

Lacunas in Our Education System

Meenakshi Moza¹, Aastha Moza²

MRIIRS, Faridabad, Haryana, India

MCODS Mangalore, Karnataka, India

Abstract: *There are a large number of gaps or unfilled spaces that can be said about our education system. In other words we can say there is a barrier to education that needs to be overcome to achieve and uphold sustainable development goal. Global education is what is being discussed. To have quality education for everybody by 2030, there are certain challenges that need to be addressed. There has got to be collective voices that keep student interests in mind and make sure the overall education that is provided to our children is relevant and authentic. A global challenge in the name of food security is to be kept in mind before we start addressing the lacunae in our education system. It can be said that the world needs to feed 9 billion people by 2050 (Refer Figure 1). Once this issue is addressed, then only the sub issue of education can be dealt with.*

Keywords: Education, Fund, Classroom, Girl child, Climate, Violence, Health care

1. Introduction

Barriers that lead to the unfilled gaps in our education system are listed under the following challenges:

- 1) **Negligible or almost no fund for education** – Developing countries will not be able to rely on their own finance. At least \$1.25/day/child is the requirement in developing countries. This amounts to almost Rs 90. At present there is a big gap and almost \$39 million is required for quality education to all by 2030.
- 2) **No or Untrained teachers** – Effective teaching is the call of the day and that can be achieved by trained teachers only. For universal primary and secondary education, 70 million teachers are required who can impart and maintain certain standard of education.
- 3) **No classroom** – The right form of environment is the key to proper teaching. In places like Africa, children are squeezed into classrooms and there is always the dearth of running water and toilets. Menstrual hygiene and to hold your head with dignity is not so easy in the above circumstances. So definitely, girls find it very embarrassing and difficult to attend school especially in their teenage years.
- 4) **No learning material** – In places like Tanzania only 3% of students in 6th Grade have sole use of text books. In Camaroon, almost 10 students share a book in Grade 2.
- 5) **Children with disabilities** - It is seen that 95% of children with disabilities are denied the basic right to education. In developing countries 90% students with disabilities do not attend school.
- 6) **Girl child denied education** – There are 132 million young women who are denied education. In most of the developing countries, 1 in 3 girls gets married before she is 18 years of age. Mother and father both working to make both ends meet also make it difficult for the eldest sibling to attend school.
- 7) **Country in conflict or Risk of conflict** – If a country is either engaged in any type of conflict that is in a war with another country or in war against terrorism, it could result in children not getting education as per their requirement. It has been seen that about 250 million children are not imparted education because of this reason.

- 8) **Distance from home to school** – If it takes 3-4 hours in reaching school, girls being vulnerable to violence find it hard to attend school. It proves to be hazardous journey for them.
- 9) **Hunger and poor nutrition** – Proper nutrition is required for brain development. If proper nutrition is not imparted to children it can result in stunted growth. This results in 20% of children not able to read by 8 years of age. We can safely say that Nutrition forms a crucial art for preparation of students for going to school.
- 10) **Educational expense** - In order that educational expense does not become the reason for children not to go to school, it is important that free basic education should be imparted to one and all.

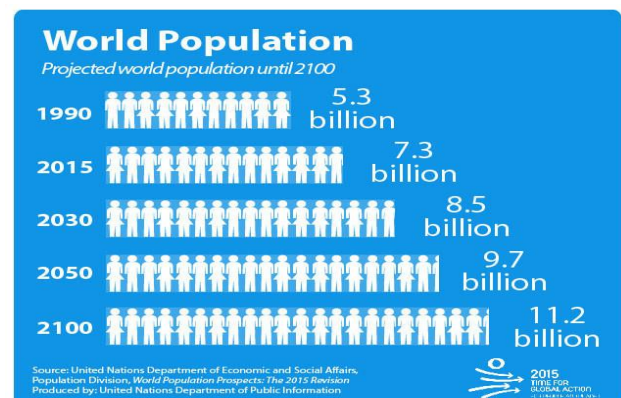


Figure 1: World Population

Once the above challenges are met and looked into we can safely say that at least 80% lacunae in our education system are taken care of. As the world is progressing ahead, it is seen that there is a major change in students interest in studies (students voice and choice), and therefore we have got to keep students interest in mind, listen to the collective voices and look into the relevancy and authenticity of our education system.

Climate change in terms of weather change i.e changes in sea level, water quality, air quality and sustainability (Energy, food, resources, wellness – Green education foundation, Green school initiative) in totality also need to be looked into. Health care is a very important factor as far

as imparting education to all is concerned. University of Michigan, John Hopkins University and Stanford University are leading the way in health care. Socio economic status, opportunities for growth, housing, security, support services and above all changes required to be brought within communities all form a integral part where changes and development is required so as to bring education for one and all.

Also collective safety is a very important concept in today's world. With reference to the recent incident in Florida, it is seen that kids gain security from predictability of routine, limited exposure to TV and news, honesty with kids, listening to fears and concerns of children. Reassuring the kids that the world is a good place but there are bad people in it, rebuilding and reaffirming attachments and relationships, closing of doors in every classroom, and reporting any mental disturbances. If all this falls in place then only we can be rest assured that our children can gain from the education we are imparting to them.

There are certain global issues that trouble the students in general. Disorganisation and feeling overwhelmed, failing to manage money, failing to network, homesickness, not resolving relationship issues, poor grades because of not studying enough, poor sleeping habits, wasting time and above all procrastinating all activities.

An issue like homesickness can be solved by remaining on the campus during weekdays/weekends and also participating in athletic and social events. Monitoring food intake is also a very important factor for eating right and staying healthy. Poor sleep habits will have to be looked into by a fixed sleeping pattern in terms of time of sleeping and no interaction with any form of social media at least two hours before sleep. Unresolved relationship issues can lead to bitterness, anger, resentment and losing focus of our goals. Temptation to skip classes because of more freedom than high school years and lack of accountability needs to be looked into with a cool frame of mind. This results in spending more money for information to be gained during class time. This can result in losing on practical experience and Internship opportunities. In short, we can summarize and say that college helps us in gaining social and academic experience but a balance needs to be maintained between the two for maximizing success. It is about organizing, prioritizing, and better management of all aspects of life so as to not get overwhelmed with requirements of life.

2. Conclusion

The major issues that can hamper imparting education to all is Government funding, school safety, disciplinary policies (Suspension and Expulsion), pressure to produce high test scores, common core for maths, language and arts, less preparation time for non tested subjects like art, music, physical education, Faculty tenure if short can be costly and time consuming, bullying which has come down globally from 7% in 2017 to 4% in 2019. Also student loan forgiveness, student mental health, trigger warnings (people to prepare for and navigate difficult content), college accreditation play a very important role as far as higher learning goes.

3. Emerging Trends in Education or Future Scope

Maker learning (Interest driven problem solving), moving away from letter grades, rise of microcredentials (digital badges relevant to students knowledge skill in given area), flipped classroom (students watch lecture video or relevant course content) are some of the emerging trends where a classtime is available to expand on material through group discussions and learning projects. It has also been seen that we need to attach a great deal of importance to social emotional learning. This helps to boost strength, emotions, setting and implementing goals, showing empathy, taking responsible decisions and thereby exponentially improving academic achievement and improving health.

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