

Cross-sectional Time Series Analysis Concerning Right to Education for Girl Child in India: A Situational Analysis for Prospects, Challenges, and Viable Legal Social Solutions

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Abstract

The recognition of education as a right emphasizes its importance in promoting individual development, social progress, and economic prosperity. The right to education is often enshrined in national constitutions or protected through international agreements and conventions. Factors such as poverty, cultural norms, early marriages, and limited school infrastructure continue to hinder girls' access to education. It is crucial for the government, communities, and civil society to work together to address these barriers and create an enabling environment where every girl can exercise her right to education and fulfill her potential.

Keywords: Barriers, education, girl child, Indian constitution, legal solutions

INTRODUCTION

The right to education for the girl child in India is a significant aspect of promoting gender equality and empowering girls with opportunities for growth and development. Recognizing the importance of education in breaking the cycle of gender discrimination, the Indian government has implemented several initiatives to ensure equal access to education for girls [1]. It focuses on creating awareness, improving access to education, and providing financial incentives to encourage families to educate their daughters [2]. The government has implemented various scholarship schemes specifically targeting girl child.

Despite these efforts, challenges remain in ensuring the right to education for the girl child in India. Factors such as poverty, cultural norms, early marriages, and limited school infrastructure continue to hinder girls' access to education. It is crucial for the government, communities, and civil society to work together to address these barriers and create an enabling environment where every girl can exercise her right to education and fulfill her potential. By investing in the education of girls, India can unlock their talents, empower them to become agents of change, and contribute to the country's overall development and progress [3].

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RELEVANCE OF EDUCATION DELIVERY

The relevance of education delivery is crucial in ensuring that students receive an education that is meaningful and applicable to their lives. It goes beyond simply imparting knowledge and focuses on equipping learners with the necessary skills, competencies, and values that they can utilize in real-world situations. By adopting a learner-centered approach, education delivery recognizes

the unique needs, interests, and learning styles of each student, allowing for personalized and engaging learning experiences. This approach promotes active participation, critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and creativity, empowering students to become lifelong learners and adaptable individuals in an ever-changing world. Furthermore, the relevance of education delivery extends beyond the classroom, connecting learners to the broader community and fostering a sense of social responsibility. By incorporating real-life examples, practical applications, and hands-on experiences, education delivery ensures that students not only acquire knowledge but also develop the necessary skills to thrive in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Ultimately, the relevance of education delivery lies in its ability to prepare students for the challenges and opportunities they will encounter, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to society and become active, informed, and empowered global citizens.

The relevance of education delivery cannot be overstated, as it directly impacts the quality and effectiveness of the learning experience. Education delivery plays a pivotal role in ensuring that knowledge and skills are effectively transmitted to learners, enabling them to acquire the necessary competencies for personal and societal development.

By employing a variety of teaching methods, instructional techniques, and educational technologies, education delivery can engage learners and accommodate their individual preferences and strengths. Furthermore, the relevance of education delivery lies in its capacity and hands-on experiences; education delivery equips learners with practical skills and problem-solving abilities that they can apply in real-world contexts. This relevance promotes critical thinking, creativity, and adaptability, enabling learners to navigate the complexities of an ever-changing world.

Moreover, education delivery should also address the holistic development of individuals. It should encompass not only academic knowledge but also social-emotional skills, ethical values, and civic responsibilities. By nurturing well-rounded individuals, education delivery prepares learners to become active and responsible citizens who can contribute positively to society.

Additionally, the relevance of education delivery extends beyond the classroom. It should align with societal needs and future trends, equipping learners with skills that are in demand in the job market. Education delivery should focus on fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, digital literacy, and other emerging fields to prepare learners for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st-century global economy. Education delivery holds immense relevance in shaping the learning experiences of individuals. By adopting learner-centered approaches, emphasizing practical application, nurturing holistic development, and aligning with societal needs, education delivery ensures that learners acquire knowledge, skills, and values that are pertinent to their personal growth, professional success, and active engagement in society.

INTERNATIONAL SCENARIO REGARDING EDUCATION SYSTEM

Girls face various barriers to education, including poverty, cultural norms and traditions, early marriage, child labor, gender-based violence, lack of access to sanitary facilities, and inadequate school infrastructure. These barriers often prevent girls from accessing education or completing their schooling [4]. It promotes gender equality and aims to ensure that girls have equal access to education opportunities without discrimination [5]. It contributes to poverty reduction, improved health and well-being, reduced child and maternal mortality rates, lower fertility rates, increased economic productivity, and enhanced social development.

Efforts and Initiatives

Governments, international organizations, and NGOs have been working to promote girls' education and address the barriers they face. Initiatives include scholarships and financial incentives, building schools and improving infrastructure, promoting gender-sensitive curricula, teacher training, community engagement, and awareness campaigns.

Ongoing Challenges

Despite progress, challenges persist in ensuring the right to education for the girl child. Persistent gender norms, conflicts, emergencies, inadequate resources, and limited political access will pose obstacles to achieving universal access to education for girls.

The efforts should continue to prioritize and invest in girls' education to overcome these challenges and create a world where every girl has equal access to quality education [6].

RIGHT TO EDUCATION: DIFFERENT PROVISIONS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, 1950

The Constitution of India, adopted in 1950, contains several provisions that ensure the right to education for all citizens. These provisions have been further strengthened through legislative measures over the years. It ensures that children are not subjected to any form of exploitation, including child labor, and are instead provided with opportunities for education and development.

Article 29(1) and Article 30 of the Constitution provide protection to religious and linguistic minorities in matters of education. These reservations aim to provide equitable opportunities for education to historically disadvantaged groups.

It is important to note that in addition to the constitutional provisions, the Indian government has enacted various laws and policies to further promote and protect the right to education, such as the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE Act) of 2009, which provides a legal framework for free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years [7].

Policies and Programmes for Child Education

The initiatives towards education to girl child aim to ensure access, equity, and quality education for all children in the country [8]. The key policies and programs for child education in India:

1. "The RTE Act, enacted in 2009, is a landmark legislation that guarantees free and compulsory education for children between the ages of 6 and 14 years." It mandates that every child has the right to be admitted to a neighborhood school and receive quality education without any discrimination. The Act also outlines provisions for infrastructure, teacher-student ratios, and quality standards in schools.
2. "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is a flagship program launched in 2001 to achieve universal elementary education in India." It focuses on ensuring access, retention, and quality improvement in primary and upper primary schools. The program provides support for infrastructure development, teacher recruitment and training, free textbooks, uniforms and other incentives to promote enrollment and attendance.
3. "The Mid-Day Meal Scheme is a centrally sponsored program that aims to enhance enrollment, attendance, and retention in schools by providing cooked meals to students." It helps address malnutrition and acts as an incentive for parents to send their children to school. The scheme covers government and government-aided schools across the country.
4. "National Program for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) was launched in 2003 with the objective of providing educational opportunities and promoting gender equality for girls at the elementary level." The program focuses on areas with low female literacy rates and aims to address barriers to girls' education through interventions like setting up residential schools, providing bridge courses, and enhancing community participation.
5. "Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) is a program initiated in 2009 to enhance access to secondary education and improve its quality." The program focuses on providing universal access to secondary schools within a reasonable distance, promoting inclusive education, and developing infrastructure and resources. It also emphasizes teacher training and curriculum reforms.

6. “The National Skill Development Mission aims to provide skill-based education and training to youth in various sectors to enhance their employability.” The mission focuses on vocational education and training, entrepreneurship development, and industry collaboration to bridge the gap between education and employment [9].
7. These are some of the major policies and programs implemented in India to promote child education. The government continues to introduce new initiatives and strategies to address challenges and ensure the holistic development of children through quality education [10]. It also adds that the voluntary agencies engaged in the field of child welfare will continue their activities either on their own or with state assistance [11].

CONCLUSION AND VIABLE LEGAL SOCIAL SOLUTIONS

The right to education for the girl child in India is a critical aspect of promoting gender equality, empowerment, and social development. However, challenges and disparities still exist, particularly in certain regions and marginalized communities. Several policies and programs, such as the RTE Act, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, NPEGEL, and initiatives aimed at promoting girls’ education, have been implemented to enhance access and quality education for girls.

These efforts recognize the importance of education in breaking the cycle of poverty, empowering girls, and enabling them to actively participate in society. Education equips girls with knowledge, skills, and confidence to pursue their aspirations, make informed choices, and contribute meaningfully to their communities and the nation’s progress.

Education for girls has been associated with numerous benefits, including improved health outcomes, reduced child marriage rates, lower fertility rates, increased economic opportunities, and enhanced social development. Persistent challenges such as social norms, cultural biases, child marriage, gender-based violence, and inadequate infrastructure and resources in certain areas continue to hinder girls’ education. To address these challenges, sustained efforts are needed to create a safe and inclusive learning environment, promote gender-sensitive curricula, strengthen school infrastructure, provide scholarships and financial support, enhance teacher training, and raise awareness about the importance of girls’ education [12].

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