Public Policy Case Competition by EPS

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PESTEL ANALYSIS

Analysis Of Key barriers to Inclusivity

POLITICS

- Policy gaps in NEP 2020 implementation.
- Government schemes under funded. (Samagra Siksha Abhiyan)

P

ECONOMY

- 20% drop out rate among low-income students. (UDISE + 2023)
- High cost of education, digital divide.

E

SOCIETY

- Gender biases: Only 29% of STEM students are women (AICTE 2022).
- Discrimination against LGBTQ+ students.

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T

TECHNOLOGY

- 65% rural students lack digital access. (ASER 2022)
- Lack of assistive technology in schools.

E

ENVIRONMENT

- Rural school often lacks basic infrastructure like electricity and sanitation, further limiting inclusivity.

L

LAW

- RPWD act 2016 mandates accessibility, but 80% of schools lack inclusive infrastructure (NCERT 2023).

Policy Recommendations – Accessibility & Disabilities

Enable (Infrastructure)

Recommendations:

Mandatory universal accessibility in schools: Ramps, braille textbooks, smart classrooms.

Equip (Technology)

Recommendations:

Subsidized assistive tech: AI-based speech-to-text, screen readers, hearing aids for students.

Educate (Teacher Training)

Recommendations:

Train teachers in inclusive pedagogy & use of assistive technology.

Enforce (Compliance and Training)

Recommendations:

Strict adherence to RPWD Act 2016 with penalties for non-compliance.

Impact:

- Higher enrollment of students with disabilities in mainstream schools.
- Reduction in dropout rates due to accessible learning environments.
- Improved employability through skill-based education.

STAR IDEA

Radically Inclusive:

- **Establish specialized educational institutions designed for neurodiverse students (e.g., Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia) that offer tailored curriculums, small class sizes, and personalized teaching methods.**
- **Schools should provide flexible schedules, sensory-friendly environments, assistive technologies, and occupational therapy support to accommodate different learning styles.**
- **These institutions can also integrate students into mainstream education through hybrid models, allowing for progressive inclusion in regular schools.**

Policy Recommendations

PPP Model (Public-Private Partnerships)

- **Affordability**
- **Digital Inclusion**
- **Gender Inclusivity**
- **Community-Based Learnings**

Impact:

- Increase in rural students' school retention by 25%.
- Gender balance in STEM & higher education.
- Bridging the digital divide through tech-enabled education.

Socio-Economic & Gender Inclusivity

- Scholarships & zero-interest loans for marginalized students (Govt. + CSR initiatives).
- EdTech partnerships (e.g., BYJU's, Google) to provide free devices & internet in rural areas.
- 50% reservation for girls in STEM scholarships + nationwide gender sensitization programs.
- Involve NGOs & corporates to provide mentorship for first-gen learners.

STAR IDEA

Virtual Reality (VR) Experiences to Foster Empathy & Inclusion

Introduce VR-based experiential learning to help students understand the challenges faced by marginalized groups (e.g., women in STEM, LGBTQ+ students, economically disadvantaged children).

Create VR simulations that allow students to experience biases first-hand (e.g., attending a classroom as a girl in a patriarchal society or experiencing difficulties faced by transgender students).

Partner with tech companies and NGOs to develop interactive educational modules promoting gender and socio-economic inclusivity.

Policy Recommendations – Mental Health & Underrepresented Communities

STAR IDEA

- Establish AI-powered digital mental health platforms where students can access counseling, self-help resources, stress management tools, and peer support networks anytime.

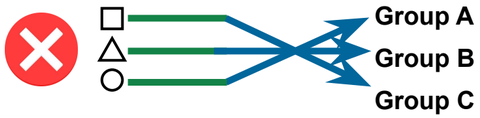
The platform should provide:

- AI chatbots for immediate psychological support.
- Anonymous peer support communities to encourage students to seek help.
- Emergency intervention features connecting students to mental health professionals when needed.
- Mindfulness and stress management exercises integrated into daily academic schedules.

Impact:

- More culturally diverse & accepting education systems.
- Lower stress-related dropouts & reduced suicide rates.
- Mainstreaming of marginalized communities in higher education.

Framework: Holistic Well-Being Model (Prevent, Support, Integrate)



Prevent (Early Intervention)

- Mental health curriculum integrated into school syllabi to promote emotional resilience.

Support (Counseling)

- 1 counselor per 250 students' policy with dedicated mental health funding.

Integrate (Representation)

- Diverse curriculum: Tribal history, LGBTQ+ inclusivity in textbooks.

Inclusive Governance

- Student diversity councils in schools & universities for real-time policy feedback.