



Study of Importance and Challenges of Secondary Education in India

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Abstract

Education (secondary) plays a critical role in the educational landscape of the nation. Following India's independence, secondary education saw a number of significant changes. The universalization of secondary education was the most important of these reforms. It entails universalizing educational facilities, universalizing enrolment, universalizing retention, universalizing engagement, and universalizing success. Because “universalization of secondary education improves the condition of secondary education,” it also addresses issues such as unemployment, untrained manpower as a result of a lack of training and infrastructure facilities at all levels of education, and a poor examination system, among others.

Key Words: Secondary, Education, India, Economy, Youth etc.

Introduction

While elementary education is the foundation for participation, independence, living a dignified life, and overcoming fundamental deprivation, secondary education is the entrance to wealth, economic transformation, and social justice in every society. It exposes the country's youngsters to the world of labour and adds to the community's socioeconomic growth. Secondary education is an important step in the learning process since it makes pupils for further learning as well as the workforce. India's Ministry of Human Resource Development. When we examine the developing issues in our society, providing “secondary education” to everyone, including “boys and girls, with a focus on quality education” takes on new relevance. For example, growing socioeconomic ambitions and democratic awareness, especially among oppressed groups like as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, religious and linguistic minorities, and females, are pushing for more access, participation, and quality in secondary education. “The impact of globalisation and the rapid growth of new technologies, as well as the recent significant development of Universal Elementary Education (UEE) achieved through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), have led to a reassessment of India's preparedness to generate



required technical manpower, develop new knowledge and skills, and remain competitive at a global level.”

Importance of Secondary Education

“Secondary school” is meant to be the minimum need for becoming computer knowledgeable and interacting with the type of equipment that will enable at least a modicum of wealth to emerge. It is equally critical for emerging nations to have well-trained ethical and moral leaders. Secondary education has an important but complicated function in making new individuals for the labour market, particularly for those who “leave secondary” school to look for work. It allows students to continue their study and get a job after acquiring the necessary skills in any trade field. Secondary education produces a pool of competent individuals with the knowledge and abilities to make important contributions to economic growth. It helps people to broaden their options and develop their personal and professional talents. Promoting “gender equality and empowering girls and women” are equally vital. Secondary education, above all, fosters higher-level logical thinking, abstraction, insight, skills, and competence.

Challenges for Secondary Education in India

The following are some of the major issues that India's secondary education faces:

1. Different committees and commissions have indicated various secondary education goals both before and after independence. Secondary educational institutions, on the other hand, have mostly failed to meet the stated goals of developing “physical, intellectual, mental, and spiritual components of individual personality”. Even a high school diploma is insufficient in India. It's a stepping stone to getting into a four-year institution or university. Thus, secondary school is considered as a gateway to college. Thus, secondary education suffers from a lack of focus. In order to prepare students for the real world, secondary education should have defined objectives and institutions should make every effort to attain them.
2. The “non-detention policy” implemented at the primary level has lowered the “quality of secondary education” since low-quality materials have penetrated the secondary level. It lacked inventiveness, critical thinking, and the capacity to assess and make appropriate judgments.



3. The existing secondary school system in India has exacerbated the unemployment issue since no personnel training is feasible in the current system. The core peripheral and work experience programmes have failed miserably, and the plus-two stages have yet to be vocationalized in the way that was intended.
4. Value Although teaching is important for character development, contemporary secondary school does not place a high weight on qualities such as tolerance, collaboration, fellow feeling, honesty, humility, respect for instructors or seniors, “self-respect, trust in national cultural tradition,” secularism, and so on. Adolescents have been observed to engage in a variety of immoral behaviours and corrupt practises, causing the community to become intolerant.
5. Secondary school also does not give enough opportunity for “developing life skills such as communication, decision-making, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills”, all of which are necessary for demonstrating leadership behaviour in many fields. Students are the future leaders of our country in a variety of fields, and as such, leadership qualities should be nurtured in them while they are still young and impressionable. The “secondary stage” may be thought of as a breeding environment for “leadership” development.

Challenges of Universalization of Secondary Education

- **Access:** Secondary education access is a major issue in attaining secondary education universalization. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of boys and girls in secondary education is 79.16 percent and 80.97 percent, respectively, according to the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) 2015-16, and the GER of boys and girls in senior secondary education is 55.95 percent and 56.41 percent. It is clear that significant work needs to be done to improve students' access to secondary education.
- **Equality and Social Justice:** True democracy cannot be accomplished without promoting equality and social justice in all domains, including education. This necessitates a rethink of the curriculum. Only until the school curriculum effectively allows the kid to first comprehend, then question, and lastly deal with such inequity and injustice will the child be able to pursue equality and social justice in life beyond school.



- **Relevance and Development:** Relevancy refers to education that maximises a child's potential, such as developing democratic citizenship, evolving values for living in a pluralistic society, and developing skills in the face of rapidly changing technology, as well as connecting a child's development to socio-cultural dimensions.
- **Structural and Curricular Aspects:** Curricular and structural improvements are inextricably intertwined. Today, there is widespread agreement throughout the nation on the 10+2 schooling structure, as “recommended by the Education Commission (1964- 66). The Education Commission” also urged for a minimum of ten years of shared curriculum to foster democratic citizenship and integrate “the world of knowledge with the world of employment.” Diversified courses will be offered only at the +2 level under this approach.
- **Failure:** Another impediment to effective secondary school completion is “mass scale failure at the IXth and Xth standard” levels owing to a variety of factors. The UP board's results for the 10th and 12th grades show a grim image, with “75.16 percent and 70.06 percent, respectively.
- **Quality:** Poor secondary education” is a very sensitive problem, and as a result, graduates do not get the recognition they deserve, neither in further education nor in vocational training. The adoption of a no-detention policy at the primary school level has degraded the quality of “secondary and higher education. Poor education leads to failure, and pupils' chances” of leaving out of school are increased.
- **Examination System:** Our exam system has mostly failed to provide a true assessment of overall learning results. Traditionally, the education system, especially school education, has been steered and controlled by concerns about test outcomes, regardless of whether learning quality is fragile or durable.
- **Lack of Girls Schools:** The low number of females enrolled in secondary school, especially in rural regions, is attributed to a shortage of secondary schools. In terms of girls' education, a variety of sociocultural and economic factors are at play, resulting in comparably low involvement of females in secondary school.
- **Absence of Guidance Services in Schools:** Adolescence is a period of increased “emotionality”, and kids are more likely to get involved in a variety of difficulties that are extremely distinctive, and children often struggle to solve these problems in the absence of any aid accessible at school. It has a negative impact on students' emotional



health as well as their academic performance. It might also result in failure and dropout issues.

Function of secondary education

There are “following function of secondary education.

1. To teach regional language
2. To make student obtain an average knowledge in subject.
3. To organize activity like NCC, Scout and guide develop cultural and social activity.
4. To provide opportunity for the expression of talents by students.
5. To develop in them faith and respect for democracy value and procedure.
6. Through moral education it must try to strengthen moral value in students.

Conclusion

Secondary education serves as a key connection between the elementary” and secondary education systems, and it is responsible for fostering essential skills learned in primary school and preparing students for further education. Over the last 10 years, there has been an increase in demand on the secondary level to absorb new students due to growth in Indian elementary school enrolment and improvements in retention and transfer rates. Given the size of the expenditures made by both the centre and the state in the "Sarva Siksha Abhiyan," which will continue in the coming years, there will be increased demand for secondary and higher education. The sustained and significant development that India has shown in recent years has also led to an increase in secondary school demand. In order to meet the increased demand, the importance of educational quality must be highlighted as well. Secondary education had a significant position in our educational system. It promotes national growth, “cultural life”, and technological improvement. “This education prepares these young men and women” to contribute to the social, economic, political, and cultural development of our nation.

As a result, secondary school plays an essential role in bridging the gap between elementary and higher education.

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