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CONTENTS

Sr. No.	TITLE & NAME OF THE AUTHOR (S)	Page No.
1.	WORKERS' FELT-BELONGINGNESS AND COMMITMENT: A RELATIONSHIP-BASED DISCOURSE <i>EGWAKHE, A. JOHNSON</i>	1
2.	NON MONETARY REWARDS: A SOURCE OF SATISFYING THE SELF-ACTUALIZATION NEED <i>DR. P. K. JAIN & RASHMI BADJATYA</i>	8
3.	IMPLEMENTATION OF GREEN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT: A REVIEW AND RESEARCH DIRECTION <i>DR. S. SARAVANAN & A. MADHUMITHA RANI</i>	12
4.	MEASUREMENT OF CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IN BANKING SECTOR: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BANKS IN SIVAGANGAI DISTRICT <i>B. KAVITHA & DR. A. ABBAS MANTHIRI</i>	19
5.	E-BUYING BEHAVIOUR OF AUTOMOBILES: A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK ON DETERMINANTS <i>JOSEPH VARGHESE & DR. J. CLEMENT SUDHAHAR</i>	22
6.	STUDY OF REWARDS AND MOTIVATION ON JOB SATISFACTION IN BANKING SECTOR WITH REFERENCE TO PUNE REGION <i>DR. MANISHA PUROHIT</i>	26
7.	A STUDY OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROVIDED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE JAIPUR DISTRICT OF RAJASTHAN <i>DR. NANDINI SHARMA</i>	29
8.	A STUDY ON THE WORKPLACE CULTURE AND ITS IMPACT ON EMPLOYEE RETENTION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SAKTHI FINANCE LTD, COIMBATORE <i>DR. D. BARANIKUMAR & STEFFI RACHEL S</i>	32
9.	A PREFERENTIAL STUDY ON INVESTMENT IN PHYSICAL GOLD AND INVESTMENT IN E GOLD WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MANGALORE <i>DR. UMA.V.R. & GOMINI.K.S.</i>	35
10.	VENTURE CAPITAL IN INDIA: TRENDS & CHALLENGES <i>SAUMYA JAIN & NARANDER KUMAR NIGAM</i>	38
11.	ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN BOOSTING EDUCATION SECTOR IN INDIA: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE <i>ROJI PHUTELA & ASHUTOSH PANDE</i>	43
12.	EVENT MANAGEMENT INDUSTRY & JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS (WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO STUDENTS RESIDING IN BANGALORE URBAN) <i>JYOTHI.J</i>	48
13.	PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN INDIA <i>DR. MOHD. IQBAL DARZI</i>	54
14.	AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON THE EXISTENCE OF GENDER GAP IN THE PERSONAL FINANCIAL BEHAVIOUR OF INFORMED INVESTORS <i>PADMA NANDANAN</i>	56
15.	A STUDY ON COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF SELECT PRIVATE SECTOR BANK <i>M. NAGAJOTHI & DR. S. P. DHANDAYUTHAPANI</i>	59
16.	ELECTRONIC BANKING IN INDIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES <i>DR. KANDULA SALAIAH</i>	62
17.	DAY OF THE WEEK ANALYSIS ON SECTORAL INDEX OF INDIAN STOCK MARKET <i>J. THIAGARAJAN & DR. B. KANNAN</i>	66
18.	THE MOVEMENT OF EMPLOYEES IN THE NIGERIAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY: CAN IT BE STABILISED? <i>MONEY, UDIH</i>	70
19.	WATERSHED APPROACH THROUGH TRIBAL LIVELIHOOD OF KORAPUT DISTRICT IN ODISHA <i>ASHOK KUMAR NANDA</i>	74
20.	COMPARING MEAN RETURNS AND DETERMINING EXCHANGE RATE EFFECT IN INTERNATIONAL EQUITY INVESTMENT <i>DIKKO BELLO.</i>	79
	REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK & DISCLAIMER	87

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ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN BOOSTING EDUCATION SECTOR IN INDIA: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

ROJI PHUTELA
ASST. PROFESSOR
SURAJMAL AGARWAL PVT. P.G. GIRLS COLLEGE
KICHHA

ASHUTOSH PANDE
ASST. PROFESSOR
SURAJMAL AGARWAL PVT. P.G. GIRLS COLLEGE
KICHHA

ABSTRACT

This study was based on the development in the education sector and the major initiatives taken by the government in boosting education sector in terms of investment, removing poverty, illiteracy which leads to economic growth. The study was descriptive in which we have made a comparison of performance of different variables. The data was collected through secondary sources i.e. websites of UNESCO. The major findings of the study were to focus on improvement in education sector taken and its impact on Indian economy.

KEYWORDS

education sector, illiteracy.

INTRODUCTION

Education is central key to development and to the improvement of the lives of youth. Education is important in eradicating poverty and hunger and in promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development. Increased efforts towards education accessibility, quality and affordability are central to global development efforts. For the advancement of economy and to meet out the challenges globally it is very much essential for a government to focus on the education sector to keep pace with the changes taken globally.

Despite significant improvements in increasing primary school enrolment in some regions, the Millennium Development Goal of achieving universal primary level education by 2015 is unlikely to be met. Moreover, such improvements have not necessarily been followed by an equivalent transition to secondary education, vocational training, non-formal education or entry into the labour market, especially for girls and young women. Worldwide 10.6% of young people are non-literate, lacking basic numerical and reading skills, and as such lack the means to be able to sustain a living through full and decent employment. With youth unemployment and underemployment at persistently high levels worldwide, and with many young working poor lacking even primary-level education, such youth unemployment and underemployment rates act to jeopardize social inclusion, cohesion and stability.

OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze the major initiatives taken by govt. in boosting education sector.
2. To make a comparison of different variables which act as an indicator of development in education sector of India as per the Global scenario.

GOVERNMENT SECTOR INITIATIVE IN EDUCATION

Some of the major initiatives taken by the Government of India are:

- Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi launched the Skill India initiative – ‘Kaushal Bharat, Kusal Bharat’. Under this initiative, the government has set itself a target of training 400 million citizens by 2022 that would enable them to find jobs. The initiatives launched include various programmes like: Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship 2015, Skill Loan scheme, and the National Skill Development Mission.
- PMKVY is the flagship program under the Skill India Initiative and it includes incentivising skill training by providing financial rewards on completion of training to the participants. Over the next year 2.4 million Indians are believed to be benefitted from this scheme.
- National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship 2015 is India’s first integrated program to develop skill and promote entrepreneurship simultaneously.
- The vision of this programme is to skill the Indian youth rapidly with high standards and at the same time promote entrepreneurship thus creating wealth and gainful employment for the citizens.
- Skill Loan Scheme is designed to disburse loans of Rs 5,000 (US\$ 75.3) to Rs 150,000 (US\$ 2,260) to 3.4 million Indians planning to develop their skills in the next five years.
- The National Skill Development Mission is developed to expedite the implementation of skilling activities in India by providing robust institutional framework at the centre and the state.
- The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will train bureaucrats from the HRD ministry, experts from school’s boards and primary school teachers in Mathematics and Science Subjects to enable them to learn skills to formulate lesson plans that stimulate students’ learning and thus contribute to improving the quality of Mathematics and science education.
- The Government of India has launched a digital employment exchange that will enable industrial enterprises to find suitable workers and job-seekers to find employment.
- The Government of India has launched the National Web Portal for promotion of National Apprenticeship Scheme for Graduates, Diploma holders and 10+2 pass-outs vocational certificate holders.
- India and Australia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost partnerships between the two countries in the fields of higher education and research, including technical and professional education, schools, vocational education and training.
- The National Skill Development Corporation of India (NSDC) under a Public Private Partnership promoted by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Center for Research & Industrial Staff Performance (CRISP), India to explore national and international opportunities for strengthening skills development in India.

- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) and Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL). The MoU has been envisioned to foster collaboration on research, training and professional development and exchange of technical expertise in areas of mutual interest such as material sciences and testing capabilities.
- The Government of India has launched a website, Vidya Lakshmi (www.vidyalakshmi.co.in), for students seeking educational loans. Nearly 13 banks have registered 22 educational loan schemes on the Portal and five Banks including SBI, IDBI Bank, Bank of India, Canara Bank & Union Bank of India have integrated their system with the Portal.

Various government initiatives are being adopted to boost the growth of distance education market, besides focussing on new education techniques, such as E-learning and M-learning.

Education sector has seen a host of reforms and improved financial outlays in recent years that could possibly transform the country into a knowledge haven. With human resource increasingly gaining significance in the overall development of the country, development of education infrastructure is expected to remain the key focus in the current decade. In this scenario, infrastructure investment in the education sector is likely to see a considerable increase in the current decade. Moreover, availability of English speaking tech-educated talent, democratic governance and a strong legal and intellectual property protection framework are enablers for world class product development, as per Mr Amit Phadnis, President-Engineering and Site Leader for Cisco (India).

The Government of India has taken several steps including opening of IIT's and IIM's in new locations as well as allocating educational grants for research scholars in most government institutions. Furthermore, with online modes of education being used by several educational organisations, the higher education sector in India is set for some major changes and developments in the years to come.

Exchange Rate Used: INR 1 = US\$ 0.01504 as on October 16, 2015

References: Media Reports, Press Releases, Press Information Bureau, RNCOS Report, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

India holds an important place in the global education industry. The country has more than 1.4 million schools with over 227 million students enrolled and more than 36,000 higher education institutes. India has one of the largest higher education systems in the world. However, there is still a lot of potential for further development in the education system.

India's online education market size is expected to touch US\$ 40 billion by 2017. An RNCOS report titled, 'Booming Distance Education Market Outlook 2018' expects the distance education market in India to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 34 per cent during 2013-14 to 2017-18. Moreover, the aim of the government to raise its current gross enrolment ratio to 30 per cent by 2020 will also boost the growth of the distance education in India.

MARKET SIZE

The education sector in India is poised to witness major growth in the years to come as India will have world's largest tertiary-age population and second largest graduate talent pipeline globally by the end of 2020. As of now the education market is worth US\$ 100 billion. Currently, higher education contributes 59.7 per cent of the market size, school education 38.1 per cent, pre-school segment 1.6 per cent, and technology and multi-media the remaining 0.6 per cent. Higher education system in India has undergone rapid expansion. Currently, India's higher education system is the largest in the world enrolling over 70 million students while in less than two decades, India has managed to create additional capacity for over 40 million students. At present, higher education sector witnesses spending of over Rs 46,200 crore (US\$ 6.96 billion), and it is expected to grow at an average annual rate of over 18 per cent to reach Rs 232,500 crore (US\$ 35.03 billion) in next 10 years.

India's IT firms are working with academic institutions and setting up in-house institutes to groom the right talent as these companies move to Social media, Mobility, Analytics and Cloud (SMAC) technologies.

INVESTMENT

The total amount of foreign direct investments (FDI) inflow into the education sector in India stood at US\$ 1,171.10 million from April 2000 to June 2015, according to data released by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

The education and training sector in India has witnessed some major investments and developments in the recent past. Some of them are:

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore has become the first Indian institution to enter the Top 100 universities ranking in engineering and technology, published by The Times Higher Education of London.

- Five Indians, namely Mr Vijay Govindarajan, Mr Pankaj Ghemawat, Mr Subir Chowdhury, Mr Nirmalaya Kumar and Mr Anil K Gupta, have been named among the Top 50 management thinkers from 10 countries in the Thinkers50 2015 global ranking, which is published every two years.
- Venture capital fund Acumen has invested in two Hyderabad-based education start-ups—Ignis Careers (US\$ 250,000) and SEED (US\$ 650,000)—working in the low-cost school education space.
- India Educational Investment Fund (IEIF), an early stage impact investment fund focused on the educational sector funded by Dell Foundation, has made its first two investments in education-based startups: Report Bee and Guru-G.
- Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) launched the 'School of Vocational Education' program to offer vocational training courses in 20 sectors or verticals in association with relevant training partners in 25 different cities across India.
- On the intervention of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Quality Council of India (QCI) is all set to roll out a training module for teachers after they pass the B.Ed. examination and enter teaching service.
- Anuna Education, a partner to National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC) has announced the entrepreneurship Program in collaboration with eBay India. Anuna Education will train entrepreneur to sell their products on eBay globally in collaboration with eBay India along with a practical training on how to sell the products to global buyers.
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has launched Strategic Manufacturing Skill Council (SMSC) to train workforce for defence equipment manufacturing, ship building and repair, homeland security equipment and other firefighting equipment.
- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has mandated the appointment of a special educator for children with learning disabilities so that they could be assimilated with other students. This directive came as a part of "inclusive practices" philosophy of CBSE and strict guidelines of 'Right to Education' Act.
- In an attempt to improve health care infrastructure in West Bengal, nine new medical colleges will be opened, out of which five will be government-run while the other four will be set up under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

By 2015, the international community pledged to reduce adult illiteracy rates by 50% compared to 2000 levels as part of the Education for All (EFA) goals. While the number of illiterate people has fallen over the past 15 years, UIS data show that 757 million adults – two-thirds of whom are women – still lack basic reading and writing skills (see **Table 1**). UIS projections also show that most countries failed to reach the EFA literacy goal, underscoring the need for the new literacy target, which is even more ambitious in its current framing within the Sustainable Development Goals.

TABLE 1: WHAT ARE THE LATEST LITERACY FIGURES?

Global literacy rates and illiterate population for adults and youth, 2013

Indicator	Adults (15 years and older)	Youth (15-24 years)
Literacy rate, total	85%	91%
Literacy rate, male	89%	93%
Literacy rate, female	81%	89%
Illiterate population, total	757 million	115 million
Illiterate, population, female share	63%	59%

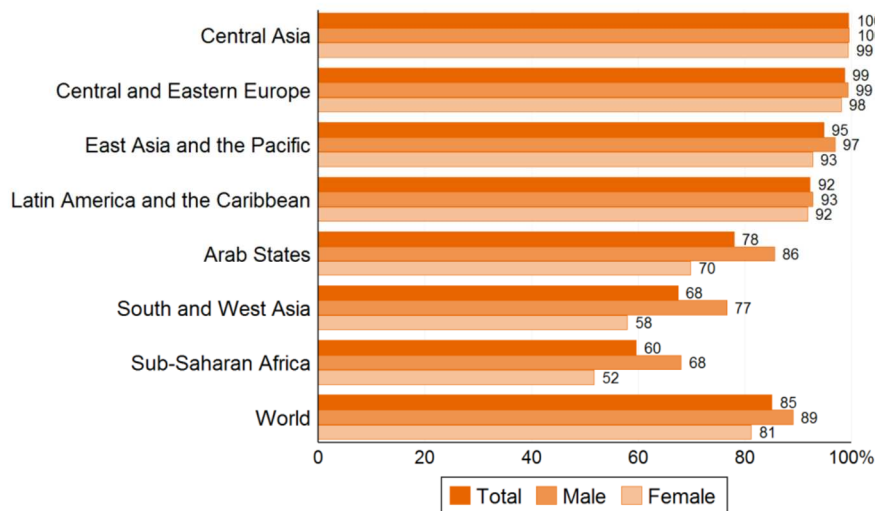
ADULT AND YOUTH LITERACY

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, September 2015

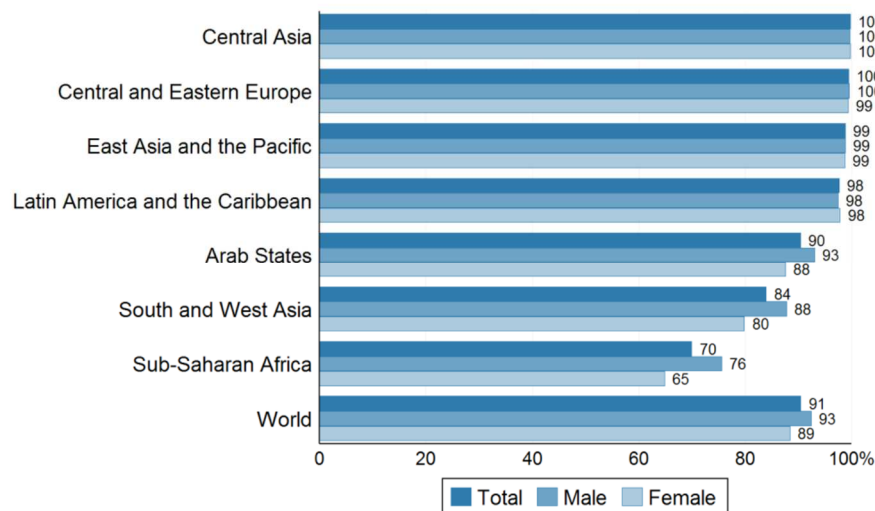
The latest data show that the global adult literacy rate was 85% and the youth literacy rate was 91% in 2013. This represents an increase compared to estimates for the reference year 2012, when the adult and youth literacy rates were 84% and 89%, respectively. The number of illiterate adults was estimated to be 781 million in 2012, which was 24 million more than in 2013. This will be a positive indication for the country as the literacy rate is increasing which leads to development of economy in terms of growth, employment rate.

FIGURE 1 & 2: HOW DO LITERACY RATES FOR MEN AND WOMEN COMPARE ACROSS REGIONS?

ADULT LITERACY RATE



YOUTH LITERACY RATE



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, September 2015

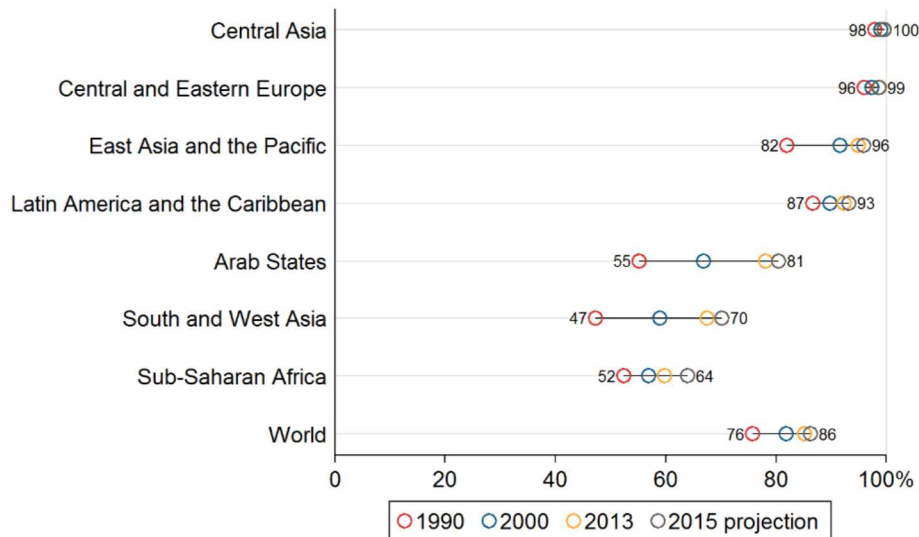
GENDER GAP PERSISTS ACROSS GENERATIONS

For the past two decades, women have accounted for two-thirds of all illiterate adults and the gap is nearly as wide among youth. As shown in Figure gender disparities remain large in several regions but the disparities become even more apparent by examining the gender parity index (GPI), which is calculated by dividing the female by the male literacy rate. A GPI value below 1 means that the female literacy rate is below the male literacy rate, while values between 0.97 and 1.03 are generally interpreted to indicate gender parity. Figure shows that three regions have maintained gender parity among adults and youth with regard to literacy: Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. A fourth region, East Asia and the Pacific, has achieved gender parity for youth literacy.

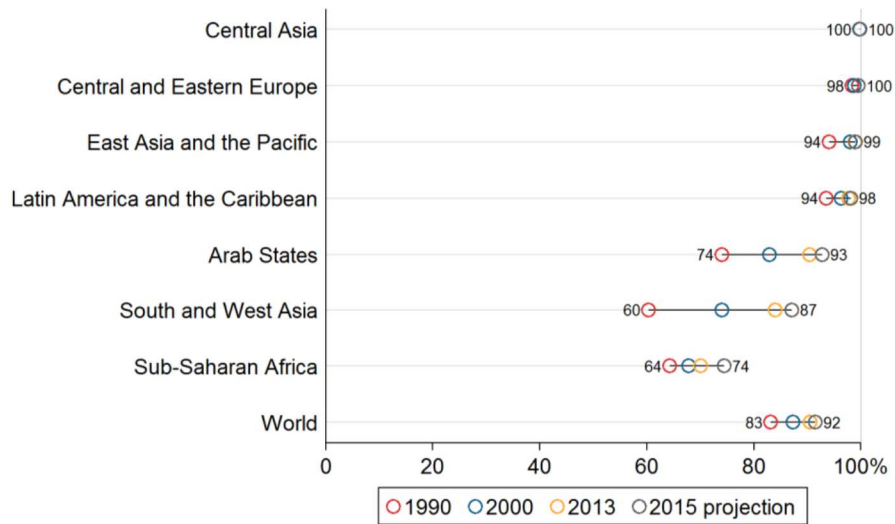
Three regions – the Arab States, South and West Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa – are far from gender parity. In South the global scenario government should focus on the youth generation by launching attractive schemes so that we can keep focus on making youth competitive as per the market changes. This leads to innovation and growth of economy in different sectors. This helps them in better decision making process as per the situations.

FIGURE 3 to 5: HOW HAVE ADULT AND YOUTH LITERACY RATES CHANGED SINCE 1990 AND WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR 2015?

ADULT LITERACY RATE, 1990-2015



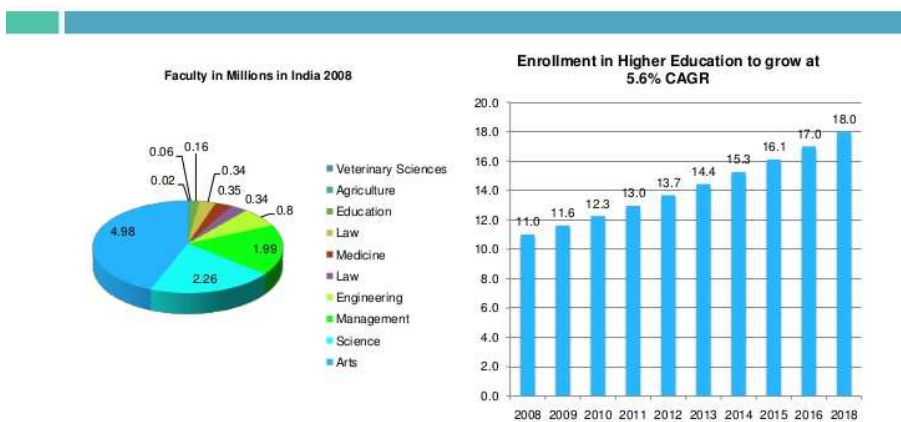
YOUTH LITERACY RATE, 1990-2015



Note: Regions sorted by the projected literacy rate in 2015. 1990 data refer to the period 1985-1994, 2000 data refer to the period 1995-2004, 2013 data refer to the period 2005-2013.



State of Education



Source: Marketing Whitebook 2011-12, Businessworld.

As per the BRICS survey the projection with regard to education sector was 5.6% compounded annual growth rate. The enrollment during the year 2015 was 15.3 as it is expected to increase by 16.1 during 2016. This leads to boost in education sector which leads to increase in literacy rate, infrastructural development within

the country, sustainable development within the economy. This helps in productive investment in terms of employment, skill generative sources in different fields of economy.

INDIAN SCENARIO

THIS WAS THE AGENDA MADE FOR THE BUDGET SESSION DURING 2015

As a percentage of GDP, expenditure on education has gone up from 2.9% in 2008-09 to approximately 3.4% in 2014-15. Compare this with the Kothari Commission (set up in 1964-65) and National Education Policy recommendation suggestion of allocating 6 percent of GDP towards education. Statistics reveal that the allocation to the education sector received a 17 percent jump for fiscal year 2013-14 and approximately 12.5 percent for fiscal year 2014-15. However, it is still inadequate considering the sectoral requirement.

Thus, it is ironical to note that though the outlay of 6 percent of GDP was recommended almost 50 years ago, we are still far from reaching the mark in view of the present outlay not crossing even 4 percent of GDP.

The need of the hour is an increase in public expenditure on education along with incentivising the sector for private investment. A sound and efficient education system combined with growth and opportunities in the Indian economy will enable restricting flight of intellectual capital. There is a need to substantially add quality institutions, lest Indian students will have to look overseas for securing the desired level of education.

In the above background, some of the key expectations of the Education sector from the forthcoming budget are summarized below:

ENCOURAGING PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THE SECTOR

While significant operators in primary and secondary education sector operate on 'not for profit' basis, this aspect has impact and creates challenges in creating further infrastructure in the sector. In order to encourage investment in the sector, the government may contemplate encouraging private investment in this area along with devising mechanism wherein the investor is entitled to an agreed share of return on investment – akin to what has been prescribed for certain infrastructure projects like the power sector.

ENCOURAGING EDUCATION TOURISM

Education tourism could be the next opportunity for India. Policies could be formulated that focus in this direction. India can well be seen as being intellectual capital of the world.

AFFORDABLE EDUCATION LOAN/ FINANCE FACILITY

The government should recognize the need for facilitating affordable education loan/ finance facility by setting up institutions / education finance corporations that provide easy finance at concessional rates. Schemes could be devised to extend credit facilities for higher education without surety / indemnity by the government, repayable upon securing of job by the student.

INCENTIVES FOR ENROLLMENT TO SKILL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

Enrollment for skill development courses should be eligible for additional deductions in computing taxable income.

POLICY INITIATIVES

The extant foreign direct investment policy and the regulations governing education system need to be aligned to generate opportunities and encourage foreign capital and improve infrastructure in education sector.

INCENTIVE TOWARDS STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Tax incentives/ relief could be extended to universities / institutions that incur expenditure towards staff training and development.

DEDUCTION TOWARDS TUITION FEES

Considering the inflation and the rising cost of education, taxpayers should be entitled to a deduction of an adequate sum against gross total income for fees paid to a higher educational institution recognized by the government. This will ease the hardship of common man.

Currently, the deduction towards tuition fees to any university or college towards full time education of any two children is available as a part of aggregate deduction under section 80C which is presently capped at Rs. 1, 50,000.

Each established system always attracts several criticisms. Indian education system has been targeted with many allegations from students' parents and teachers because of many reasons. Students think that that are overburdened, teachers think they are not paid enough and parents think their children to core maximum marks. All this need to be stop at some point.

CONCLUSION

In recent years there have been various steps taken on education reforms, but it needs more than this. For this government has started various schemes, but it needs the active participation of society as well. Effective management of the resources and technical advancement for future requirements need to be analyzed correctly for the betterment of the system to establish, such an education system which can produce the quality mass as per the requirement. Following are the changes required for the improvement in education system

1. Route learning: - The education system needs to change in that way, which helps students in making the foundation of learning strong. The approach of teaching should be changed in that manner which produces quality rather than quantity.
2. Marking system: - A student is evaluated only on the basis of his/ her performance for the duration of three-hour exam. If the axis of grading is shifted towards the classroom presentations, project works, communication and extracurricular activities, only then we can produce the professionals to meet the global requirement.
3. Respect for all streams: - there should be proper respect for all the students, no matter from which stream they have passed their examination. There should not be any difference b/w the various streams. Students at the school level need to be educated through career counseling regarding the kind of streams that exist and what importance each of them plays to make an economy diverse.
4. Variety in education streams: - there should be variety in education system. Generally, we don't have variety in our education system. Students have limited or mostly three choices after 10th. (Arts, science, commerce) there is a requirement of flexible combination of subjects which are helpful for the students, to select the course according to their choices
5. The system of tuition classes: - commenting on this issue is like pulling one's hand in to a vicious cycle which seems to have no beginning or end. Reason for this is the students say that the teachers in the class are lax and not good enough for them to clear the exam. This makes them lose all motivation and steam to attend school in the first place. This issue is also critical for the parents who's hard earned money get drained in school and tuition fees alone

Although this picture does seem dismal, but there is hope for change because the various steps have been taken by the govt. as well as by parents, teachers, students, for the betterment of the education in India. But the success of all these efforts depends upon how quickly we can provide the benefits of all these changes to common people.

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