Problems And Challenges In Secondary Education In Remote Areas Of India

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Abstract :

About 70% of India lives in villages and gets educated in remote areas. Small remote areas pose several challenges for students due to a lack of resources and limited learning opportunities. The resource constraints impede the academic stimulation needed for the students' cognitive, intellectual, and social development.

Keyword : Secondary Education , remote areas , population , confidence , communication skills , infrastructure, Encourage.

Introduction :

For the large majority of the population living in rural areas, education is highly dependent on government-run or aided schools and non-governmental organisations. But remote areas still face various barriers that directly impact the country's literacy rate. The National Education Policy 2020 emphasises digital learning as an alternative to the conventional classroom model but implementing this in rural India will face some challenges.

Most students need to cover long distances on foot to attend classes without any transportation facility. This situation often demotivates them to attend school regularly. Moreover, students in these villages don't have access to proper classrooms, playgrounds, and even basic toilets and drinking water facilities. Furthermore, many of these students come from families with meager incomes, which is not enough to feed a family of 4 or 5 people. Therefore, they are asked to assist the family's earning members in making extra income instead of going to school and study.

Given the lack of funding and resources, most schools lack enough teachers. Many elementary schools only have one teacher taking care of about 30-40 students from 1st standard to 7th standard, covering all the subjects from mathematics to environmental sciences. Moreover, the teachers are burdened with unmanageable work and activities. The working conditions are not great and they are not paid enough. All these things impact the commitment of the teacher.

Moreover, students don't often get good access to a good learning environment, infrastructure, facilities, and mentors. Therefore, students from rural areas face several challenges during their high school and later. The problems are exacerbated as these students start college education. Some of the common challenges include:

1. Lack of confidence

2. Poor communication skills

3. Poor technical skills

4. Lack of exposure

5. Lack of direction

The biggest challenge for these students, in my view, is the inability to express their thoughts freely. The problem is their minds are not cultivated. For most of them, education is reading books and memorizing concepts. When I was a kid, we were forced to mug up things because we can't pass the examination if we don't remember the text. I spent a significant amount of my life preparing to pass the examinations.

I have recently visited my village, and it's heartening to see how my school has evolved over the years. Schools in rural areas have significantly improved. I hope that with the government's support, corporate-NGO partnerships (e.g., ADP and Pratham), and innovations in digital technologies, most of these challenges will be addressed. Some of my classmates have become teachers in these schools and I'm extremely proud of their contributions to the most important segment of our society.

Some basic Challenges in Secondary Education in remote areas of India :

Financial issues: To start with, meagre incomes leads to education taking a backseat. Parents tend to see education as an expense rather than an investment. They would rather have the children work and earn. When it comes to higher education, lack of good institutes close by means students have to look at shifting to cities, which adds to their expenses. This leads to low rates of enrollment and higher dropout rates.

Lack of guidance: Students in smaller regions have great potential and are motivated to study but lack right mentoring. This is required not just for the children but also for their parents.

Lack of infrastructure and faculty: Children have limited or no access to basic learning tools such as well-equipped classrooms, computers, labs, playgrounds, among other things. Often, the teachers are often not qualified or do not turn up, leading to a poor quality of education. This also leads to low morale among students to attend school.

Gender inequality: In some places, girls are not allowed to go to school. Or if allowed, it is only upto a certain age. They are not allowed to move out of their hometown for higher education or better jobs.

Lack of availability of resources :

There is a lack of availability of resources in the remote areas in India. There is also a lack of infrastructure in the schools situated in rural areas—no availability of benches, playgrounds, laboratories, washrooms or if present they are in the worst condition.

Sometimes the textbooks are not available in proper quantity, or if available they are not in good condition. Also, the availability of stationery is also a challenge. Many rural Indians don't have enough money to bear stationary charges and other expenses.

Another challenge is there is no transportation availability as there is poor connectivity from one place to another place.

Another challenge is less availability of teachers. In India, the school in rural areas have only one or two teachers in the school.

Lack of awareness of the importance of education :

Another reason for the low literacy rate in remote regions in India is the lack of awareness of the importance of education. People in remote regions are mostly engaged in agricultural and allied sectors. Children from the beginning are engaged in these sectors and not give much importance to their studies.

Religious beliefs and some societal norms also a hiccup in the path of providing education in rural India. Many rural Indians believe that children, especially girls, should not study much and don't have to cover a long distance to go to school. Instead of getting the education, they should focus on some work which helps them in earning.

Less availability of school :

There is also less availability of schools in remote regions. Many students have to go from one village to another village by covering miles of distance. Another challenge is the non-availability of transport. It takes long hours to reach school and to come back home. This challenge also aids in increasing drop-out student ratios in rural India.

Digital dividend :

Another challenge in remote area's education in India is the digital dividend. In a globalized world, where everyone is technology prone and using their application in daily life. It is necessary that everyone should have knowledge about their use.

During the corona time, education is given in online mode, but due to poor connectivity, rural children are not able to get an education. This also creates a barrier in the education of remote area's of India. Some of them also don't have a smartphone due to which they can't access education.

Ways to boost Secondary Education in remote areas :

We need to overcome the abovesaid obstruction to boost education in India. In order to boost up this, we need to adopt the following measures:

● Encourage free education

● Increase the number of schools

● By adopting modern teaching technologies

● By providing scholarships

● Proper infrastructure and availability of resources

Encourage free education :

One of the most important ways to boost remote area's education is boosted up free education. as our constitution provides the right to education to all citizens of India. The government should focus on how they can increase the enrolment of children who reside in rural areas.

This can be done by establishing more schools, providing proper infrastructure and resources. The government should also ensure that the number of children who are attending school must retain education up to elementary level.

Another reason for encouraging free education is that people of rural India don't have much income so they can't afford high school fees and eventually drop out the school.

Increase the number of schools :

The government should set up more school in remote area's of India to boost up education. Most of the children have to leave their education due to the large distance between the home and the school.

This is the case, especially for girls. Most of the girls drop out of school due to non-availability of transport. If the schools are set up at every village, it will aid in increasing the enrolment percentage and decrease the drop -out rate of rural children.

By providing proper infrastructure and resources :

Another way to boost up the education in the remote area's of India is by providing proper infrastructure and resources. The objective of education is the all-round development of the individual.

Availability of resources is also important for providing education. Resources include textbooks, stationery, laboratories, playgrounds, and benches should be in good condition and available for all the students. This will aid in achieving the objective of education and retaining the number of students in education.

The government should make provisions and schemes to boost up education in India, especially focusing on rural India.

By increasing the modern teaching technologies :

Modern technologies are very important in imparting education. Today in a globalised world where technology is rapidly emerging, it is necessary for every individual that they are updated with the current technology.

Also, the focus of education should be on conceptual learning not on rote learning so that the students must use the applications of these new technologies.

While most of these areas need transformative changes, which will take time, technology can help drive it faster. With the increased use of smartphones in remote areas, e-learning platforms can be accessed easily. Many are also affordable. This new way of learning can be made attractive to children. Courses from the best educators e-libraries for research material and teachers will all be available in an instant. Vulnerabilities such as lack of availability of quality content and training mechanisms can be addressed. In these unprecedented times, the integration of technology with education holds great promise.

Conclusion :

The literacy rate of India is 77.7%, but it is different in rural , urban and remote area's of India. There is a wide gap between the literacy rate of urban ,rural and remote area's of India. However, the reason behind the low literacy rate in remote area is many.

The problems faced by remote area in achieving the education are less number of schools and resources, less availability of teachers, religious and societal norms, the large distance between the school and home, lack of awareness of education.

The way to improve the present scenario of education in remote area is the construction of schools in every village, providing proper and adequate infrastructure and other resources, using modern technologies in education, creating awareness about the importance of education and rights.

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