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

***Unit III***

***Topic: Problems and Challenges of Secondary  
and Higher Secondary Education {PART-1}***

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Issues and concerns in secondary and higher  
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Problems and challenges related to universalization of secondary education and alternative schooling at secondary stage.

⇒ Meaning of Universalization in Education - Universalization in education is the ability of all people to have equal opportunity in education, regardless of their social class, gender, background or physical and mental disabilities.

The term is used both in college admission for the middle and lower classes, and in assistive technology for the disabled. Some critics find this idea an example of "political correctness". In order to facilitate the access of education to all, countries have right to education.

- Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) is an initiative with state governments, which seeks to universalize enrolment in grades 9 and 10 across the country.
- The goal is to universalize entry into secondary school by the end of 2017 and achieve universal completion of grade 8 by 2022.
- RMSA responds to the fact that no more than 60% of all India children complete secondary school and net enrolment rates are little more than 40%.

Classroom problems -

- Disrespect
- disobedience
- harassment
- aggression are the most common disciplinary problems
- Students come late to class.
- Students behave rudely in class.
- Group projects aren't working.
- Students cheat on assignment and exams.

→ UNDER ACHIEVEMENT - Underachievement is defined as a discrepancy between a child's school performance and his or her actual ability.

→ characteristics of Underachievers :-

- Disruptive or quiet in class
- Poor attendance
- Low self-esteem
- Low motivation
- Poor organization skills
- Immature
- Not goal oriented

→ PROBLEMS AND SOLUTION OF UNIVERSALIZATION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

PROBLEMS:

- ▷ Problem of Access
- ▷ Problem of Equity
- ▷ Gender Inequality
- ▷ Problem of Quality
- ▷ Poverty
- ▷ Early marriage
- ▷ Lack of suitable laws and Publicity.

SOLUTION:

- Universal Access
- Equity
- Equality
- Development of Quality
- To protect the early marriage
- Suitable Publicity.

→ challenges related to Universalization of Secondary Edu.

- 1) student-facing challenges
- 2) school-facing challenges
- 3) The way forward
- 4) challenge of for open schooling
- 5) development of open schooling challenges.



⇒ Alternative schooling - The term alternative schooling has always referred to nontraditional public and private educational approaches available by choice to parents and students. These programs, ranging from actual school to programs both within schools to ~~pro~~ single classrooms, began to evolve during the late 1960s and grew from a few isolated innovations in local communities into an education reform involving millions of students.

⇒ Types of alternative schools -

- (1) Alternative or optional schools
- (2) Career-theme or technical magnet schools
- (3) Charter schools
- (4) Contract school
- (5) Open enrollment programs
- (6) Residential alternatives
- (7) Voucher programs
- (8) Home school
- (9) Internet courses and programs

⇒ Alternative school models - Thousands of schools of choice offering alternative schooling have been developed, successfully evaluated and replicated.

These established models reflect a truly world-wide educational revolution and include -

- Schools that focus on unique curricular and instructional approaches
- Schools that focus on the needs and interests of students.
- Schools that focus on career themes and professional relevance.
- Alternative that focus on experiential learning.