



Dipping Strength of Students In Government Schools: Causes And Remedial Measures

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Abstract: It is a matter of great concern that the students' strength is continuously dipping in Government schools. The Indian constitution provides right to education to its people in view of which it is the responsibility of Government to provide better infrastructure and facility to common folk. But it is seen that common people are losing faith in Government schools and colleges and preferring private institutions even at high expenses. In present communication an attempt has been made to discuss the causes of decreasing students' strength and suggestions for improvements.

Keywords: Student, Dipping Strength, Government Schools, Cause, Measure

Introduction

The constitution of India under article 21A provides right to education to all children under the age group 6-14. As per this right to education it is the responsibility of the Government to make arrangement for better infrastructure and qualified faculty¹. However it is a general perspective that schools run by government are lacking in basic infrastructure and management. Due to this the common people and even low earning families are looking for private institution for imparting education to their children no matter how much it costs. This is a matter of great concern in a populous country like India.

The basic issue to be discussed is the problem of dropping out of children from primary school. According to data put up by the MHRD, the national dropout rate at the primary level was 4.34 % and for secondary level was 17.86 % in 2014-15. The Hindu² reports that students' strength in Karnataka is dipped by 2.14 lacs only during 2014-15 to 2016-17. Recently G Sampath³ has analysed the issue and concluded that poverty, migration of families and lack of infrastructure are some important factors for children dropout. As discussed by G Sampath³, the issue is variable in different states. In Karnataka the drop out is 2.3 % and in Manipur it is 18 %. In Andhra Pradesh it was 26.83 % in secondary school during 2013-14.

In a recent report of Time of India⁴ it is claimed that about 700 schools are closed in Uttarakhand (Kumaun and Garhwal region) due to non-availability of students and if the scenario is not changed about 2400 schools are at the door of shut down. The department of education clarifies that migration is the prime reason of dropout in Uttarakhand.

While thinking of better education, it is accepted by the Annual State of Education Report (ASER) that more than fourth of rural student opts for private schools, pays higher fee and even spends on private tuition.



Devanik Shah⁵ reported that between 2010-11 and 2015-16, student enrolment in government schools across 20 Indian states fell by 13 million, while private schools acquired 17.5 million new students. The question is when a private school can manage better facilities (infrastructure, toilets, faculty, playground, dress code, etc) and discipline, why the government machinery cannot do it. Govt is charging specific education cess from income tax payers but even after that the budget provision for education is very low in comparison to other BRICS countries. In 2015-16 Indian govt spent about 3 % of its GDP on education while it was 5.2 % in Brazil, 3.8 % in Russia, 4.2 % in China and 6.9 % in South Africa. Jitendra⁶ discusses the poor quality education provided by government schools in comparison to private ones.

Another issue which is to be worth mention here is peoples own attitude about Govt schools. They are ready to pay any amount of fee to private schools but don't want to pay even a small token money for the improvement of these schools. A revolution at the level of social organizations is required to discourage private schools and strengthen govt institutions for a common public.

To improve the situation some suggestions are given here:

1. Improvement is needed in basic infrastructure. School buildings should be repaired and maintained. Furniture, class boards, computer facility, library and ground facility must be made available. Pupil- teacher ratio should be maintained as per norms of NCERT.
2. All Government servants should compulsorily send their children to study in Government schools. It will encourage the common folk to follow the same.
3. The course/curriculum must be similar in all schools so that there will be no discrimination. It is a normal feeling in society that private schools are teaching better course than govt schools.
4. Free education, books and clothes should be given to children belonging to BPL families.
5. Mid day meal scheme should be strengthen. Special staff be appointed for it. Teachers and students should not be involved.
6. Qualified teachers needs to be appointed. Their attendance must be biometric.
7. Number of schools be managed depending upon strength. Maximum 30 students batch should be permissible.
8. Daily prayer, national anthem, and facilities for organizing cultural program be given. It will encourage the students and help in personality development.
9. Daily one period for environmental awareness must be fixed.
10. Monitoring of school must be given to local bodies.
11. In cities, transport facility for students and staff may be made available like those of private schools.

By doing this definitely the conditions of Government school and colleges will be improved and student number will also boost up.

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