

# ROLE OF QUALITY EDUCATION IN ECONOMIC GROWTH

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## Abstract

*It is quality level of education that is most important as this creates the difference between the developed countries and developing countries. Therefore, improving the quality of education is one of the most important strategies, framed by the government for the development of the country. But merely attaining many is not sufficient, as it will not serve the purpose for the individual. Our country's economic development depends upon income contribution in the GDP by the nationals in a sustainable manner. Education quality should be such that it brings employment opportunities as well as helps in building entrepreneurial skills. The cognitive skills of the population play an important role in improving the living standard as well as in the economic growth of the country. Qualitative education develops the children creatively, which further helps in the acquiring of skills, knowledge and development of values and attitudes. All these help in making active, responsible and productive citizenship. This paper intends to bring insight regarding the importance of quality education and recommends major changes in the education system which can increase the employability of the nationals.*

## Introduction

It is seen that the level of education creates an impact on the development of countries. It can enable the youth to be fully independent. Quality education helps the youth to take responsible decisions and act as a responsible citizens. It is education that brings the consciousness among the youth that they are part of nation. They realize that they are members of the society and understand their surroundings.

Most of the advanced countries adopt productive development strategy so that the level of education in the school is raised, and this is also the central element of the millennium development goals.

India has faced prompt change and expansion in the education sector. Increase in the number of enrollments has been one of the initiatives taken by government of our country. In addition, the government is planning to have major changes in higher education which includes making arrangements for more participation to improve the quality of education.

## Meaning of Quality Education

In all aspects of the school and its surroundings, the rights of all children to survival, protection, development and participation are at the center. This means that the focus is on learning which strengthens the capacities of children to act progressively on their own behalf through the acquisition of relevant knowledge, useful skills and appropriate attitudes, which create for children, and helps them create for themselves and others, places of safety, security and health. (Bernard, 1999)

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### Quality Education Includes

- Learners who are healthy, well-nourished and ready to participate and learn, and supported in learning by their families and communities.
- Environments that are healthy, safe, protective and gender-sensitive, and provide adequate resources and facilities.
- Content that is reflected in relevant curricula and materials for the acquisition of basic skills, especially in the areas of literacy, numeracy and skills for life, and knowledge in such areas as gender, health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS prevention and peace.
- Processes through which trained teachers use child-centred teaching approaches in well-managed classrooms and schools.
- Effective assessment to facilitate learning and reduce disparities.
- Outcomes that encompass knowledge, skills and attitudes, and are linked to national goals for education and positive participation in society. (Defining Quality in Education A publication of UNICEF).

### The Current Scenario

It has been observed, that there has been an expansion in the supply of education by the government and participation has increased at the primary level. The importance of elementary education has increased due to the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act. This Act was introduced in 2001 Suva Shiksha Abhiyan was a central government program and its aim was universal enrollment and retention at the elementary level by 2010. The government has also aimed to enhance enrollment in lower secondary schools (Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan) as well as aimed to lift the tertiary enrollment rate to 30% by 2020. Even in higher education the rapid growth was seen and VET (vocational education and training) has grown considerably. Besides this reducing gender disparity in education has also been given due importance by the government. Efforts were also made to raise the attendance level of the students by the initiative Midday Meal Scheme (MDMS). (Hill and Chalaux, 2011). However, the quality of education in school learning and higher education remains too low. The level of attainment of education and skills is still lower than the international standard. Educated workers have been increased only in numbers, but the cognitive skills are lacking. This is responsible for the increase in earning potential and the contribution of an individual to the economic growth of the country (Hanushek and Woessmann, 2008). Enrollment and participation have increased, but development of learning and cognitive skills should be the main concern. The literacy rate has increased but many test and research studies show that the quality of education is still very low. One of the tests undertaken by the National Council of Educational Research and Training shows that one out of five students failed the basic language test and one in three a basic Mathematics test (NCERT, 2009) across the nation. Many surveys have shown that the quality of VET and tertiary education in India is also very low as workers trained in the VET are ill occupied. Also, this has created an impact on the poor employability of many Indian graduates (Hill and Chalaux 2011). Private sector also creates opportunities for improvement in access and quality. It has been seen that the private sector has raised its share in higher education. And many parents demand private school education as they find dissatisfaction in public school education. They believe that private schools offer better quality of education. One research study showed that another reason for sending children to the private schools is the perception of parents that their teachers are less absent and more committed (Desai et al., 2008).

### Quality Education Boosts Economic Growth

Economic growth means improvement in the standard of living of society. Small differences in the GDP of the economy have a huge implication for society. An educated society, with qualitative education can help in bringing innovation and inventions which further help in bringing new and better production methods. Many studies have been done which shows that good quality of education boosts the economic growth. Dennis Kimko and Hanushek have found from one study that there was international differences in Mathematics and Science knowledge that has created an impact on differences in economic growth (Hanushek, 2005). Increase in soft skills and vocational skills also creates employment opportunities for society.

### Recommendations

To improve the poor quality of education the performance of schools should be improved. This can be achieved through resources and some reforms such as:

1. Accountability from and incentives for teachers should be introduced. Teaching effectiveness should be improved as it plays an important role in lifting the overall quality of education. Apart from this, it has been seen that there is a lot of absenteeism among teachers which can be improved by better attendance monitoring as well as by providing the financial incentives for good performance and penalties for poor performance. By involving teachers in the management accountability can also be strengthened. Many initiatives have been taken earlier also, like the formation of the school management committees (SMC) under the *Surva Shiksha Abhiyan*, which includes parents, teachers and village leaders.
2. Diagnostic Testing can help teachers to focus on their efforts this test identifies the weakness in the student's learning as well as it helps in increasing the motivation of the teachers as the students' performance is improved. (Hill and Chalaux, 2011)
3. Working conditions of the teachers should be improved as it affects their ability to provide quality education such as infrastructure, availability of textbooks and learning materials and class sizes. All this influences the teacher's experience as an educator (Defining Quality in Education). ;`
4. Teacher's competence can be improved by arranging faculty development programmes and providing them training for using new instructional method. "The quality of a school and the quality of teaching of the individual teacher is [sic] higher in schools that are able (and willing) to make more efficient use of the available time of its teachers and its pupils" (Verwimp, 1999).
5. Programmes should be arranged specifically for those students, who are not achieving low performance.
6. Content and study material should be improved. Along with this, manual for teachers and supervisors should be arranged.

### Conclusion

This paper concludes that there has been rapid expansion in the education system, but considerable importance should be given to the quality of education as well. Funding arrangement should be done in a better manner by the government to improve the education system. Teachers should be imparted training, and development programmes should be arranged for them, so as to increase the quality of education. The quality of education has substantial impact on economic growth of the country. As efforts are made to increase the quality of education, it will lead to increased expenditure on education, but in the end, it will further increase the growth of the economy.

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