

Dr. Rachna Pathak

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Associate Professor

Department of Education, N.A.S. College, Meerut

SEMESTER III

Paper OC12A: Issues and Concerns in Secondary and Higher Secondary Education

Unit I Perspectives and Context of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education in India

- Nature, scope, function and systems of secondary and higher secondary education.
- Status of secondary and higher secondary education in India.
- Process of teaching-learning of adolescent, exposure to integrated and subject specific streams guidelines for secondary and higher secondary education in India.
- Socio-cultural, economic, political and statutory environment of secondary and higher secondary education in India.

STATUS OF SECONDARY AND HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION IN INDIA

Facts on Education

- Less than half of India's children between the age 6 and 14 go to school.
- A little over one-third of all children who enroll in grade one reach grade eight.
- At least 35 million children aged 6 – 14 years do not attend school.
- 53% of girls in the age group of 5 to 9 years are illiterate.
- In India, only 53% of habitation has a primary school.
- In India, only 20% of habitation has a secondary school.
- On an average an upper primary school is 3 km away in 22% of areas under habitations.
- In nearly 60% of schools, there are less than two teachers to teach Classes I to V.

- On an average, there are less than three teachers per primary school. They have to manage classes from I to V every day.
- High cost of private education and need to work to support their families and little interest in studies are the reasons given by 3 in every four drop-outs as the reason they leave.
- Dropout rates increase alarmingly in class III to V, its 50% for boys, 58% for girls.
- 1 in 40, primary school in India is conducted in open spaces or tents.
- In Andhra Pradesh (South India), 52 upper primary schools were operating without a building in 2002, while in 1993, there were none.
- In Maharashtra (West India), there were 10 schools operating without a building in 1993, this has climbed to 33 in 2002.
- More than 50 per cent of girls fail to enroll in school; those that do are likely to drop out by the age of 12.
- 50% of Indian children aged 6-18 do not go to school

Universalizing Secondary Education

- Secondary education is an important stage of the school education system, being a link between the elementary education and the higher education as well as a stepping stone for many, to the world of work.
- The major challenge before the Secondary Education sector is to cope with the demands of the continually expanding universe of knowledge and the changing demands of industry, business and service sector for higher quality of manpower.
- It is in this context that universalisation of secondary education has been made an important goal so as to achieve universal access by 2017 and universal retention by 2020.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)

- During the XI Five Year Plan secondary education has been accorded relatively high priority in the development agenda of the country keeping in view the demographic profile and the need of a knowledge society and economy.
- In order to give concrete goal-oriented shape to the efforts, Government of India launched a comprehensive centrally sponsor scheme called 'Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)', in March 2009.
- The objectives of RMSA are
 - to make good quality secondary education
 - available,
 - accessible and
 - affordable
 - to all young persons, irrespective of
 - gender,
 - socioeconomic condition,
 - disability,
 - geographical and
 - other barriers.

The present aim is to have a secondary school of acceptable norms and standards within 5 km of every habita the country, and similarly to have a higher secondary school within 8 km.

Broad Physical Targets of RMSA

- To improve the enrolment ratio for classes IX-X to 75% within 5 years (the figure was 52.26% in 2005-06)

- To provide facilities for estimated additional enrolment of 32.20 lakh by 2011-12 through,
- Strengthening of about 44,000 existing secondary schools
- Opening of 11,188 new secondary schools (including up gradation of higher primary schools)
- Appointment of 1.79 lakh additional teachers
- Construction of 80,500 lakh additional classrooms
- To improve quality of secondary education throughout the country

A new scheme called 'Model schools' was launched in 2008-09 to set up 6000 schools in as many blocks to serve as bench marks of excellence in the secondary stage.

Further, to improve the girls' enrolment and retention in the secondary schools, a 'Girls Hostel Scheme' to establish and run 3500 hostels of 100 bed capacity, at the rate of one hostel in each of the 3500 educationally backward blocks has also been launched.

Strategies for Promoting Access, Equity and Quality

- Government of India will work closely with the State Governments to intensify efforts at universalizing access to secondary education within the next few years, while simultaneously focusing on substantial improvement of quality and enhancement of equity.
- The primary vehicle for doing so will be RMSA.
- A framework of accreditation for schools will be prepared so as to constantly improve on quality.
- To begin with, CBSE schools will be covered and thereafter States will be encouraged to follow suit.
- Attention will be given to spread secondary education of acceptable

quality in backward areas, areas with concentration of SC/ST/minorities/Weaker section, as well as among the girls, disabled and in rural areas.

- It is envisaged that 15% of the secondary enrolment would be through open distance learning for which technology enhanced system will have to be put in place by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and State Open Schools.
- It will be necessary to have regular learning achievement surveys at the secondary stage so as to improve the curriculum and teaching system. This will be attempted under RMSA

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