



Rethinking Education: Issues Today, Solutions for Tomorrow

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Abstract

*The education sector is currently confronted with multiple challenges that restrict its capacity to fulfill the evolving needs of learners and society. Key concerns include inequitable access to quality education, outdated teaching practices, limited use of technology, and a growing disconnect between academic learning and workplace requirements. Socioeconomic, cultural, and gender disparities further deepen these issues, alongside persistent gaps in teacher preparation, assessment systems, and student well-being. To overcome these barriers, education must adopt forward-looking strategies that are inclusive, innovative, and adaptable. Promising directions include competency-based education, wider use of digital and AI-driven tools, personalized and student-focused learning methods, and policies aimed at ensuring equity, lifelong learning, and global awareness. Building teacher capacities, nurturing critical and creative thinking, and encouraging collaboration across stakeholders will be vital. Addressing current shortcomings while embracing transformative reforms can shape an education system that is more responsive, resilient, and aligned with the demands of the future. The present study deals with the existing issues in the higher education sector mainly with the teachers from the multidisciplinary discipline. The research methodology is a blend of survey and semi structured interviews. The main theorems referred was constructivist theory by Piaget, Vygotsky, the theory which is Useful to analyze teaching-learning issues, student engagement, and curriculum design. Focuses on how learners build knowledge and where current practices fail them. & Systems Theory based on Bertalanffy's work Education is seen as an interconnected system (students, teachers, institutions, policies). Helps diagnose **structural issues** such as lack of coordination, policy gaps resource imbalance.*

Keywords: quality education, disparities, assessment system, competency, student focused learning, equity, creative thinking

Aim

To critically examine the prevailing challenges in the education system and propose sustainable future oriented approach that enhance quality, equity, accessibility and relevance in learning.

Objectives

- To identify key issues such as outdated syllabus, lack of inclusivity, digital divide, teacher training gaps, & the mismatch between education & employability
- To explore innovative approaches like competence based education, digital learning tools, skill oriented curriculum



- Frame skill based assessment to address industry academia challenges
- To propose future strategies for building an education system that is globally relevant, technologically adaptive and learner centered.

Research Methodology

Semi structured interview, survey, Statistical analysis

Introduction

India is the largest education systems of the World, with a diverse range of educational institutions catering to millions of students across the country. However, despite significant progress in recent years, the Indian education system faces several challenges that must be addressed to ensure that every student has access to high-quality education. The article will discuss the significant issues and challenges facing the Indian education system and possible solutions. A major shift in the education system can be observed from the pre and post-British rule till today in India. Initially, children were educated in Gurukuls which was later modified and the modern education system was introduced. After India became independent, the constitution committed six fundamental rights, of which one was the Right to Education. It allowed free education for every child up between the ages of 6 and 14 years. The education system is mainly divided into pre-primary, primary, elementary and secondary education, which is followed by higher studies. However, there are many drawbacks and loopholes in this system which if curbed can work for the overall development of the country.

Key Challenges in India's Education System

1. Insufficient Funding

The financial resources allocated to education are still inadequate. Although new measures have been introduced, consistent and higher investment is necessary to overcome current shortcomings and drive progress in the sector.

2. Enrollment Gaps

Student retention drops considerably as they move to higher levels of study. For example, in Telangana, the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER)

decreases from 101.8% in primary classes to 63.1% at the higher secondary level, with boys having better representation than girls (*The Times of India*).

3. Limited Use of Student Capabilities

The present education model often restricts creativity and innovation. There is an urgent need for schools to create an environment where students' ideas, skills, and talents can be developed and acknowledged.

4. Lack of Proper Infrastructure

A large number of government schools, especially in rural areas, still lack basic facilities. Even though digital learning is being promoted, the absence of adequate infrastructure prevents its successful execution (*BYJU'S*).

Additional Challenges in India's Education System

1. Teacher Shortages

States such as Uttar Pradesh and Haryana struggle with a lack of teaching staff. Uttar Pradesh alone has over 9,500 schools managed by a single teacher (*The Times of India*). This leads to overcrowded classrooms and hampers the quality of education.

2. Ensuring Quality and Recognition

Robust accreditation systems and stronger institutional branding are needed so that educational institutions uphold high standards and gain recognition at both national and international levels.

3. Brain Drain

Owing to these persistent issues, many students choose to pursue studies abroad. To retain talent and encourage innovation within the country, it is vital to address these gaps.

The Way Ahead

Resolving these concerns calls for a broad-based approach that includes higher investment, upgraded infrastructure, better teacher preparation, and comprehensive policy changes to create a more inclusive and effective education system in India.

There are a few simple solutions which can help in overcoming the problems with the Indian Education System:



Major Challenges in India's Education System

1. Accreditation and Branding

Strong mechanisms for accreditation and institutional branding are essential to ensure consistent quality standards in education.

2. Infrastructure, Teachers, and Access

Persistent issues such as poor infrastructure, shortage of qualified teachers, unequal access to quality education, and high dropout rates continue to undermine progress in the sector. Socio-economic inequalities further widen the gap, restricting many students from receiving proper education.

3. High Dropout Rates

The prevalence of dropouts reduces overall educational attainment, trapping communities in cycles of poverty and low skill development. This directly affects the workforce and deepens economic inequality, as individuals with little education struggle to find stable, well-paying jobs.

4. Rote Learning Over Critical Thinking

The continued reliance on rote memorization restricts students' capacity for independent thought, practical application, and problem-solving. As a result, many graduates may recall facts but lack the creativity and analytical skills needed in real-world situations.

Reforms Needed in India's Education System

1. Fostering Innovation through Digital Learning

With the growing emphasis on digital education, India has the chance to cultivate creativity and innovation among students and young learners. This shift can redefine the education system by promoting overall development rather than limiting learning to rote methods. Authorities and the government should encourage initiatives that inspire critical thinking, problem-solving, and holistic growth.

2. Improving Education Quality

There remains a sharp contrast between rural and urban education standards. To close this gap, efforts must be directed towards ensuring

uniform quality nationwide. This calls for higher government investment in infrastructure, recruitment of skilled teachers, and the adoption of modern teaching practices. Training programs should also be enhanced so educators are better prepared to deliver effective learning. At the same time, private-sector involvement can bring in additional resources and innovative approaches to strengthen quality.

Ensuring Affordability and Access

Government schools, though affordable, often lack proper infrastructure, while private institutions charge high fees but provide better facilities. This imbalance limits equal opportunities. The government should expand financial aid and scholarships for disadvantaged groups, establish more schools and universities in rural areas, and promote online learning options. Such steps can make education both affordable and accessible, while ensuring equity in opportunities for all learners.

Outdated Curriculum

India's education system still follows a conventional pattern and lacks adaptability to the changing demands of society and the job market. The curriculum is often old and fails to equip students with skills required in the modern world. Since the focus is largely on theoretical learning, students miss out on practical knowledge. The government should work towards designing a more flexible, updated curriculum that emphasizes practical skills and competencies. Regular revisions must be ensured to keep it relevant, while the use of technology should be promoted to make learning more engaging and meaningful.

Examination System

The education system depends heavily on examinations as the main method of assessment, which encourages rote memorization rather than true understanding. This exam-driven culture creates unnecessary stress for students and reduces their motivation to learn. Moving towards continuous and



comprehensive evaluation would help in promoting deeper learning and critical thinking.

Conclusion

Overcoming these challenges requires combined efforts from the government, teachers, and society. By investing in reforms that modernize both curriculum and assessment, India can provide students with quality education that prepares them to succeed in a fast-changing world.

Reference Theories

Constructivist theory posits that individuals actively construct their own understanding and knowledge of the world by experiencing and reflecting on their experiences, rather than passively receiving information. Key concepts include the idea that learners integrate new information with their existing knowledge (schema) through processes like assimilation and accommodation. Major types are Cognitive Constructivism (individual mental processes), Social Constructivism (sociocultural influence), and Radical Constructivism (subjective interpretation). Learning is best acquired within realistic and meaningful contexts.

Key Ideas

- **Schema:** Cognitive structures that help in organizing and interpreting knowledge and experiences.
- **Assimilation:** Integrating new information into existing schemas without making changes to them.
- **Accommodation:** Adjusting or reshaping existing schemas to include new information that does not fit into prior understanding.

Use in Education

- **Learner-Centered Approach:** The learning environment focuses on students, with teachers guiding and supporting rather than directing.
- **Focus on Problem-Solving:** Greater importance is given to critical thinking and problem-solving to promote active knowledge construction.

- **Active Participation:** Students learn best through active involvement, engaging directly with tasks and ideas to deepen understanding.

Meaningful Learning

Aims to make learning meaningful and lasting by connecting it to students' real-world experiences and prior knowledge.

System theory, developed by Ludwig von Bertalanffy, views the education system as an open, goal-directed, and interconnected network of subsystems, such as teachers, students, and curriculum, all working together towards shared objectives.

Rather than a collection of isolated components, it emphasizes how the overall function and success of the educational institution depend on the holistic relationships and dynamic interactions between its parts. This framework promotes a comprehensive understanding of how the system adapts to its environment, processes feedback, and achieves organizational goals.

Interconnected Subsystems, The education system is made up of multiple connected subsystems, such as:

- **Teachers:** Essential for imparting knowledge and guiding students.
- **Students:** The active force of learning, representing the intellectual growth and future of society.
- **Curriculum & Methods:** The frameworks and strategies used to deliver quality education.
- **Resources:** Human and physical resources that support and strengthen the learning process.

Applications in Education

- **Efficient Management:** Understanding these connections helps administrators pinpoint areas of improvement and adopt strategies for better system integration.
- **Refined Teaching Practices:** Educators can see how different elements of the school environment influence learning, allowing them to adopt more effective teaching approaches.



- **Organizational Insights:** Systems theory explains how schools interact with external factors like families and society, and how these relationships affect performance and outcomes.

Focus on Relationships

It promotes collaboration and dialogue among different stakeholders—administrators, teachers, students, and parents—recognizing their collective contribution to the educational mission

Conclusion

In conclusion, addressing these challenges will require a concerted effort from the government,

educators, and the wider community. By investing in education and introducing reforms to modernize the system, India can ensure its citizens have access to high-quality education needed to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

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