Shikshalya a Forum: Giving Wings to the Dreams of the Slum Children

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Abstract: There are more than 25 crores slum children (on record) but only a few slum children get proper education and hygiene facilities. Also, slums are mostly found in developing and under developing countries which are facing increase in urban area in comparison of developed countries. Urbanization leads in increase in urban area by expanding mere territory and creating slums but many problems like lack of providing of infrastructure like proper roads and affordable houses, basic services like water and hygiene facilities & also education facilities are not properly provided to the deprived slum people. The main objective of this report is to highlight and understand the problems of slum children and categorizing on the basis of sex, age, living standards etc. along with their educational qualification and to know the factors or reasons of school or college dropout of slum children. This report presents a general analysis of education facilities in the Delhi slums education and how Jazba: Helping hands a Delhi based non – government organization (NGO) helps those slum children for the education. This report also explains the factors that resists slum children aged 4 to 16 – year - old from getting schooling in light of the worsening urban poverty. And To find the competency level of the slum children attending some school weather their education system is appropriate or not. According to their class, age and sex whether they are getting proper learning outcome or not.

Keyword: Slum children, Education, Rural and urban facilities

I. Introduction:

"Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable development." (KOFI ANNAN). Education is that weapon which can transform the condition of the slums and also giving wings to the dreams of slum area. Also, India's education system secure second position in the world after China. During lockdown got an opportunity to work with Jazba: Helping Hands, Delhi based non – government organization (NGO) whose main motive is to provide education, spread awareness about hygiene and sanitation, ensure that each and every children is going to school or college and aware the slum people about the government policies and schemes. Also, why education needed? As we know that human capital is one of the most important factor to determine the progress of a country. That's why for development of human through education is important. So Jazba: helping hands takes responsibility to arrange the education to the slum's children. Also, there are more than 25 crores slum children (on record) and a few slum children get children get education and hygiene facilities. As per "The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)" report, "approximately 17 % of children in India are deprived of basic education. Slum children comprise of approximately 80 % of above-mentioned children." Also Due to COVID 19 pandemic rapid fall in the enrollments of slum children or poor children is observed whereas the middle class and rich class children are able to access the online classes but slum children don't have access to online education. That's why the enrollment of slum children in schools, colleges and other private online courses is decreasing.

II. Objective of the study:

1: To find out the slum children on the basis of sex , age etc. along with their education qualification.

2: To know the factors or reasons of school or college dropout of slum children.

3: To know the competency level of the slum children attending some school ie whether their education system is appropriate or not.

III. Research Methodology: -

Under this report, quantitative research, qualitative research and descriptive research method were used. Under quantitative different statistical tools are used. Qualitative research, use an emergent design, a design that emerges during the course of data collection. The study also used the descriptive – survey method, in which in which it is uses the questions as who, what, when, where, and how of a topic being answered. Naturalist emphasize understanding the human experience as it is lived usually through the collection and analysis of qualitative materials that are narrative and subjective. The findings from in – depth qualitative research is typically grounded in the real-life experiences of people with first – hand knowledge of a phenomenon. Also, secondary data is used to make the report i.e. different research papers, website, books etc. facts are used for this report.

IV. Literature Review: -

1. Yuko Tsujita raised few points related to Attendance of Slum Children, Burden of School's fee on parents and Argument on government Policies and Practices under the research paper "Deprivation of Education: A Study of Slum Children in Delhi, India" in 2009. The main focus of this paper is to know that what are the factors which is lacking to the slum children for getting the education.

2. Deeksha Kapur, Sushma Sharma and Kailash Nath Agarwal
raised few points related to the "intakes and growth in early childhood in poor communities" between the 9-36 months of age in Delhi slums under the research paper "Dietary Intake and Growth Pattern of Children 9 - 36 Months of Age in an Urban Slum in Delhi". The main focus of this paper is to know the factors which helps a child to intake and growth in early childhood and what factors are lacking in poor communities between the 9 - 36 months of age in Delhi slums.
3. Sunita Chugh raised few points related to the "Secondary Education in Delhi", "Features of the Sample Schools", "Socio-Economic Background of Dropouts" and "Profile of Drop out Children" under the research paper "Dropout in Secondary Education: A Study of Children Living in Slum of Delhi". The main focus of this research paper is to know the all problem related to education with respect to children alive in slums. This research is done at Delhi and Delhi NCR.
4. A S Seetharamu raised few points related to educational aspect that affects the financial status of slums area and main reasons for dropouts by slum children under the research paper "EDUCATION IN SLUMS" and Sponsored by "the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi". The main focus of this research paper is "to study economic, social and demographic condition of slum families", "to study the main factors of dropout" and "to study   the degree and problem of utilization of special educational facilities."
5. Y Tsujita raised few points related to reason related to the low enrollment of children in school aged 4 - 15 years under the research paper "Factors that prevent children from gaining access to schooling: A study of Delhi slum households." The main focus of this paper is "to examines the factors that prevent slum children aged 5 – 14 from gaining access to schooling in light of the worsening urban poverty and sizable increase in rural-to-urban migration."
6. Ron Mahabir, Andrew Crooks, Arie Croitoru & Peggy Agouris raised some points related to the need for a more complete method for studying slums children's education facilities under the research paper "The study of slums as social and physical constructs: challenges and emerging research opportunities." The main focus of this paper is "exploring the socio-economic and policy issues; exploring the physical characteristics; and, lastly, those modelling slums."

7. Frederick Mugisha raised some point related to Aspects affecting the low quality of primary schools in slums under the research paper "School enrollment among urban non-slum, slum and rural children in Kenya : Is the urban advantage eroding?" The main focus of this research is "to explores patterns of school enrollment."

V. Data Analysis & interpretation:

The Enrollment of Children in Primary School, Secondary School and Colleges:

Table 1:

Year! / education →	Primary education	Secondary education	College
2013	96 %	69 %	52 %
2014	98 %	74 %	59 %
2015	98 %	74 %	59 %
2016	96 %	75 %	64 %
2017	94 %	73 %	60 %
2018	92 %	75 %	63 %

Table 1: This table shows the enrollment of children in primary school, secondary school and colleges (in % age) from 2013 to 2018.

It is clear from the above data that on the one hand in secondary (from 69 % to 75 %) and college (from 52 % to 63 %) enrollment is increasing but on the other hand in primary (from 96 % to 92 %) enrollment is having downtrend. Downtrend in the enrollment of primary education is a matter of deep concern. We should analyses the situation and search the cause behind it. By this way India's school system secure second position in the world after China. Between 2013 to 2018 the enrollment of primary children is decreased by the 4 % whereas the enrollment of children in secondary children is increase by the 6 % and the enrollment of children in college is increased by the 11 %.
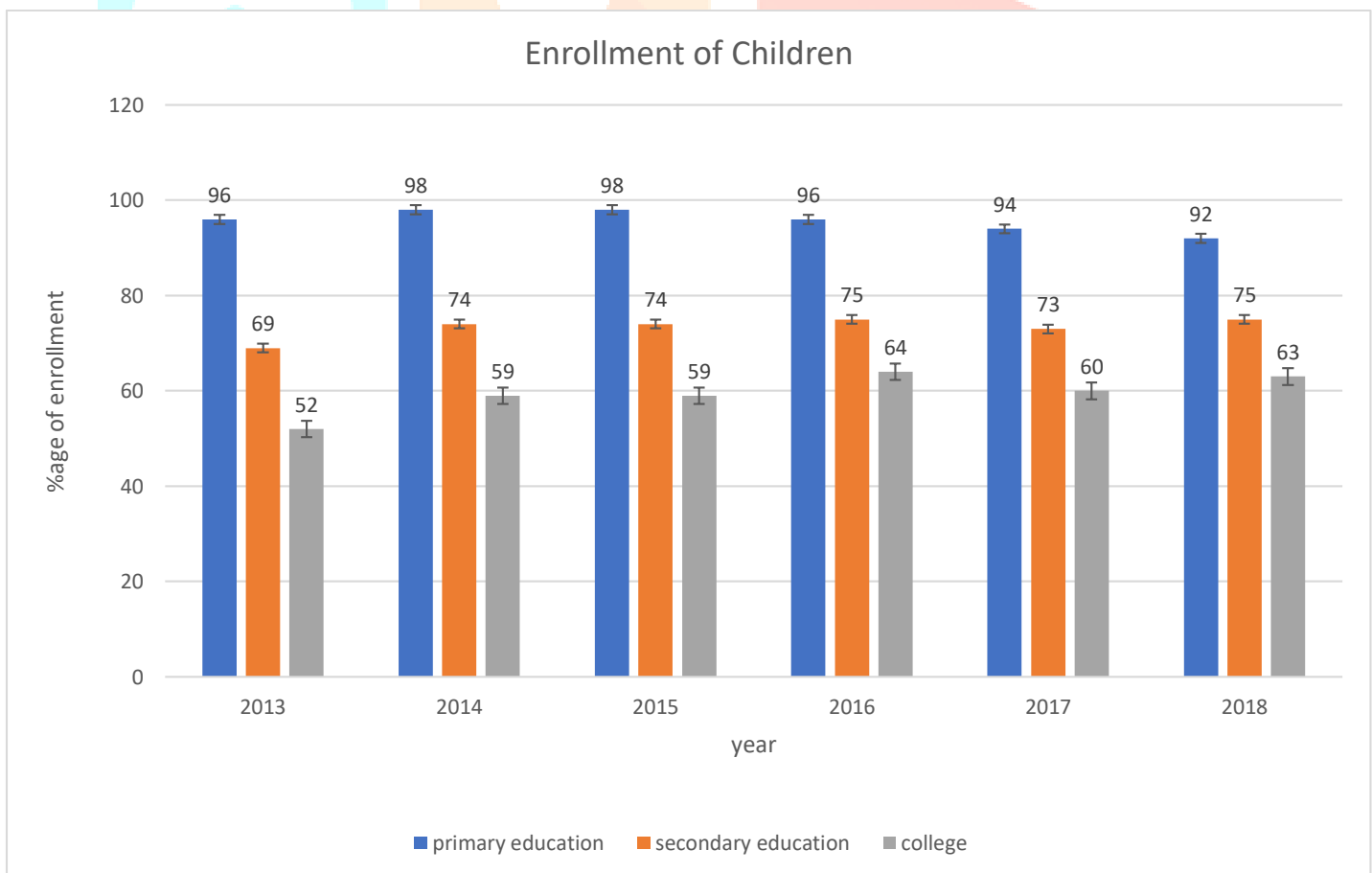
Figure 1: -

Figure 1: This figure represents above table (Table 1).

In above figure, x axis shows years (from 2013 to 2018) and y – axis shows % age of enrollment of children of primary school, secondary school and colleges from 2013 to 2018.

VI. Findings of the study:

Many slum children go to school and colleges but the main problem is that the quality teaching and the equipment as well are very low. Also, the English chapters are taught in Hindi. Also, there is pressure on slum children to work after 14 year for the money. Due to money and poverty vast young children left the formal education by 16 year. Also, during the study, it comes to know that the parents does not take any encouragement to send the children at school. Also, there is lack of awareness to the parents about government policies and schemes and importance of education. Also, the mindset of the slum children and parents are that going to school is waste of time and money. This are some finding of this study. The factors or reasons of school or college dropout of slum children and poor people are lack of facilities like computer, mobile, Wi-Fi etc. to the slum children specially in lockdown, the quality of equipment and furniture of slum schools is very low standard, the mindset of the slum children and parents are that going to school is waste of time and money, lack of encouragement of slum children and poor children about their dreams, passion and talents etc.

VII. Discussion: -

With more than 15 Lakhs schools and about 2600 Lakhs students in 2016, India become one of the largest school systems in the world after China. Overall enrollment flows in recent years are attributable to the country's youth protuberance as well as increased access: - Between 2013 and 2018, the student population in the school system grew by 5 percent or 126 lakhs students, as per government data source. It is clear from the above data that on the one hand in secondary (from 69 % to 75 %) and college (from 52 % to 63 %) enrollment is increasing but on the other hand in primary (from 96 % to 92 %) enrollment is having downtrend. Downtrend in the enrollment of primary education is a matter of deep concern. We should analyses the situation and search the cause behind it. By this way India's school system secure second position in the world after China. Between 2013 to 2018 the enrollment of primary children is decreased by the 4 % whereas the enrollment of children in secondary children is increase by the 6 % and the enrollment of children in college is increased by the 11 %.

Education in India is compulsory for all children from ages 6 to 14 and provided free of cost. Also, "Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world." Yet, despite all efforts in expanding access over the past decades, participation rates are still not universal, particularly in rural regions and among lower castes and other disadvantaged groups. Especially Slum Children, Rural Children & poor children not fully enrolled to get their basic right to education in spite of enforcement of RTE. The main reason behind this is poverty and even children are involved in rag-picking and other work to earn some money. It is also clear from the above data that on the one hand in secondary (from 69 % to 75 %) and college (from 52 % to 63 %) enrollment is increasing but on the other hand in primary (from 96 % to 92 %) enrollment is having downtrend. There are 2 types of education formal education and informal education. Under formal education, "it is well structured with learning evaluation" whereas under informal education, "it is unstructured without learning evaluation." NGO should try to motivate and help children for the formal education. But at least NGOs should provide informal education to slum children or poor children under which they will get basic skills to improve their living standard.

VIII. Future scope and limitations: -

As, we know that covid – 19 rapidly increases in India and that's why India sifted to online classes. That's the big revolution in education system. But the poor children and slum student can not afford or learn online classes because of lack of facilities like computer, mobile, Wi-Fi etc. Also, their lack of availability of good teachers to the slum children i.e. the quality of teachers is very low. Also, the English chapters are taught in Hindi. Slum children are away from basic technology knowledge. Also, there is lack of awareness to the parents about government policies and schemes and importance of education. Also, the mindset of the slum children and parents are that going to school is waste of time and money. Also, the quality of equipment and furniture of slum children's school is very low standard.

IX. Conclusion:

Therefore, there are lots of problems in quality of education to the slum student. Like lack of facilities like computer, mobile, Wi-Fi etc. to the slum children specially in lockdown, the quality of equipment and furniture of slum schools is very low standard, the mindset of the slum children and parents are that going to school is waste of time and money etc.

Still many non – government organization (NGO) like Jazba: helping hand, a Delhi based NGO tries to provide proper education to slum children, spread awareness of hygiene and sanitation, ensure that each and every child is going to school or college and aware the slum people about the government policy and scheme. Also, government tries to provide many facilities like midday meal, good qualities of equipment and furniture, many workshops to the teachers to improve their skills, spread awareness among the parents about the education, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SCHEMES FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION are as follows "Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya", "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan", "The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan" etc.

X. Suggestions:

Some suggestion to Giving wings to the Dreams of the slum children and poor children are as follow: -
1: Aware parents about the importance of education.
2: Encourage slum children and poor children about their dreams, passion and talents through the volunteers.
3: Organize workshops to the slum students, poor student and young people of final high secondary school or college for aware themselves.
4: Reduce some financial burden by some aid (provided by non - government organization)
5: Organize workshop for enhancing the quality and skills of teachers.
6: Improve the quality and fulfill the need of equipment and furniture.
8: Government should establish some institutions which monitor the slum education system and also arrange or raised the fund for the slum children.

XI. List of figures and list of table:
Figure 1: This figure depicts the data of Table - 1.
Table 1: - This table shows the enrollment of children in primary schools, secondary school and colleges (in %age) from 2013 to 2018.

XII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

XIII. References: -

1: "Deprivation of Education: A Study of Slum Children in Delhi, India Yuko Tsujita" in 2009

2: "Dietary Intake and Growth Pattern of Children 9-36 Months of Age in an Urban Slum in Delhi" by Deeksha Kapur, Sushma Sharma and Kailash Nath Agarwal
3: - "Dropout in Secondary Education: A Study of Children Living in Slum of Delhi" by Sunita Chugh

4: "EDUCATION IN SLUMS (Sponsored by the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi)" by A S Seetharamu
5: - "Factors that prevent children from gaining access to schooling: A study of Delhi slum households" by Y Tsujita
6: "The study of slums as social and physical constructs: challenges and emerging research opportunities" by Ron Mahabir, Andrew Crooks, Arie Croitoru & Peggy Agouris

7: "School enrollment among urban non-slum, slum and rural children in Kenya: Is the urban advantage eroding?" By Frederick Mugisha