

Adolescent Education In India And Its Barriers And Challenges

Dr. P. Tirumala Tulasi¹,

¹Assistant Professor of Zoology, Department of Zoology, St. Joseph's College for Women (A),
¹Email id: tirumala.tulasikanth@gmail.com.

Abstract

Adolescents are the age group among 10-19 years. It is the age where various stages of psychological, physical, physiological development occur towards teenage years to legal adulthood. If we consider in the world more than 1.2 Billions of adolescents exists and more than 21% of the Indian population is adolescents. The adolescent is considered as the second decade of life and they have to face so many situations which they never faced before. We can consider this age group is a very dangerous period because they have very poor knowledge and does not have the awareness about physiological, psychological, physical changes that develop during the period of an adolescent. In India, recent year's young people are spending maximum time in school than earlier. Much more issues involved in adolescent age group like sexual reproductive health, nutrition, child labour, child sexual abuse, education etc. All these issues need to consider for the adolescent age group. Continuous monitoring required for the development of the adolescent. In this article, we try to highlight various gaps and challenges that are faced by the adolescent age group. The diverse measures taken by the Indian government in all the states of this country with its statistical data are articulated in this paper.

Keywords: Adolescent, Education, Gap, Puberty, Dropouts, Social Group.

Introduction:

According to the WHO with its definition, the adolescents are the age group of 10-19 years. In adolescent, there is a rapid growth of parts of the human body and various changes that can be observed by physical, emotional, sexual development etc can be observed [1][2][3]. In India tremendous progress in improving access to education at the same time, there are huge dropouts in school-going children. These dropouts due to caste and religion differences and other reasons like school too far, they have to support household income, in their view education not compulsory, they may have to take responsibility of their siblings and poor health. To encourage adolescent education in India the government coming with various policies for the sustainable development of adolescent education in India. With these efforts, we can observe there is a rapid growth of adolescent education in India [4] [5].

1) Adolescent Education In India:

India has been achieved remarkable progress by adolescent access to education. India reached universal levels in the enrollment of children for primary education. India reached universal levels in the enrollment of children for primary education with initiative takes from the Indian government with 12th 5-year plan

2012-2017 with the similarly the secondary school enrollment is also increased with the rate 4.5 to 6.3% per year in the decade ending with 2009-2010. Indian government targeted to eliminate gender discrimination by 2015. During the period 2009-2010, there is huge noticeable progress observed in reducing the gap in gender both elementary and secondary education [6][7]. Along with these achievements, there are many challenges that adolescent face to complete their education. Mainly religion and caste differences played a role in accessing education becoming a concern. When compared to Hindu religion girl students, Muslim girls are faced many challenges to get the education. Similarly, the SC & ST caste young man and women are considerably decreasing while completing their secondary and senior secondary education.

2) Barriers And Challenges In Adolescent Education:

Education plays a critical role in adolescent to attain knowledge from all sources and helps to reach their goals and also helps to fulfill their dreams. Every country in the world tries to increase the percentage of literacy rate by introducing various schemes. Even our country with the help of such act called RTE for the children aged between 6-14 years and attains good results with the help of local authorities. Even though the government puts efforts to increase the literacy rate they succeed in primary schooling went up to 98% in 2010, but they fail in adolescent education. The figures which clearly show there is a great change in declined percentage from 98% to 60%. Due to the huge drop out to school-going children and the majority of children stopped their education in secondary schooling because a lot of barriers came across to continue on their education [8][9].

The major Barriers in India which figure out. They are:

- Barriers in community-level or Family level.
- Barriers in school level or college level.
- Barriers in system-level and policy level.

3) Barriers In Community Level And Family Level:

The community, along with family, plays a hypercritical in making decisions for enrolment and continuation in schooling and college.

The major family level barriers and most often noted is an economic reason. According to youth study 2010, the young group of 15-24 years from major six states reveals non-enrolment of school or college with various reasons in which economic reason is the primary one. The family head expecting the adolescent to work and he or she has to be part of the bread earner and need to assist the family income. The second most reason for declaim percentage of school or college going adolescent is household responsibility means he or she has to take care of their siblings while parents at work. The third reason for not enrolled in school/college is not having proper knowledge about the importance of education and also some negative opinion and also concern about the safety of their child. The fourth reason not reported a school/college related reason which includes school too far, not having proper roads and transport facility. The fifth reason is due to poor health because of not taking nutritional food. The children belong to families of below poverty line. If we consider religion and community-level barriers is also plays a role in the non-enrollment of adolescents in school or college. According to youth study (2010) shows shocking figures which 15% of Muslim boys 35% of Muslim girls aged between 15 to 24 had not gone to school when compared to Hindu religion girls and boys. The various reasons which affect the dropouts in the

Muslim religion. The data reveals facts like Muslim girls not accessing the primary, secondary education due to factors like not having female instructors, school too far, lack of gender-friendly nature within the school. The parents of Muslim religion encourage their children and shown interest to send them to madrasas and makhtas for religious-related schools for education which results in huge dropouts in secondary education and college joining.

Table1: Distribution of children who not attended school: Gender, Area, Reasons (20014-2015)

Reasons	Category and Age								Per 1000
	Rural_male (group by age)		Rural_female (group by age)		Urban_male (group by age)		Urban_female (group by age)		
	10-14	5-14	10-14	5-14	10-14	5-14	10-14	5-14	
School_ too _far	38	54	27	44	9	19	8	23	
Had_ to support Household_ income	67	31	36	20	95	53	22	15	
Education_ not_ Considered_ necessary	157	125	185	173	87	84	118	103	
Had to attend to domestic work	23	13	74	45	8	8	65	37	
Other	290	580	254	485	225	525	280	520	

4) Barriers In School Or College Level:

The Barriers in school or college are mainly categorized into three types. They are:

- 1) Geographical access.
- 2) School or College Environment (facilities in school).
- 3) Quality of Education.

One of the initiatives of the Indian government introduced Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan which launched in 2001. It is having facilitated free education group 6-14. With this plan schools increased and the infrastructure improved with this effect, there is a huge demand picture. The government Aided and unaided schools/college stated simultaneously private management schools and colleges were also started working. Which results in the SC/ST, BC community adolescents started going to school/college in government-aided/unaided school/college and crème layer adolescents went to private school/colleges. The social status makes the inequality in adolescent’s community.

4.1) Geographic Access:

According to the National Coalition for education report in 2011 observed that the social status, distance of a school, lack of transport as well as geographic condition finding difficulty and having a negative thought on access to schools. Which results declaim for school dropouts noted. Another reason noted in several surveys in which authors quoted that violence and sexual harassment play a major role in preventing the parents to send then their wards to school/college which results in dropouts.

4.2) Facilities In Schools:

In most cases, the parents Enquire before sending their children to school/ college by enquiring about the facilities in school like toilets and its maintenance, the purity in drinking water facility. These two facilities will effect in continuing their children in school/college. According to the district source for education report for 2010-2011 and also national university of education. Planning and Administration reveal facts that only 60% of elementary schools having separate toilets for girls.

4.3) Quality Of Education:

The education system is facing a new challenge i.e. poor quality of teaching. This was having the highest impact on elementary/secondary education. This due to not having an adequate trained teacher. This difference is high in both rural, urban areas. According to the government survey in 2011 ASER reported lack of adequate quality trained teachers and poor attendance in rural areas.

5) Barriers In System Policy Level:

The policies and programs plans and launches have happened at central government level. The state government has to implement locally. There is a gap among the allocation as well as utilization of budget. There is a gap between the policies and implementation between the state and centre. According to several surveys proved that there is a huge gap in funding allocation and utilization. Funds are not transferred in time and unequal periods. This results in inefficient and insufficient expenditure happening in various state educations systems.

6) Government Policies And Programmes:

Indian government announced various programs and new policies introduced in the aim of developing the education policy and encouraging the adolescent towards education. The remarkable change observed and improvement in the percentage of school and college-going adolescent in India. Government policies and programs are listed below.

Table 2: Government policy in India

S.NO	NAME OF THE GOVERNMENT POLICY	YEAR
1	The National Youth Policy	1988 and revised in 2003 and 2012
2	The National Education Policy	1986 and revised in 1992
3	Programme of Action towards Universalisation of Elementary Education	1992
4	Education Guarantee Scheme	1997-98
5	Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)	launched in 2001
6	Rash tri ya Madh yam ik Shiksh a Abhiyan	launche d in 2008-09

	(RMSA)	
7	Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE)	Act of 2010
8	National Programme for Girls' Education at the Elementary Level (NPEGEL) and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)	2009
9	National Skills Development Initiative	2009
10	The Saakshar Bharat Scheme	2009

7) Conclusion :

India Ranked 2nd in the population when compared to the world population from 1955 to till date and will become 1st in the upcoming year 2030 as per forecast. And the median age is 27.1 of years. The overall literacy percentage in India is 69.1 per cent which includes rural and urban. The adolescent literacy percentage in India is 86.1% according to 2011 survey and it is rank listed 97 in UN member states. Education is required to achieve the greater potential of national human capital from the last decade. Tremendous increase focus on making education available and accessible to primary, secondary education. The various government policies and programs will help the sustainable growth of literacy in India. Hope India will be listed 1st not only in population-wise as well as in literacy wise.

8) Future Scope:

India is a developing country and having huge human capital the median age is 27.1 years. The increase in literacy rate can help in achieving the national human capital helps in improve the GDP of our country. There is a scope of more statistical data from diverse sources can be pertaining.

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