The State of Education in India:

An overview of India's education system

Objective

To analyze how malnutrition, menstrual hygiene, and socio-economic barriers influence dropout rates, learning levels, and long-term education outcomes in India.

Methodology

- Quantitative correlation analysis using:
- o ASER 2024 (Annual Status of Education Report)
- NFHS-5 (National Family Health Survey, 2019–21)
 - o Census 2011
 - Qualitative evaluation of:
 - o First-generation learners
 - o Gender-based absenteeism
 - o Home learning environment

III Key Data Insights

Indicator	Finding
Class 3 Reading	23.4% can read Class 2 text
Class 5 Reading	44.5% can read Class 2 text
Class 5 Arithmetic	Only 30.7% can divide
Malnourishment	Over 50% of adolescents
Menstrual Hygiene	Positive correlation with schooling

N strategy	Action Area	Action Area Focus		
Nutrition	Strengthen PM POSHAN	Include eggs, millets, proteins		
Nurturing Women	Menstrual Health Access	Reduce absenteeism & infections		
Needs-Based Initiatives	Localized Education Policies	Tailor to region-specific needs		
Notation	Literacy Gap Analysis	Use intergenerational surveys		
NGOs	Partner Support	Outreach, data, awareness		

This project presents a grounded, scalable, and multi-sector approach to improving India's education system. The N-strategy aligns health, gender, and education policies to target root causes of dropout and learning deficits. With better implementation and civil society partnership, it can drive inclusive growth and break generational cycles of educational disadvantage.

"The end product of education should be a free creative man, who can battle against historical circumstances and adversities of nature."

~ Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

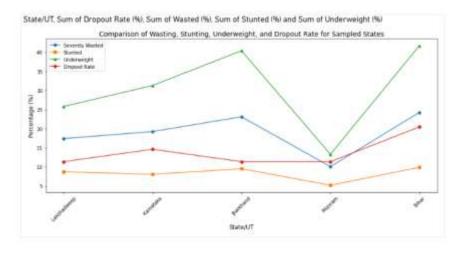
Education is not exactly needed just for job but it itself is a tool to enlighten self and the society, It acts like a lamp in a darkened world but what exactly has been the issue that even after 78 years of independence only 78% of Indians (As per NSO survey) were literate in absolute sense this would be around 30 crores Indians being devoid of the basic necessity to live a dignified and self-reliant life, contributing in the recipe to a disaster of the vicious cycle of poverty and misery.

The above Quotation from our former President and most importantly a great teacher captures the true essence of education, Where the greatest boon of Humanity is used to develop a man of character, skill and creativity to change the fate of individual, his/her family, the community that he or she lives in and ultimately the nation, even after facing extreme adversities in the past.

Now, let's look at few factors which when read quantitatively and qualitatively read together would paint a different picture:

Malnutrition:

malnutrition is a condition wherein the intake of nutrients is insufficient to ensure proper growth, immunity, health and development. It consists of stunting, wasting and underweight



Row/Column Head	Stunted (%)	Wasted (%)	Underweight (%)
Dropout Rate (%)	0.319737396	0.319286838	0.422511718

If we check the correlation analysis, we find that malnutrition, Stunting and Wasting has a Moderate positive correlation with the drop out ratio being in the range of 0.3 to 0.7 which means two variables tend to increase together, but the relationship is not perfectly linear — it's noticeable, but not super strong.

However, if we check ASER Report 2024, then only 23.4% of Class 3rd Students could read a text book of class 2nd, less than 45% of students in class 5th could read a book read a text book of class 2nd while less than 70% of students in class 8th could read the same text book.

Grade Level	2018 (%)	2022 (%)	2024 (%)
Grade 3 Arithmetic (Subtraction)	28.2	25.9	33.7
Grade 5 Arithmetic (Division)	27.9	25.6	30.7
Grade 8 Arithmetic (Division)	44.1	44.7	45.8

even the arithmetic data shows that the quality of the education though has increased but the overall level has been poor.

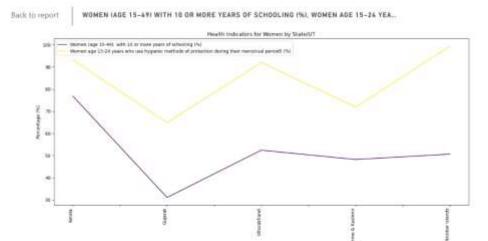
The poor Quality can be attributed to the fact that around 50% of the Adolescents are malnourished in India, which can lead to poor cognitive development and attendance and engagement issues, leading to a poor quality of education amongst the youth.

The other factor can be use of sanitary products by women during their menstruation:

Speaking statistically the correlation analysis shows a moderately significant relation between use of hygienic methods during menstruation and years of schooling of women.

Row/Column Header	Women with 10+ years of schooling	Women who use hygienic methods
Women with 10+ years of schooling	1	0.409005135
Women who use hygienic methods	0.409005135	1

However, this has an impact on quality of education as girls tend to skip school(absenteeism) and also using cloths and other unhygienic ways may lead to girls getting prone to life threatening diseases as well.



The other important factors that need a holistic study relate to the exposure that underprivileged children receive from their families. There are many children who are the first generation in their lineage to attend school. They often lack additional support due to the family's lack of experience.

THE WAY AHEAD:

The N's Strategy:

1. NUTRITION:

Focusing on the nourishment of children at early age by ensuring vaccination, proper strategy to implement PM POSHAN scheme and also including eggs, millets in the diet to ensure holistic development of the children.

2. NURTURING WOMEN:

To increase use of clean and hygienic methods of protection during the menstruation cycle to ensure that they do not miss upon their schooling days and also are protected from being vulnerable to deadly disease such as blood infections, Fungal infections, Reproductive health issues etc.

3. NEEDS BASED INITIATIVES:

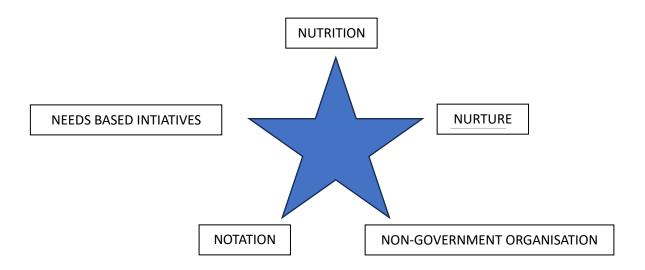
The issue also be need to addressed at the bottom level thus it requires a tailor-made policy at zone and sub zone level due to different demography of the country and different socio-economic needs of the area. Thus, making it important to make policies in a bottom-up approach

4. NOTATION:

To study and analyse qualitative factors and such as inter-generational assessment on literacy to understand the need for additional support that may have to be provided to the students to ensure that there are no learning gaps that are left in the process of educating the youth.

5. NGOS:

The network of NGOs can be vey useful for the government from the process of data collection to generation of awareness campaigns, NGOs can paly an important part in the process to strengthen the other pillars.



To Sum up, India today requires a robust network to understand and disburse the benefits from the resource pool to the beneficiaries who still are being aloof the growth of this great nation, The N-strategy if worked upon will not only bring qualitative improvement but also quantitative and observable changes in the system, giving rise to new generation of independent and rational thinkers as suggested by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

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