



SOCIAL EQUALITY AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN RURAL EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Education is the backbone of any nation. The right to education is without any discrimination such as caste, creed, colour, religion, gender, ability or disability. In various parts of the world, inequalities in opportunities for education is prevailed with wealth or economic status becoming the important criterion to achieve a quality education. The present paper also throws light upon the current aspects of social equality and educational opportunities in rural India. Some measures to overcome the barriers are also discussed in this paper to achieve the goal of equal opportunities in rural education. The main is knowledge for all which can be gained by inclusive education with providing equal opportunities. In addition to that social equality also includes the concepts of economic equality, equal opportunity for employment. No one should discriminate against one another.

KEYWORDS: Equality, Opportunity, Rural education, Inclusive education, Equity.

INTRODUCTION

Equality originates from aequalis, aequus and aequalitas. These are old French or Latin words. The words mean even, level and equal. Many theorists defined equality in various ways. Laski explained that "Equality means that no man shall be so placed in society that he can over-reach his neighbour to the extent which constitutes a denial of latter's citizenship."

Barker described that "Equality means equal rights for all the people."

Indian constitution puts emphasis to eradicate inequalities and ensure social justice by giving some benefits to the weaker section of society such as Scheduled Caste(SCs) and Scheduled Tribes(STs).

OBJECTIVE:

The purpose of the paper is to evaluate the role of equality and educational opportunities in rural education system.

METHODOLOGY:

The present work is mainly based on secondary source of information collected from different sources like books, journals, articles and websites etc.

CHARACTERISTICS OF EQUALITY-

1. Equality does not mean absolute equality. There are some natural dissimilarities.
2. Equality rejects unnatural man made inequalities.
3. Equality provides equal opportunity for all in a society.
4. Equality prefers an equitable and fair distribution of wealth and resources.

5. Equality rejects discrimination and therefore special protection, reservation to the weaker sections of society have been provided.

TYPES OF EQUALITY -

There are some types of equality such as

1. Natural equality
2. Social equality
3. Civil equality
4. Political equality
5. Economic equality
6. Legal equality
7. Equality of opportunity and education

Equality of opportunity in educational institutions that is in article 29(1) provides equal rights to educational institutions maintained by the state without discrimination on the basis of religion, caste, sex, language, social status etc.

To boost the Indian education system Indian Government taken significant initiative. The right to education act (RTEact 2009) is one of them. This act provide free and compulsory education to all children between 6 to 14 years of age. The equality of educational opportunities can ensure a advancement of a nation. It will also ensures the demands of manpower and supply of skilled personnel.

In India there are some important reasons for creating inequalities of educational opportunities specially for rural educational system. some reasons are –

1. Poor economic status of home
2. Gender biasness
3. Physical differences
4. Class differences
5. Psychological inertia
6. Inadequate opportunities
7. Superstition / Narrow mindedness

The role of equality is very important in modernization and globalisation of education. Globalisation of education is the direct consequence of economic reforms and economic globalisation. The uncontrolled privatization of education may affect equality, equity, quality and social relevance. Transparency is gradually lost and commercialisation get established. The theory of 'survival of the fittest' may give way to money, power and various kinds of social evils. The cost of higher education goes very high, beyond the capacity of the average, poor, rural, marginalised people. So the chances for rural people to get higher education is getting difficult day by day. Thus an acute inequality is prevailed in the rural education system.

EQUALITY AND GIRL EDUCATION-

Girl education, HIV, Peace, Security, population growth are the profound issues which widening gap between the poor and rich. Another alarming issue is girl education. Religion, social-cultural factors, physical and moral safety of girls, household duties, economic conditions, unwilling parents are some of the main reasons of poor rate of girl education specially in rural education system.

Gender inequality in rural education system reveals the fact of poor literacy rate in girl education. Rural girls specially belongs to the community of SC and ST (disadvantaged groups) shows the worst scenario. Women empowerment and equality for women can only be achieved through the provision of proper and adequate education to the women folk.

SOME EDUCATIONAL PROVISIONS -

1. Operation Black Board

2. Sarva shiksha abhiyan(SSA)
3. Mid-day-meal scheme
4. District Primary education Programme (DPEP)
5. kanyashree/ Beti bachao Beti padhao
6. Access and Equity
7. ICT in schools
8. Inclusive education (RTE act 2009)
9. Vocationalisation of education.

Education is both a human right in itself and an indispensable means of realizing other human rights. As proclaimed in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the right to education is inalienable human right of every child- boys and girls alike. In 1960 UNESCO's convention against discrimination in education is the first instrument which provides for the right to education. Thus, equality in educational opportunity is a fundamental right. The right to education is a source of empowerment.

Providing equality of opportunity in education both in law and fact is a continuing challenge for all states. Still education is not fully accessible for many people in society specially rural areas. Social and economic inequalities in developing countries is a acute challenge.

Some barriers to achieving equality of opportunity in education -

1. Financial barriers
2. Linguistic barriers
3. Inadequate awareness
4. Social and cultural barriers
5. Inadequate resources.

CONCLUSION-

For creating better world for present and future generations, development must be guided by the principles of social justice and equity. Education must be provided without discrimination or exclusion. The right to quality education equity best approaches to education are necessary for this social equality and educational opportunity izzat most important .Without promoting social equality modernization in educational system cannot be possible. A comprehensive and sound regulatory framework is necessary for monitoring and controlling the standards and norms. Both central and state government should take proper and practicable steps and measures for promoting and maintaining social equality specially in rural educational system. So that modernization at every level with proper meaning is possible without any discrimination.

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