified and would largely contribute towards progression in the system of education.

Examinations and Evaluation Techniques – Evaluation techniques are considered imperative, which has the main purpose of assessing the capabilities of the individuals, and how much they have understood. Examinations are considered to be one of the most crucial techniques that assess the position and the performance of the students. The conduct of the examinations should be implemented in a regular and a consistent manner to ensure that students are evaluated in every area, their weaknesses are adequately identified and then there should be implementation of appropriate measures to improve them.

High-Tech Libraries – In some parts of the country, in educational institutions, libraries are in an underdeveloped state. Libraries are referred to the areas, where there are a collection of books, journals, articles and other documents. In higher educational institutions, colleges and universities, there are also availability of computers and the internet in the libraries where students are able to use them. A library should be online and favourable for serious study. It is vital to ensure that whether libraries are in nursery schools, other schools, colleges or universities, they should be well developed, organized in an appropriate manner and possess all the required materials relating to all the subjects that are vital for the individuals. In the present existence, in most cases, students depend upon the libraries besides the internet.

**Conclusion**

Education is vital for every person in order to enable him to better his living conditions. Obtaining of good quality education will contribute in securing a job, making individuals aware of various aspects, inculcating the traits of morality, ethics, decency and graciousness within oneself and rendering an effective contribution in the development of their personalities. In the present existence, there have been problems in the Indian education system; the issues are, teaching attribute is in a low state, financial constraints, traditional teaching methods, privatization, inadequate facilities and infrastructure and reward creativity, original thinking, research and innovation. The challenges are, heterogeneous education system, involvement of political factors, economic difficulties and lack of moral values.

In order to enhance the education system within the country, there are suggestions that have been made; towards a learning society, connection between industry and academics, incentives to teachers and researchers, innovative practices, mobilization of resources, advancement of the information age, student centred education and dynamic methods, public private partnership, provision of need based job oriented courses, international co-operation, towards a new vision, cross culture programs, action plan for improving quality, individuality, privatization of higher education, quality development, world class education, personality development, status of academic research studies, availability of scholarships, fair quality assurance system, to increase quantity of universities, examinations and evaluation techniques, and hi-tech libraries.

In the Indian education system, there has been growth taking place. Individuals from all areas and backgrounds are realizing the significance of education, there has been an increase in the enrolment of students in educational institutions and there have been advancements in the teaching-learning methods. On the other hand, the occurrence of problems prove to be impediments, which are required to get eliminated or modified. There should be formulation of appropriate measures and policies and their effective implementation would lead to development of the Indian education system.

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