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# Indian Rural Education System : Problems and Prospects

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**Abstract :-** Education is the single most important factor to ensure Socio economic development, gender equality and empowerment. It transforms human beings from ignorance to enlightenment, from shades of social and economic backwardness. Education is the true important factor that can bring India its next golden age. The motto is decided: All for knowledge, and knowledge for all. But it is not real fact in India especially rural area. Rural development normally refers to the process of improving the quality of human life. India has the largest education system in the world after U.S. and China. However, an issue of quality education and access remains a challenge in rural area of the country. According to a survey report called the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), more than 50% of the students in 5th standard attending rural schools are not capable of reading a second standard textbook and do not solve basic mathematical questions. This research paper has covered the problem and solutions of education in rural area with present scenario.

**Key word:** Education System, India, Rural Education Problem, solutions.

**Introduction :-** The World Bank has defined Rural Development "as a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people in the rural poor." The contribution of rural India towards the economic development. Rural development includes development improving the quality of life of rural people. It constitutes improvement in their health and food, education, safe and healthy environment. As more than half of the population in India lives in villages, consequently the education system in rural area also plays a major role in the growth of the economy. Education has a attractive scheming pressure over development of the rural individual, family, community and society that leads to reduced poverty and increasing employment. The main functions of education include imparting social change, making rural people conscious about their rights, improving individual standard of living, providing employment and income opportunities to rural people and so on. Schools in rural areas are promoted to raise the level of education and literacy as well as the objective of the schools in India is to increase the rates of literacy in rural areas. More than 40 per cent of India's population is illiterate and cannot read or write.

**Objectives of the study:** To know the Indian education system with problems and prospects.

**Research Methodology:** In this research paper secondary data have been used for collected through various websites, Newspapers, Books, repots and E-Journals.

**Present scenario of rural education in India :-** The Right to Education (RTE) is now a primary right for all Indian children in the age group of 6 to 14 years. It means that the Government will be accountable for providing education to every child up to the eighth standard, free of cost, irrespective of class and gender. It will take maximum years before the target is reached. This is because infrastructure is not built as much as need to rural schools. The RTE is the first law in the world that puts the responsibility of enrollment, attendance and achievement of education on the government. The National Education Policy has introduced in 1968 with the free and compulsory education, and the Right to Education came into effect only in April 2010. To absolute the promise of education as a right, the government has increasing funds to the education sector. Consequently India's effective literacy rate has recorded a 9.2 per cent rise to reach 74.04 per cent, according to provisional data of the 2011

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census. Effective literacy rate in the 2001 census was 64.83, which has improved to 74.04. Despite the constraints, more and more children are getting enrolled in schools particularly rural areas. The main objective of the RTE is to maximum enrolled of the students but this objective have not fully achieved due to drop out of the students. There are several reasons for increasing drop out in rural area. Following table shows the major reasons of drop out student in rural education.

Major reasons for drop out of the student in village school in India

Sr. no.	Reasons	Male	Female
1.	Child is not interested in studies	23.80	15.60
2.	Financial constraints	23.70	15.20
3.	Engage domestic activities	4.80	29.70
4.	School is for off	0.5	3.40
5.	Unable to cop-up with studies	5.4	4.60
6.	Marriage	-	6.20
7.	Other reasons	5.1	6.20

Source: National Sample Survey office-2019

In India, condition of rural school is very poor. There are very few schools in the rural areas and children have to travel far away distances to avail these facilities and most of the schools do not provide drinking water. There is not well quality of education in rural area.

The teachers get very less income and most of the time the teachers are either absent or they are not present in school due to the excess burden of other works. The main objectives of rural schools are to make sure that every child in rural India receives quality of education which prepares them to compete in the competitive global level.

**Problems faced in rural education:-** Education is playing a crucial role of rural development in India. Government is rapidly many initiatives had been taken for the development of rural India; still much more have to be done. There are a number of problems being faced by the schools running in rural India. Some of these problems are stated below:

**Lack of Infrastructure:** A number of schools in villages they do not have suitable infrastructure facilities. There are no good facilities for sitting as sometimes children are even made to sit on the floor due to inadequate of furniture. The schools building have very old and lacks of doors and windows. Transportation facilities not so good therefore children's are not able to reach regularly in the school.

**Low Income:-** Teachers in the villages also get very less income in comparison to the teachers that teach in urban schools. As teachers are not satisfied with their income, they generally do not give proper attention to the students.

**Lack of Basic Amenities:** The basic amenities in rural school are not sufficient like drinking water, clean toilets, playing ground etc. these facilities not available in many of the schools at villages.

**Lack of Extra-Curricular Activities:** Apart from the regular course curriculum, rural schools are not able to engage children in other activities like sports, co-curricular activities and competitions. Such activities tend to help in the overall development of the rural children.

**Shortage of Funds:** Indian government published central budget in each year. Expenditure on education sector is very less as compared to developed country. The education in rural India is the unavailability of funds. Some schools they do not have funds even for purchasing benches, blackboards and for providing basic facilities etc. There are several problems to face in the village school. A number of programs introduced by the government like ShikshaKarmi Project: 1987, District primary education program: 1994, National programme of nutritional support to primary education (school meal programme):1995, SarvaSikshaAbhiyan (SSA) 2007, RTE: 2010 etc. but responsibility of the

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government to develop education sector has been reducing year by year. Therefore a number of problems faced in the village school. Government should take initiative for developed education sector particularly rural area.

**Prospects for improving rural education in India:-** Some of the suggestions that can be implemented by the government for improving education system in rural:

- The program of rural education can be updated and should accompany education related to farming and rural culture.
- More number of students and creating interest in them for learning, audio visual aids like projectors, television educational movies and play games etc.
- To encourage the teachers they should be made to touch proud that by teaching in the remote area they are playing a main role as a helping the development rural education.
- Some special programs or sessions can be conducted for the parents as well as teachers to make them recognize and significance of education for their children.
- To appreciate the efforts of students, various type of scholarships, competitive examination at primary level whichever in the form of gifts or books can be given to them who perform well in the school and class.
- Government should take initiatives for promoting in village school through various policies and sufficient fund like SarvaSikshaAbhiyan (SSA) 2007, RTE: 2009 etc.

**Conclusion :-** *The education is to teach one think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character stated by Martin Luther King, Jr.* The development of any country depends fully on the good education system. Today's education is viewed worldwide as human right. All educational revolutions require strong public support and participation. 'People's getting benefit and participation' can be used as an indicator for measuring the achievement of the various education policies. It is necessary to spread awareness among the rural people about the need; importance and significance of education with more efforts have to be taken by the government of the country. Finally rural education in India is a huge challenge that we are facing today and will continue to face in future. Only all-inclusive and fully devoted approach by Government and non-Government organizations can to some extent lead towards a rural education in India.

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