Education Augmentation In Rural India By Integrating Technological Trends

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Abstract:

Education plays a vital role in the development of our country. Especially for rural areas of India, it’s necessary to discuss the failures and problems being faced for providing education. Various initiatives taken by government and some of the suggestions are to be discussed to improve education system in rural India. Rural development involves both the monetary betterment of people as well as greater social transformation. The continuous growth of the Indian economy forces the Indian government to accelerate the process of developing all the branches of the Indian education system. Education has an enviable controlling power over development of the rural individual, family, community and society that leads to reduced poverty and controlled unemployment. This age is the era of information and communication technologies. Technological advancements using ICT in the education have been making the biggest difference and upliftment.

Index Terms : Education Augmentation, ICT, Innovations, Learning, Technological Trends

I. INTRODUCTION

“The real India lives in villages”.

This saying is as factual today as it was, when the country got independence. As more than half of the population of the country lives in villages, rural development is a prominent factor for the development of our country. The vital stirring aspect in today’s time for the development of our country is Education. To discover this noteworthy part of education in India, especially in rural India, it is necessary to explain the failures and problems being faced by rural India for education. It also obligatory to concentrate on the various initiatives been taken by the government. The highlights of some of the suggestions are to be discussed for improving the education system in rural or remote areas.

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II. ISSUES OF RURAL EDUCATION

Due to a variety of socio economic problems, India's education agenda continues to be weakened and the prime victims of the educational system are those dwelling in rural areas.

1) Illiteracy Problems

Illiteracy rates in any third world countries are disturbingly high. Located in the spirit of Asia, India's education sketch is falling after other nations. In general enrollment in middle and primary schools are very low. Half of the children living in these areas leave schooling before the fifth grade. These children give up schooling for a variety of reasons: some leave as of lack of interest, most abscond so that they can labor in the places, where the working hours are lengthy with pittance payment. A large percent of the dropouts are females. Forced by their parents, most girls perform
chores and tend the family at home. These are some of the reasons why sixty percent of all females in India are illiterate, a figure much higher than those of males.

At the lower secondary level (grades nine and 10), admission rate is 52%, while on the other hand at the senior secondary level it is 28%. While the enrollment rate in pre-school is merely 18%, there is a 48% drop-out rate in elementary education. High dropout rates and low rate of admittance of the children have added to the huge illiteracy rate of rural India.

2) Allocation of government funds

The distribution of government funds is major obstruction to the educational system. According to a study done by the World Bank, 30% of the total educational funding goes toward higher educational institutions. This is an important issue because the total number of students admitted in these types of institutions is tiny fraction of India's total number of students.

3) Conditions of the destitute rural schools

Today, government country schools stay understaffed and poorly funded.

4) Lack of teachers

Shortage of teachers creates many obstacles for children studying in countryside schools. The students-to-teacher ratio in such schools is low because majority of teachers deny teaching in rural areas.

5) Low quality of education

Children living in rural areas are deprived of an excellent education; part of the reason is due to their teachers. Those who teach are usually unqualified. Those that decline to teach in country areas state distance and lack of interest of the students as chief problems. Many of the teachers also are deficient in the gusto to teach as of their scarce salary. Lately, the amount of skilled teachers has been improved because of the increased efforts by government and few of the private groups to advance the basic education and expert training of teachers. There is more of an emphasis on the training of rural teachers, whose educational backgrounds are generally not as sound as their urban counterparts.

6) Schools operating in poor conditions

The operating conditions of the schools are inadequate. Facilities of the classes are actually taught in are very law. Few of the schools are situated in warehouses whereas others in small houses. Numerous of the rural schools operate devoid of electricity.

7) Lack of resources

Another hinder is the lack of resources which becomes unfavorable to the learning process. Deficiency of books and other reading-learning materials seem to be a common problem. The use of advanced devices such as computers is very uncommon. Even there is lack of human resource that can teach this kind of new technologies to the students.

III. INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION

This age is the era of information and communication technologies. To be updated with new trends and technologies is quite easier in today’s mobile centric milieu and it can have a major impact on the ability of a teacher to offer education that overcomes the problems and can create tremendous interest of the students towards learning. Many of the schools, colleges and universities have started adopting new technologies for shaping new ways of education which leads to the success of the
learners’, not only inside the classrooms but helps them while they are stepping into their professional career.

Many schools have stated increasing investments to restructuring their campuses for significant educational reforms. Following are the technological advancements in the education that have been making the biggest differences.

1) Mind mapping method

This method makes learning multi-dimensional and interactive. It is the best substitute of conventional passive and uni-directional teaching method. Software like Brainstormer is used to implement this method. A teacher can engage the learners to spring new ideas up with each other’s.

2) Remote learning method

This is the method where learners learn at home by watching video lectures and studying lessons online. This learning method is quite different than conventional one. In this method learners can learn through prerecorded videos, video conferencing or by using social media. This method eliminates the limitations of distance and time. A learner can have the freedom to attend the class on his convenience and who cannot make it to class can still attend virtually. A subject expert can deliver the lecture despite he is so far from the actual site of the classroom.

3) Learning through social media

When it is the matter of education, social media is being considered as the most off-putting tool. Many academicians and educators don’t recommend use of social media as education tool, but this is another side of a coin and represents a short-sided opinion. Social media can be a very powerful tool for teachers as well as students, if it is used with a very right tactic. Social media can be useful for learning by several ways. Online groups, forums on social media can bring students with the same interest together and make them comfortable sharing their ideas to work on the assignments and projects. A teacher can start up online interactive conversation on any specific topic.

The best part of using social media as a learning tool is the learners enjoy using it and they understand it very well so it’s easy for an educator to get everyone involved and quickly start the learning assignments. Along with this it is very important to educate learners about the proper use of social media as a learning tool with some enforced policies.

4) Digital libraries

Now a day it is very important to use digital media to improve teaching-learning process. Digital media has been proved as the magical learning tool as digital textbooks can be shared very easily among the beneficiaries. Learners should be encouraged to use e-textbooks. E-books are the cost-effective mean of gaining entire curricular textbooks in a small space on a tablet. Tablet can store hundreds of textbooks, assignments, quizzes which eradicate the need of physical storage of books. Shifting to digital textbooks and knowledge resources has the biggest advantage of saving money on books, interactive education and providing latest and up-to-date content.

5) Gamification method

In e-learning gamification aids to generate an effective learning system. Gamification empowers learners to practice real world challenges and situations in an anodyne environment. Gamification is not just playing games but learning decision making and problem solving. Gamification learning method is based on learning design approaches. Following diagram demonstrates relationship between learning design approaches and retention of learning.
Fig. 1. Relationship between learning design approaches and retention of learning

In the diagram it is clearly demonstrated by Nick Van Dam that gamification can extend an effective way of learning which induces the sense of achievement, healthy competitions with the better learning experience. Gamification can be useful for many learning needs like soft skills, creating awareness, customer service and support, product sales, orientation, training and onboarding.

IV. INTEGRATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL TRENDS IN RURAL INDIA

From last more than a few years, adoption of new technological trends through the usage of ICT have become an essential part to imbibe innovation in education. Digital knowledge resources, on demand video lectures, virtual classrooms can have a great impact on educational augmentation in rural India. Children in rural areas have great potential; they can flourish if given the chance, allowing them to outshine the disadvantages they face.

1) Public-Private Program

Education is too important to be left to the government. It must be a community effort. And corporate must be involved in this as part of the community. This should be a public-private program. Getting more private donations along with government support is necessary for those rural areas that demand development.

2) Bridging the Divide

Another most important thing is, we must bridge the urban-rural divide. We are unfortunately developing an urban society that is rich and a rural society that is poor.

3) School networks

School systems have become gradually more effective and popular tool utilized by both school networks as well as outside maintenance agencies such as funders to put into action, education nonprofits and advance educational reforms. In a school network, leaders from the network approach together to share experiences, ideas, and strategies to address common issues, concerns, goals and
needs. By uniting as a network, these leaders become capable to provide concrete forms of peer level maintenance, including the collaborative programming, pooling of resources, collective advocacy and organizing, as well as peer mentoring and reviews.

4) Ubiquity of Electronic libraries

Electronic library is a focused collection of digital objects that can include text, visual material, audio material, video material, stored as electronic media formats along with means for organizing, storing, and retrieving the files and media contained in the library collection. Digital libraries can vary immensely in size and scope, and can be maintained by individuals, organizations, or affiliated with established physical library buildings or institutions, or with academic institutions.

5) Digital literacy

Digital literacy is the person’s ability to carry out tasks efficiently in a digital environment. Literacy incorporates the ability to study and interpret media, to replicate data and images all the way through digital manipulation, and to assess and apply the knowledge gained from the digital environments. Teachers’ community of rural India should be provided with digital literacy so that the students’ community of rural areas can be benefited all the way of their educational journey.

V. CONCLUSION

As ICT is new to rural areas of our country, ICT enabled education is a challenging factor. In rural areas of India, economically and socially disadvantaged people have limited access to the internet so government authorities should imply correct policies and propose financial subsidies to make sure full flagged application of ICT based education in rural India.

REFERENCES


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