



“Impact Of Proactive Steps Taken By The Government For Article 21 A- Right To Education”

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Abstract

"Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world."¹ Education is the foundation of any nation, and without it, it is unable to prosper. Education is therefore the nation's cornerstone. Education makes people more competent and likeable. It seeks to accomplish a variety of objectives, from human development to employment. Education is a person's fourth most important need, after clothes, food, and housing. Article 21A of the Indian Constitution, which was inserted into the constitution by means of the 86th Amendment Act of 2002, mandates every state to provide free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years, thereby declaring education as a fundamental right guaranteed under Part III of the Indian Constitution.² Nationwide school enrollment rates have increased significantly as a result of the Right to Education Act. The Act has been especially helpful to children from marginalized and disadvantaged areas who were previously unable to receive an education because of financial limitations.

Introduction

You must have heard or read that travelers from various regions having different climates and cultures began to visit parts of India from early times. To them, India was a land of wonder! The fame of Indian culture, wealth, religions, philosophies, art, and architecture, as well as its educational practices, had spread far and wide. The education system of ancient times was regarded as a source for the knowledge, traditions, and practices that guided and encouraged humanity.³

However, as time went on, education in our Indian land was limited to books, and people were forced into slavery. Only the capable were entitled to an education during the enslavement era. Members of the lower classes either weakened or were enslaved. However, the administration worked hard after independence, and our Indian

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¹ Nelson Mandela.

² <https://blog.ipleaders.in/article-21a-of-indian-constitution/>

³ <https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/heih108.pdf>

Constitution introduced Article 45. The State shall endeavor to provide, within a period of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years.⁴

Following independence, every parent desired to educate their children; yet, due to a lack of resources or facilities, individuals in society did not make significant efforts to educate more children. As a result, Article 45 had a minimal impact on society.

In order to have a developing society, it is imperative that all children have access to high-quality education. The government of India has launched a number of initiatives to give all children, particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds, free and easy access to education.

Education is crucial for a progressive society, and it is essential to ensure that every child has access to high-quality education. In India, the government has introduced various programs aimed at providing accessible and free education to all children, especially those from marginalized communities.

Numerous Government Programs for the Improvement of Education

In India, the Ministry of Education (MoE) is the main government agency in charge of education. Through its several divisions, the MoE manages both school and university education. Groups like Child Rights and You (CRY) are committed to making sure that every kid gets the education they are entitled to.

Sharav Shiksha Abhiyan

In order to provide universal basic education for children aged 6 to 14, the Indian government launched Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), often known as "Education for All," in 2001. At the moment, it is included in the Samagra Shiksha initiative. SSA was created between 2001 and 2002 in cooperation with state administrations and local self-governments.

Right to Education (RTE) Act

India has adopted a rights-based approach to ensuring universal access to education since the passage of the Right to Education Act. According to Article 21A of the Constitution, this Act provides the state and federal governments with a legal duty to uphold children's basic rights.

The term "free" is used in the title of the 86th Constitutional Amendment (2002), which added Article 21A to the Indian Constitution. It basically implies that no kid (except for those enrolled by their parents in a government-unsupported school) is required to pay any fees, levies, or costs that might keep them from pursuing and finishing primary school.⁵

National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL)

To improve girls' education in India, a targeted intervention known as the National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) was introduced in July 2003. The goal of the larger Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) initiative is to provide primary education to everybody. The goal of NPEGEL is to improve the quality, accessibility, and retention of education for girls in educationally underdeveloped areas.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP)

Modi introduced the plan on January 22, 2015. It is a nationwide program conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development that attempts to address the problem of the dropping Child Sex Ratio (CSR).

National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education

The "National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE)," which is centrally financed, was introduced in May 2008 to provide incentives to class IX pupils. The project aims to create a climate that encourages girls from SC/ST communities to register in secondary schools, decreases their dropout rates, and ensures their retention until they are 18.⁶

⁴ https://www.education.gov.in/directive_principles_of_state_policy_article-45

⁵ The Right of children to free and compulsory education act, 2009 by commercial law Publisher (India) Pvt. Ltd. | 1 January 2019

⁶ <https://dsel.education.gov.in/nsigse>

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)

RMSA aims to enhance access to secondary education and improve its quality. Launched in 2009, the program seeks to universalize secondary education by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation and improving school infrastructure. Between 2013 and 2014, RMSA was merged with a number of other centrally supported programs, such as vocational training, secondary inclusive education for the disabled, ICT in schools, and dorms for girls. According to the Ministry of Education, this has resulted in the administrative simplification of scheme provisions and a greater amount of cash available under RMSA.⁷

Samagra Shiksha

Initiated in 2018, the National Education Mission (Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan) is a comprehensive initiative for the school education sector that spans from preschool to class 12. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Teacher Education (CSSTE), Saakshar Bharat, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan are the four programs that make up the stated mission.⁸

CBSE Udaan Programme

In order to address the low enrollment of female students in esteemed engineering institutions and the teaching gap between the school curriculum and engineering entrance exams, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) launched the Udaan project under the direction of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The goal is to improve science and math instruction at the classroom level by addressing the three facets of education: curriculum design, transactions, and assessments.⁹

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)

The program's target population consists of girls from Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Backward Caste, and Minority households who live below the poverty line in educationally underdeveloped areas and who have left school before finishing their education. These institutions were created to offer residential housing and education (classes 6–8) to those who had never enrolled. This system has a 60:40 financial participation ratio between the Indian government and the state governments. By offering residential facilities to female students, 56 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas have been promoted from class 9 to class 12, out of the 434 that have received approval from the Indian government to undergo this upgrading.¹⁰

CONCLUSION

A forward-thinking society cannot exist without education, and it is imperative that all children have access to high-quality education. The government of India has launched a number of initiatives to give all children, particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds, free and easy access to education. There are a number of advantages to free education programs. Higher enrollment: by reducing financial obstacles, more kids can go to school. Increased Rates of Literacy: Nationwide literacy rates have increased dramatically as a result of free education. Equality of Gender: Equal chances to learn are guaranteed for girls through special initiatives. Social Improvement Children from underprivileged backgrounds can end the cycle of poverty with the help of education. Comprehensive Growth These programs frequently cover books, clothing, and midday meals, guaranteeing the kids' general well-being. Education-related programs in India provide a level foundation for inclusivity, meet the wide range of educational demands of the populace, and improve the quality of education. These programs, which range from early childhood education to digital literacy, demonstrate the government's dedication to improving educational results and minimizing inequalities in access. Schemes to address new possibilities and challenges must be developed as India develops further to guarantee that every student has the chance to thrive and contribute to the development of the country.

⁷ <https://www.india.gov.in/spotlight/rashtriya-madhyamik-shiksha-abhiyan>

⁸ India Today, February 1, 2019 "Education Budget 2019 Highlights: How the education sector and job market will be affected"

⁹ <https://education.vikaspedia.in/viewcontent/education/policies-and-schemes/scholarships/udaan-a-program-to-give-wings-to-girl-students>

¹⁰ <https://www.samagrashikshaup.in/Home/KGBV>

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