

FREE EBOOK



EDUCATION

ESI Notes For NABARD Grade A Exam



Education

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Education is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, morals, beliefs, and habits.

Status and System of Education

- Education in India is primarily managed by a state-run public education system, which falls under the command of the government at three levels: **federal, state, and local**.
- Under various articles of the Indian Constitution and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, free and compulsory education is provided as a fundamental right to children aged 6 to 14.
- The approximate ratio of public schools to private schools in India is 7:5. Major policy initiatives in Indian education are numerous. Up until 1976, education policies and implementation were determined legally by each of India's constitutional states.
- The 42nd amendment to the constitution in 1976 made education a 'concurrent subject'.
- From this point on the central and state governments shared formal responsibility for funding and administration of education.
- In a country as large as India, now with 28 states and 8 union territories, this means that the potential for variations between states in the policies, plans, programs, and initiatives for elementary education is vast.
- Periodically, national policy frameworks are created to guide states in their creation of state-level programs and policies.
- State governments and local government bodies manage the majority of primary and upper primary schools, and the number of government-managed elementary schools is growing.
- Simultaneously, the number and proportion managed by private bodies are growing.
- In 2005-6 83.13% of schools offering elementary education (Grades 1-8) were managed by the government and 16.86% of schools were under private management (excluding children in unrecognised schools, schools established under the Education Guarantee Scheme and in alternative learning centres).

- Of those schools managed privately, one-third are 'aided', and two-thirds are 'unaided'.
- Enrolment in Grades 1-8 is shared between government and privately managed schools in the ratio of 73:27. However in rural areas this ratio is higher (80:20) and in urban areas much lower (36:66).
- In the 2011 Census, about 73% of the population was literate, with 81% for males and 65% for females. National Statistical Commission surveyed literacy to be 77.7% in 2017–18, 84.7% for males and 70.3% for females.

Socio-Economic Problems Associated with Illiteracy

Despite a strong and constant economic growth during the past two decades, India continues to face severe socio-economic challenges, such as education, health, and poverty, which are closely linked. Improving education is now one of the Government's first goals in order to boost the country's economic growth. Plans are underway to develop academic infrastructures, especially in rural areas, in order to facilitate access to education for all.

Background of Education in India

- In the early 18th century, numerous European trading companies settled on India's coasts to develop business.
- In 1765, thanks to its control of the seas, greater resources, and more advanced military training and technology, the English East India Company takes over the Bengal region and uses its riches to strengthen its army.
- By the 1820s, most of India is annexed or subdued.
- These events mark the beginning of India's colonial period, during which the Company's economic powers decreased, focusing more and more on non-economic fields such as culture, social reforms, and education for all.

Public Schools vs Private Schools

- Given the crisis of the teaching quality in free public education, most urban children in poverty turn to private institutions, up to 2/3rd of all students in some urban cities.
- Although private schools do not offer any standardised assessment of performance, they are generally considered as outperforming compared to public schools.

Challenges

- If the Indian government struggles so much to set a proper educational system in the country.
- It is because the nation still has to fight numerous severe socio-economic challenges, despite its strong economic growth these past few decades.
- The major problem is that most of these challenges are interconnected.

Poverty and Undernutrition

- One of the most important factors challenging a proper education for all in India is its high rate of poverty.
- Although it has decreased from 60% in 1981 to 21% in 2011, 30% of Indian children under 5 remain underweight.
- To fight this crisis, the Government launched 1995 a Mid-Day Meal Scheme to attempt to lower this rate.
- The programme supplies free lunches on working days for children in primary and upper primary classes.

Modern Slavery and Child Labour

- Consequently, to poverty and undernutrition, many Indian children are forced to get a job in order to survive. **Child labour has long been a major controversial issue in India.**
- According to UNICEF, approximately 15% of Indian children are victims of bonded labour, child labour, human trafficking, or else forced begging. Although figures are difficult to obtain and remain very rough.
- One of the reasons why child labour is so widespread in India is that modern slavery is still very common. It is not rare for parents in debt to swap their kids for cattle in order to erase their due. Kids are then employed in the street, in the field or in plants for a negligible wage, with very poor health conditions. They are usually not paid during the three first years of work, considered as training years.

Languages and Traditions

- The development of India's education system is also affected by some cultural aspects of the nation, such as languages and traditions.

- The fact that so many languages are spoken throughout the country makes it difficult for the government to develop a coherent national academic programme.
- Traditions are also an important obstacle as many marriages are still arranged, most of them being prepared during childhood, often before women's legal marriageable age is reached (18 years old).
- Women staying at home while men are studying, or working is a concept that remains well-anchored in Indian's spirits. In spite of the Government's reform for free and compulsory education for children between 6 and 14.

Facilities

- Another ground for low school attendance in India is the lack of quality academic facilities.
- Indeed, drinking water, toilets and library are not present in every school in the country, which also shows important discrepancies between different States.

Women Education

- Amongst the nation's efforts to improve education, special care is given to women as they tend to attend school way less than boys.
- Mainly for traditional reasons, like girls staying at home for chores and female infanticide and foeticide being still very common.

Educational Relevance and Educational Wastage

Education gives us knowledge of the world around us. It develops in us a perspective of looking at life. It is the most important element in the evolution of the nation. Without education, one will not explore new ideas. It means one will not be able to develop the world because without ideas there is no creativity and without creativity, there is no development of the nation.

Importance of Education in Our Society

Education is an important aspect that plays a huge role in the modern, industrialized world, People need a good education to be able to survive in this competitive world. Modern society is based on people who have high living standards and knowledge which allow them to implement better solutions to their problems.

Features of Education

Education empowers everyone. Some of the areas where education helps are:

1. Removing Poverty

Education helps in removing poverty as if a person is educated, he can get a good job and fulfil all the basic needs & requirements of his family.

2. Safety and Security against Crime

- If a person is well-educated, he will not be fooled by anyone easily.
- An educated person is less prone to involve in domestic violence & other social evils.
- They enjoy healthy relationships in life.
- This means people are less susceptible to being cheated or becoming a victim of violence.

3. Prevention of Wars and Terrorism

To lead a safe & secure life, one needs to understand the value of education in our daily life. One needs to take an active part in various educational activities. These types of productive activities provide knowledge to live a better life.

4. Commerce and Trade

A good education doesn't simply mean going to school or college & getting a degree. Trade & commerce of the country will also be flourished easily if its citizens are well-educated. Education helps to become self-dependent and build great confidence among them to accomplish difficult tasks. On getting an education, their standard of life gets improved.

5. Law and Order

- Education enables the process of the Nation's Fast Development.
- It develops a good political ideology.

6. Women Empowerment

- Education also helps in empowering women. Certain old customs like not remarrying widows, Sati Pratha, Child Marriage, Dowry System etc, can be demolished with the power of education.
- Women, if educated, can raise voices against the injustice done to them.

- This will bring a lot of development in society as well as in the nation.
- In short, the right to freedom of speech & expression can be used in the right way if all women will become educated.

7. Upliftment of economically weaker sections of society

- Education is the most important ingredient to changing the world.
- Due to lack of education, many illiterate people suffer the hardships of discrimination, untouchability & injustices prevailing in society but with the advancement of a good education.
- If all the people will be educated; this ultimately leads to the upliftment of economically weaker sections of society.

8. Communications

- The relation between education & communication is apparent. A good education helps to communicate better with other people.
- It also improves our communication skills such as speech, body language etc.
- A person who is educated feels confident within him to confront or give a speech in front of a large public or can hold a meeting or seminar.
- Writing emails, and letters, typing messages, reading magazines & newspapers, or even using a Smartphone can never be possible without getting a basic education.

Educational wastage is an economic term defined as the total number of pupil-years spent by repeaters and dropouts. Wide differences in the rates and dispersions of educational wastage between countries suggest that each nation will have to formulate its own policy to eliminate primary-school wastage in the future.

Latest Educational Policy for India

The **National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020)**, which was approved by the Union Cabinet of India on 29 July 2020, outlines the vision of India's new education system.

- The new policy replaces the previous National Policy on Education, 1986. The policy is a comprehensive framework for elementary education to higher education as well as vocational training in both rural and urban India. The policy aims to transform India's education system by 2040.

- Shortly after the release of the policy, the government clarified that no one will be forced to study any particular language and that the medium of instruction will not be shifted from English to any regional language.

The language policy in NEP is a broad guideline and advisory in nature; and it is up to the states, institutions, and schools to decide on the implementation. Education in India is a concurrent list subject.



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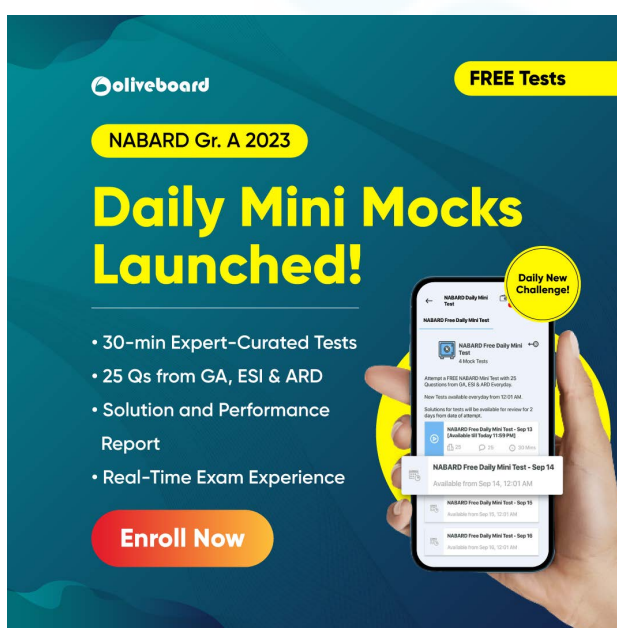
Three Oliveboard staff members (two women and one man) are shown smiling and standing together, wearing Oliveboard-branded shirts.

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