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Article 21a: Success and limitations of right to education

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Abstract

Background: Education is an important means to ensure economic, social and political development of the society. Therefore Article 21a of Indian constitution aims to provide free and compulsory elementary education to all.

Objectives: The objective is to study the provisions of the Right To Education Act and analyze its strengths and weaknesses.

Research Methodology: Analysis of the provisions and the survey conducted.

Result: The Act has increased the enrollment ratio and has sown seeds for increased literacy rates in India yet at the same time limitations have to be dealt with to achieve universal elementary enrollment.

Keywords: Elementary education, free, compulsory, literacy, inclusive development

Introduction

India is a country having large demographic dividend. It constitutes around 19% off global young population. The benefits of such a large demographic dividend can be extracted by imparting necessary education and skills to the population. Education also ensures effective functioning of a democracy as vigilant citizenry is a prerequisite offer democratic system. the educated citizenry analyses the pros and cons of electing a particular party and contestant two power. Education ensures all round development of the individual And also enable the nations to deal with numerous problems that the world is facing today. The problems such as climate change global warming controlling the spread of pandemic requires active cooperation of an aware and knowledgeable citizenry.

In order to promote elementary education and promote literacy among the population the right to Education Act was introduced in 2009. the 86th constitutional amendment act 2002 added article 21 a to the Indian constitution which provided free and compulsory education to all between the age of 6 to 14 years. It also added a new fundamental duty under article 51 a that provides that every citizen of India has a duty to provide opportunities for education to his child between the age of 6 and 14 years.

The right to Education Act has provision for 25% reservation off seats for scheduled caste, scheduled tribes, backward classes and it also provides for admission to the child in age appropriate classrooms. It prescribes standards for pupil teacher ratio, Building and infrastructure, teachers Working hours and school working days. It prohibits engagement of teachers in nonteaching work other than elections, disaster relief and census. It prohibits punishment to the children, collection of capitation fees, private tuition's by the teacher and running of non recognized schools. The act also have provision all free textbooks and uniforms to the children.

The right to Education Act has played a significant role in improving the school infrastructure specially in the rural areas. It has also improved the enrollment rates in upper primary education. more then 3.3 million children got admissions under the 25% seats reserved for them. The construction of separate toilets for girls is a necessary step in reducing gender gap in education.

The right to education not only ensures educational development of the citizens but also indirectly deals with the problem of malnutrition, hunger, poverty, anemia among the girls, maintenance of hygiene. The midday meal scheme provides food to the children ensuring the fulfilment of their nutritional needs and paving the way for a healthy citizenry.

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Similarly the infrastructure development, construction of toilets, availability of clean drinking water Enables the government to achieve its goals under the swachh Bharat abhiyan. By providing free and compulsory elementary education to all the right to education also contributes to inclusive development of India.

Despite its various achievements right to education is not free from limitations. One of the major limitations of the act is let's focus on the quality of education as well as infrastructure. There has been instances of non functional toilets, world school infrastructure, water logging in schools, inability of the students to read and write in accordance with their class. Lack of teachers affect pupil teacher ratio Also affecting the quality of education. lack of effective teaching on the part of teachers due to absence of provisions for teacher training also effects that learning outcomes of the students.

Another issue is the integration of schools off an area which results in increased distance between the school and home. Also due to increased poverty specially in ruler areas parents prefer who send their children for work instead of schools so that the earning of the family can be increased. There are also instances of non functional toilets due to lack of water. Sometimes the parents get their children enrolled under the quota system despite their not being eligible for reservation.

During COVID-19 lockdowns education system was affected severely due to the weak digital learning system of India. The problem was most severe in the rural areas due to lack of smart phones and Internet Network or poor network issues. This highlights the need for strengthening digit educational system and National Optic Fiber scheme is the right steps in this direction. are also complaints of Poor quality of food provided under the midday meal scheme. There has been a problem of focus on quantity rather than quality and outputs rather than outcomes.

a number of steps such as service section of beyond The government has taken a number of steps such as serve shiksha abhiyan, Project Eklavya, Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, centrally sponsored scheme of teachers education.

Nobel laureate Amartya Sen rightly said," Education is the backbone of India." Education not only provides employment opportunities but also contributes to the development in social and political spheres. It plays a significant role in reducing various discrimination based on caste, gender, religion, race etc. Therefore the need is to ensure effective implementation of Right To Education Act to Ensure not only literacy but also spread of education

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