



Availability and Expansion of Education in Rural Areas

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Abstract:

So far as the matter is about availability of education, there is big difference between the rural areas and the urban areas of our country. And the same is the case with the different states of the country. To remove this gap many efforts have been made. For example the Five Years Plans were prepared, special budget was allotted and for the improvement of the condition of education in rural areas different efforts like school admission festival and rationing scheme have been started. The reasons of low rate of education in the society are many. The children are compelled to work in farms or in other field. The other reason is the rituals of the society. The children in such society cannot get even primary education. In this situation the parents should think that if their son or daughter will get education it will be a matter of pride for their family, village, society and the country. For that, all of us will have to make firm determination. So let's be determined for it in order that today's children can make the future of our nation bright.

Keywords: Availability, Education, Expansion, Rural area

1. Introduction

Today when the expansion of education is wide, it is necessary to think that approximately seventy to seventy two percent of the people live in rural areas. The development of these villages is possible only when the necessary requirements of education are provided to them but variation in the educational expansion is seen in these areas. For the expansion of education the efforts were made before the independence but the complete success could not be achieved. Among them the effort of the post basic education made by Gandhiji was the first. Thereafter various Commissions were set for spreading education.

The efforts were made not only for the basic requirements of education but also for the level of education. For instance, during the different five years plans the budget for different educational programmes was provided for the expansion of education in the country. Lastly, by the government the goal of education was kept 75% and the efforts are going on for that. Here the question arises who is called really an educated person. In spite of all those efforts for the arrangements and the expansion of education made, the dream of success has not come true. There are many reasons for that.

2. The Facilities of Education in Rural Areas

There is lack of necessary facilities of education in rural areas at present. Many reasons are there for that. Different efforts were made. Gandhiji gave the model of post basic education and the education Commissions have also been set for the purpose.

3. Gandhiji's Thought of Post Basic Education

Gandhiji wanted to develop villages through educational expansion and work education. He divided the post basic education system in two parts:

- Junior Post Basic Schools
- Senior Post Basic Schools

These schools were started in rural areas. Even the hostel facilities were provided for students' accommodation. But due to many economical reasons, this could not last long and the thought of basic education did not get success.

4. Education in Rural Areas after the Independence

After the independence many things were done for the expansion of education in rural areas. For example, different five years Plans were prepared. In the Five Year Plan of 1992-97 special budget was allotted for the educational expansion.

In addition to that, many other commissions came into existence for the expansion of quality education. For example:

1. Mudaliar Commission
2. Kothari Commission
3. National Policy of Education

Thus, after the independence many efforts were done for the expansion of education in rural areas.

4.1 The Level of Education in Rural Society

In rural areas even today the level of education among the girls is lower than the boys. Many reasons are responsible for it. For example:

1. Drop out from the school before completion
2. Agricultural works
3. Child rearing and Care taking of Small kids
4. Economical Reasons
5. Social Reasons

4.2 Efforts for Expansion of Education

1. School Admission Festival
2. Scholarships
3. Providing teaching learning materials

All these things play important role in the increase of decrease of the level quality of education. In the rural areas where the people are not enthusiastic for primary education they would not show interest for secondary or higher secondary education in the schools of nearby villages. It affects to the efforts of educational expansion and the percentage of education comes down.

When the majority of the population of the country lives in rural areas it is natural that whatever the limitations of those rural areas are, they affect to the work of educational expansion. For example, the rituals, customs, traditions and even the superstitions become an obstacle for girls' education. Villagers do not show interest and enthusiasm for sending their girls for education and think that girls should do just household works. So the girls cannot study beyond the primary education. In fact, somewhat change and awareness has come with the passing of time and the changing condition. But this change is slow. So far as the boys' education is concerned sometimes even the boys are forced to do agricultural work or other small industrial works. Thus, the condition becomes contradictory to the effort of the educational expansion.

How would be the condition of higher education? Mostly people prefer to settle in one or the other occupation during the period of getting higher education. It proves to be costly to go to some distant places for higher secondary education. The other thing is that people do not like to part from their family for higher education. So it is natural that number of students' enrolment goes down in higher education. The other reason is the higher economical expenses for the study in higher education in the institutes in the distant areas.

4.3 The Recent Changes taken place in the field of Education

It is inevitable to accept the importance of education in the modern age, though it is ignored by many at present. Because all types of work become comparatively easy for the person, if he or she is educated. Even the efforts are made by the government and various schemes are introduced for it. With the increase of education in the society, it becomes advantageous in the field of agriculture too. Farmers can get information regarding different subsidies along with finance relief given by the government.

The concept of small scale industries is also connected with agriculture. If the person is educated he can think better for developing other occupations along with agriculture. An educated farmer can do correspondence with different departments of the government and also get details about market prices of different products and crops for trading. Thus education can make many works easy.

References

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