

## Challenges of Education in Rural Sector

Anjali Singh\*

### Introduction :

According to Swami Vivekananda – “You regard that man to be educated who obtains some degrees, has passed out some examinations, and is able to deliver fluent lectures. But this is not real education. It prepares a man for social service, develops his character and finally imbues him with the spirit and courage of a lion. Any other education is worse than useless.”

Education doesn't mean literacy. Education and literacy both are different concepts. Literacy provides only the ability to read and write but education is a process by which the knowledge, character and behaviour of the young are shaped and moulded. India is an agro-based economy. 70% of Indian population lives in rural India with 65% literacy rate. Largely the rural education is limited to primary education and secondary education.

It is often said that there are two Indias - Bharat which exist in the village and India which thrives in the urban areas. If our country has to have real progress and make its mark on the global stage, then these two India must converge. Prosperity will have to come to our villages, towns and cities. Millions of people in rural India still live below the poverty line. These are number of issues related to health, education and sanitation which need urgent attention.

**Primary education is a foundation stone of education** because it lays the foundation of the future education, the language, the medium of communication and the first necessity of education is taught at this level and the children are trained in the primary activities to live a social life.

The condition of primary schools in our country is very poor. Of course some reforms did occur with the implementation of operation blackboard scheme in primary schools but most of the primary schools still have no building, schools are functioning in mud house, no furniture and sitting arrangement.

**Secondary education is a very important stage of education system.** Secondary education is a complete unit in itself. It is the basis for the development of manpower of any nation. Secondary education is the base of higher education.

The percentage of wastage and stagnation in rural sector at the secondary level is very high. Lack of schools in villages, defective curriculum, defective teaching method, shortage of teacher and teaching material, irregular functioning of schools and poverty and illiteracy are several reasons for wastage and stagnation.

The Kothari Commission and National Policy on Education have given many suggestions regarding the problem of wastage and stagnation. These suggestions are being implemented but still the problem has not been eradicated completely.

**For the economic prosperity of India, not only children but adults also should be educated.**

About the need and importance of Social (Adult) education Swami Vivekananda remarked: "So long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every man a traitor, who having been educated at their expense, pays not the heed to them. Our great natural sin is the neglect of the masses and that is the cause of our downfall. No amount of politics would be of any avail until the masses are well educated, well fed and well cared for." National development and reconstruction is closely allied to Adult Education. As educated person helps in production, so the government runs various programmes to increase it.

National literacy programme was established in 1988 for total literacy. Education doesn't end with the school education. It goes on life time. Learning, working and live useful life, these things depend on each other. So it is compulsory to correlate these things with one another.

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\* Assistant Professor, Dr. M. C. Saxena College of Education, Dubagga Bypass, IIM, Mall Road, Lucknow

**Role of women is more important than role of men.** It will not be wrong to say that to educate the women means to make the nation stronger. Women also give their support and cooperation in progress of nation like men. Generally male person of the family has to go outside to earn money, in that situation women have to take care of the family. She has to take all the decisions. If the decision taking person is educated, they will be more effective and efficient to perform responsibilities and duties. Children remain in touch of their mother for maximum time. If the mother is educated, she will steer the thoughts of the child in a proper direction. In urban areas society has accepted this truth and is providing opportunity to the women. But in rural areas, even today the speed of women education is poor.

#### **Goals Of Education In Rural Sector :**

- Quality education - education should be for learning not for securing higher percentages. To make students learned every concept should be clear to them.
- Result orienting education-it is necessary whatever , we are teaching to students, it should be seen in their behaviour and thought.
- That education is important which provides a job security. India is a developing country. Here people especially in rural sector struggle for fulfilment their basic requirement throughout life.. In India people study to get a job to live a standard life. So the goal of education in rural sector should be make the students able to earn is livelihood.
- Schools in metropolitan cities are being global. They are introducing new technologies in the method of teaching. While the rural schools still have to get rid of traditional old method of teaching. They have to raise their thinking above the Operation Black Board. So our goal is to maintain the standard of education at least up to the level of urban Indian schools.
- Experimenting with new methods of teaching. In rural India schools are following century's old teaching method. The teacher use to recite lessons repeatedly to the students. Such way of teaching develops monotony in the class. So students don't take interest in the lesson. So our goal is that teacher in the rural school should be motivated to experiment with new methods of teaching.
- To increase no. of girl students completing their education in rural sector. There is discrimination between boy and girl student. Often it is seen that girl student rarely complete their education.
- Provide learning, guidance, counselling and wisdom to scholars looking to research and develop education.
- To provide not only basic facilities but new technologies of the teaching should also be provided in rural sector.

#### **Challenges of education in rural sector faces :**

- Most of children don't take admission in schools. In rural India agriculture is the main occupation. It is considered that each family grows their food in the field. But they use very poor technology. They need lots of man power in the field, so to increase production; they take young members of the family to the field to work. In that time their education gets harmed because they have to go to work with their parents.
- Some students take admission in schools but do not continue their studies. The percentage of wastage and stagnation in rural sector at the secondary level is very high.
- In the rural areas, people do not appreciate their girl child to go to school because it is difficult to find a groom for an educated girl.
- Prevalent trends of early marriage in rural areas. Many adolescent girls want to continue their education but admitted that they would soon marry and advanced education was unnecessary in rural sector.
- In present scenario most of the students have two different types of mentality- First is, one which is for bookish and isn't seen in behaviour, second is one which is seen in their behaviour and isn't found in books. The first mentality is ideal and based on the truth and

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purity while the second mentality is due to the wicked behaviour of society and often people called it practical approach. The challenge of our education should be to remove this duality from our educational system.

- Lack of quality teachers in rural school. Teachers in rural sectors face many challenges such as low salaries, lack of access to professional opportunities and the responsibility to take on multiple duties.
- The parents who are willing to educate their daughters are discouraged by the absence of school within the surrounding area and it is not considered safe to send girls to another village to study.
- Most of the schools do not have proper infrastructure. So they do not get most of the facilities such as computer education, sports education and extra-curricular activities.
- Inadequate transport facilities and options for students from neighbouring or far off places.
- Teachers of rural schools in villages and small towns receive low income so there is a possibility that teachers give less attention to children.
- Apart from the course curriculum rural schools are not able to involve children in other activities like sports, co-curricular activities and competitions. Such events and activities tend help in the overall development of the children
- Most of the people do not have any information about distance and open education.
- On paper there are so many government schemes for improvement of education in rural sector, but the schemes do not get implemented on ground level. Corruption and lenient governance is responsible for this.
- Most of the people think they do not require higher education because in rural sector they can't use it. And if they want to utilize their educational qualification then they have to go to urban areas.
- The mother of all problems of rural education system of India is lack of grant. After right to education our government has taken responsibility to teach every child of the country. It is a very huge project as the maximum number of the students would be in India.
- Our government manages finance for our educational institutes. This allocation comes through a system of different channels and at each channel it gets absorbed a little bit due to corruption. At last a nominal amount reaches to the student. Removing this corruption is a big challenge.

### **Solutions :**

- If we introduce new technologies in farming then the requirement of manpower will decrease. So those children who go to field with their parents for working would go to school.
- Government has started so many programs and schemes on education. We need to take serious step for proper execution of the education scheme and program in rural sector.
- There is a need of serious steps to educate the women in rural areas by the education department. Only open the primary schools are not sufficient enough it. Proper guidance is also needed there.
- Boys and girls get distracted from the higher education, because there is not any facility of higher education in the villages. so to increase the number of students in higher education, we should have universities and higher educational institutes in the rural areas.
- Our rural educational system always faces financial problems. It is necessary to find a definite effective solution for this problem. To resolve this problem, we should always correlate schools with the commercialization. Our schools should search outside resources for educational expenditure. Some suggestions are as follows- rural sector education system has their corporate branches which run some industries to provide finance to schools.
- We should make the people aware about the use and benefits that technology can bring about in their life. If the rural people know about the advantages of using technology they will be ready to learn them easily.
- Technology should make available to the people at the cheap and affordable rates. For example regular supply of electricity is required for running a computer. If laptop or tablets are

available at low prices and they can be charge with solar energy than this problem can be also overcome.

- Most of the students in rural sector do not continue their studies because of Inadequate transport facilities. So more and more institutions of secondary and higher education should be opened the radius of the villageor to provide adequate transport facility.
- Our educational system throughout the India is facing a problem of corruption. In a survey it was found that the educational system is the second most corrupt department. So remove such kind of corruption and mal practices from the educational system we would have a strict administration to check on such kind of ill practices.
- As we have discussed earlier that there is a duality in the behaviour students regarding their knowledge. Their knowledge on paper is not seen in behaviour. On paper they discuss about idealism and truth but in practical life they use tricks to achieve in their field or to earn money. We should teach our students morality, to make them a civilized citizen.
- The motive of mid-day-meal should be to provide nutrtrional diet to the students. Mid-day meal should not be used for attracting students. Beside this there should be a separate place in the schools for preparation of mid-day meal.
- Teachers should be salaried as per their ability. Teachers should not be engaged in works other than teaching. They should not be forced to work in census and pulse polio campaigns. Such activities divert their mind. Refreshment courses should be conducted on regular basis. If they pay full attention on teaching it will improve the quality of education.

**Conclusion :**

This paper is conceptual and based on some studies which were conducted on the rural Indian education system and I tried to find out the goals of education in rural sector through my self-experience and perception. Through this paper I want to know the reason, why the education in rural sector is very low even when the government is putting in so many efforts to improve the standard of education. What are the challenges that rural sector faces and after setting the goals I have tried to give some solutions to overcome the challenges and obtain the goal. The thinking of rural people is traditional and if we want to evolve their thinking, it will be a slow gradual process. It is not possible to change their thinking overnight. Government efforts are not sufficient even when the people are aware of the new technology, policy; programs etc., and are self-motivated to attain the knowledge. I think that if we implement all solutions then we can overcome most of the challenges.

Our combined initiatives and support will make all the differences in the life and future of rural children for whom quality education is the only ladder that could help them and their families climb out of the poverty.

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