



Education and Youth: Issues and Challenges

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Abstract: Education is a factor of change in our lives, it brings social and economic change. Education is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of skills, values, morals, knowledge, and personal development. According to Swami Vivekananda “Education means that process by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, and intellect is sharpened”. The United Nations for statistical purpose, defines youth “as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years”. There is no universal definition of youth There is digital divide and demographic divide among the youth. This paper analyses the significance of youth and education, and it is prepared based on the secondary data from journals, newspapers, NSO survey and internet sources. India has fifth of the world’s youth population. The large youth population is an asset to workforce and economic growth of our country. Issues in Youth Education are Digitalization in Education sector Education is at the core of sustainable development and most effective way to poverty eradication. Unemployment rate for people of age 15 years and above rose to 9.3% in Jan -March 2021 from 9.1 % in the same month previous year 2020. Skills are required for employment, entrepreneurship, and business for youth. Education and training are central for achieving sustainable development.

Keywords: Youth, Education, Digital divide, sustainable development.

Introduction

Educational status of young people influences a country’s growth. Education is a factor of change in our lives, it brings social and economic change. Education is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of skills, values, morals, knowledge, and personal development. According to Swami Vivekananda “Education means that process by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, and intellect is sharpened”. Process of individual socialization refers to a process in which an individual accepts a given set of cultural norms and becomes a member of a society. The United Nations for statistical purpose, defines youth “as those persons between

the ages of 15 and 24 years”. There is no universal definition of youth it changes with demographic, financial, economic and socio- cultural settings. The definition that uses the age group of 15-24 as youth can be used for statistical purpose to ascertain the needs of the young population.

Education of Youth has been an issue of major concern in India and the world. Youth in the age group of 15-25 deserve special attention, during this age group people exercise their rights and get prepared to the world of work.

Objectives of the paper

- To understand the concept of youth and Education
- To analyze literacy rate and youth



- To identify the issues related to youth education

Research Procedure

This paper analyses the significance of youth and education, and it is prepared based on the secondary data from journals, newspapers, NSO survey and internet sources.

In India, youths' active participation in socio-economic, political process is very important to bring social change. There is digital divide and demographic divide among the youth. There is absence of educational opportunities and skills among youth. There is a need to develop life skills like skills in negotiating, reflective thinking, resolving conflicts, communication skills and decision-making skills. These skills in Education will help our youth in developing self-confidence, skill oriented, they are able to work in teams and resolve conflicts.

India's revised education system New Education Policy 2020 may increase youth's Employability. It allows students to obtain the right skills and practical experience needed in the job market.

India has fifth of the world's youth population. The large youth population is an asset to workforce and economic growth of our country. India's young population is an asset. Rise in the India's middle class has led to higher literacy rate, this increases our financial security and quality of life for next generation.

Overall rate of literacy of India's adult population has increased. According to National Statistical Office (NSO) data India's average literacy rate in 2021 is 77.70% and male literacy in 2021 is 84.70% and female literacy is 70.30%. When we compare the literacy rate of 2011 the average literacy was 72.99% and male literacy in 2011 was 80.89% and

female literacy was 64.64%. It shows the literacy rate has increased.

Issues in Youth Education

- Digitalization in Education sector: Digitalization in Indian Education system has been of top priority today. Digital India initiative of 2015 started E-education several initiatives like PM e VIDYA, DIKSHA, SWAYAM, ePathshala portal to make it par with global standards. We have challenges also as we see digital divide. Digital divide refers to the gap between those people/community who have access to technology and those who do not have access to digital devices and information technology.
- According to "The times of India", New Delhi report dated 25th Nov 2019 NSO survey finds big rural-urban divide in computer, internet user. Nearly 4.4% of rural households and 23.4% urban households had a computer while 14.9% of rural households and 42% of urban households had internet facility, a survey conducted by the National Statistical office.
- According to "The times of India", New Delhi report dated 30th Nov 2021 NSO survey finds that Unemployment rate at 9.3% in Jan March 2021. Unemployment rate for people of age 15 years and above rose to 9.3% in Jan -March 2021 from 9.1 % in the same month previous year 2020.
- Globally youth employment fell by 8.7 % in 2020, compared with 3.7 % for adults.
- The other challenges include financing and Enrolment: AISHE survey in the last 5 years there is an increase of 11.4% in student enrolment. The rise in female enrolment is 18.2%.



Suggestions:

Reform and restructuring of education system, establishing digital learning centers at village level for youth to learn where the digital divide is high. Language should not be a barrier for students. Conducting awareness programmes there by trying to increase enrolment ratio at all levels of education. Work based learning and ensuring that skills gained are recognized and certified. Multi-level educational approach to bridge the digital divide for vulnerable populations.

Conclusion:

Education of youth plays an important role in achieving sustainable development. The importance of Education for young people becomes a priority of the nation. Youth must be productive and creative. This paper aims to identify the prime significance of educating the youth and the differences in literacy and enrolment, the digital divide and the challenges of youth education and suggestions to overcome them. Education is at the core of sustainable development and most effective way to poverty eradication. Skills are required for employment, entrepreneurship, and business for youth. Education and training are central for achieving sustainable development.

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