

**PRIMARY EDUCATION- FOUNDATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION****DR. DEEPAK. N. THAKRE**Associate Professor of Geography,
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Maharashtra (India)**DR.C.M.NIKAM**Associate Professor of Geography
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Malegaon, Nashik**ABSTRACT**

In today's world of digitisation every nation is struggling to be in the fore front. The innovation in the field of education and technology has taken us way ahead in every field. In the field of higher education a lot of changes and development have taken place but still a lot needs to be done to achieve the desired results. This paper attempts to explore what needs to be done to achieve the desired results. Higher education is associated with college education but its base is primary education. Primary education is quite neglected in India and hence all efforts to improve higher education seem to be futile. We need to work at the grass root level to see a real change. We are struggling with lack of infrastructure, weak syllabus, poorly trained administrators and lack of zest among teachers to learn new things. At a time when interdisciplinary approach towards education is needed we are still not ready to adapt to this change. It is thus important to focus on primary education as it is the foundation of higher education.

Keywords: Digitisation, Innovation, Higher Education, Primary Education, Infrastructure**Introduction**

India is one of the largest democracies in the world. It is the standard of education in any country that is responsible for its fall or growth. India is striving hard to be a global competitor in the field of education. Whether it is IIT or MBA India is trying its best to be the number one in the educational sector. There are many hurdles that a country faces as regards finances, resources, low quality institutes and lack of relevant opportunities. Education needs to be understood in its proper perspective. The focus in India is only on Higher education while primary education is neglected. The private schools make an attempt to live up to the expectations of the global standards but the government schools lag behind in many areas. It is of vital importance to understand the measures needed to take in the development of higher education.

Primary Education:

In a country where people are still struggling for food, shelter and clothing, it is very difficult for higher education to prosper. The basic conflict lies at the primary level of education. The primary schools in India suffer due to unqualified teachers, poverty and lack of facilities. The agriculture based economy in the rural areas is still responsible for keeping children away



from basic education .The dropout rate in primary schools is another factor that needs to be addressed. Higher education cannot strengthen and flourish until the primary education of the country is firmly rooted. The quality of teachers at the primary school level needs to be improved through basic training .If one has to improve the state of higher education in India primary education needs to address issues like lack of teachers, funds not being used effectively and insensitive approach towards education. The student teacher ratio needs to be balanced. If the ratio is imbalanced the very purpose of education at the primary level gets defeated.

It is only when the government realizes that primary education is the base of higher education one can see drastic changes in the approach towards education. Higher education deals with university education. The standard of University education in India today is very average. It is the quality that matters and not the quantity. There are dropouts in higher education as well. In any country primary education is of utmost importance as it prepares the ground for a strong nation. It is not only literacy but understanding life in the proper perspective that goes a long way in building a nation. The respect that needs to be given to the primary teachers along with handsome salary helps build the morale of the teacher. Teachers at all levels need to take sincere efforts to improve their standards and match international levels. Every year a considerable amount of budget is sanctioned for higher education. But is it utilized in the right manner? The lack of infrastructure, the negligence on part of the education department and the approach of people towards education is quite pathetic.

Higher Education:

Higher education in India today is in a state of flux. It is facing challenges in teaching, training and research. It is struggling with rigid and outdated syllabus, lack of employer engagement in course content and skill development while there are few opportunities for interdisciplinary learning. What India needs today is a skilled work force which the Indian schools, colleges and poly- techniques have been unable to do. It is important to empower teachers and trainers and make school administration effective. Young learners are in need of hands on learning opportunities but skill training providers are not able to do so. We are struggling with inadequate training outdated curriculum, weak assessment and poorly trained administrators.

Role of Technology in Higher Education:

Technology can make a vast difference in this context. Bridge International Academies is ‘a social enterprise that believes in ongoing teacher training and support advanced lesson plans and the use of wireless technology to deliver education’ It is a participant in united Nations Global Compact since September 2017. It has so far taught millions of children in the last decade and is currently operating schools in India, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Uganda (en. m. Wikipedia.org).

Technology has taken education to the remotest corner of the world. MOOC’S (Massive Open Online Courses) brings world class education to remotely placed millions. Only 7 to 10



%of students stick to MOOC'S due to lack of teacher student communication. New modules have now emerged where students have to listen to online lectures and attend a classroom lecture to discuss material and work on actual problem.

HOOC'S (Hybrid Open Online Courses) allow students to participate in online campus based seminars and communication via twitter. Education can be tailored to suit individual need. Artificial intelligence can be used to customize lessons to match the individual student's progress. Innovative teaching creates a creative mindset and transforms society from low to high productivity .The power of innovation is not always expensive or large than life. Its power lies in creating maximum value from minimum investment of scarce resources.

The depletion of worlds natural resources, growing expectations, income gaps and urgency of raising the living standards of millions of poor are some of the factors responsible for innovation. Innovation demands keen observation, questioning attitude, experimentation, association and networking. The conventional teaching method is not suitable for all students and hence the increase in dropout rate at schools and colleges. Innovation demands change from :

1. passive rote learning method to a learner centric creative and active method.
2. Teaching - learning methods need to bring about a change in the thinking process and behavior.

Innovation doesn't need any lab , money or resources. In fact lack of resource is the greatest spur to creativity. Lab-on-Bike (LOB) initiative in India conducts scientific experiments in schools with teachers and students. It travels to remote schools with models based on topics from Physics, Chemistry , Biology and Mathematics. The purpose is to make students think, feel, observe, question, experiment and associate. Friction creates innovation. The purpose of innovation is to remove constraints and it has to start at the grass root level.

Teaching Perspective:

It is important to engage more people in mass education with the help of private and public co-operation. At this stage it is important to understand the importance of group learning, self management and collaborative learning.

How to incorporate Innovation in the teaching of Geography? It can be done by connecting maps with multimedia, use of historical maps, use of augmented reality and introduction of location based tests. In rural areas one needs to understand the basic need of the student. If the student wants scholarship, farming and the study of Geography then he can utilize his knowledge of Geography for farming But is the teacher and the syllabus able to give necessary knowledge of farming to an undergraduate student? It is lack of practical knowledge that is responsible for keeping the students away from the classroom. The



syllabus framed at University level needs to be restructured at various levels taking into consideration the needs of the students.

In Rajasthan a non-profit organization Educates Girls- teaches with the help of pictures instead of chalk and board. Pratham a non-profit organization has introduced the method of forming groups of class 3 and class 4 students so that all are brought to one level called 'teaching at the right level'.

Similarly American Universities have developed tools to identify struggling students. The E.M.Lyon Business school developed an app called 'Maker Match' wherein students take cognitive tests to identify learning preferences. They use memorization techniques, logical sense and adapt their course to their profile. The change and development in the field of education in India needs to be monitored at the primary level to achieve the desired results.

Conclusion:

Is the atmosphere in India conducive for innovation? How do you move from a classroom to the outer world? These basic questions still haunt us. The educationists seriously need to think upon this issue if we want to compete globally. The change that has to take place can be summed up through these three words -experimentation, independence and sharing.

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