India needs education especially rural education - Problems in rural education is a major issue in India which can hamper overall development at literacy level. Quality and access to education is the major concern in rural schools as there are fewer committed teachers, lack of proper text books and learning material in the schools. Though Government schools exist, but when compared to private schools then quality is a major issue. Majority of people living in villages have understood the importance of education and know that it is the only way to get rid of poverty. But due to lack of money they are not able to send their children to private schools and hence depend upon government schools for education. Education in India is primarily provided by public schools (controlled and funded by the government at three levels: central, state and local) and private schools. Under various articles of the Indian Constitution, 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. Unlike other countries Private Schools are more common among middle class families. Some of the major constitutional provisions on education in India are as follows: There are some changes regarding the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution. During 1976 our constitution was amended in many of its fundamental provisions. The Fundamental Rights of the Indian Constitution has also adopted the fourfold ideal of justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. Our Constitution laid down that in the eyes of law, everyone should have an equal status, to no one the justice be denied, everyone should have liberty of thought, expression. The fundamental right of equality clearly signifies that in the eyes of law no distinction can be made on the basis of any position, caste, class or creed. Side by side the right of equality of opportunities to all is also provided. Unit 2: Major Schools of Philosophy and their contributions to present day Education - Idealism - Realism - Naturalism - Pragmatism Unit 3: Introduction to Educational Sociology - Sociology- meaning and definition - Relationship between Sociology and Education - Educational Sociology- meaning, nature and scope. - Need for Sociological Approach to Education Unit 4: Education and Change - Education as an instrument of Social Change - Mass Media as a means of Social Change - Role of education in Cultural Change - Social Groups- Primary and Secondary groups and their educational Implications Unit
Quality and Equality: A Major Concern for School Education in India

Sindhi Swaleha, Faculty
Education and Psychology, The M.S.University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat, India
Email: ms.swalehasindhi@rediffmail.com

Online published on 3 April, 2012.
Received: 4 June, 2011; Accepted: 1 August, 2011.

Abstract

Quality of education plays pivotal role in the process of development of nations. Hence, quality concerns in education are national priorities for all nations. As India marches on a period of consistent economic growth, the demand for an educated and skilled workforce continues to grow. Providing quality education and creating employment remains high on the government’s agenda, however increasing labor force participation rates and reducing unemployment also requires the resources of the private sector. Thus school Education has gained special significance as it makes its students acquire adequate knowledge in various disciplines and decide the future course of action in education and the issue of quality schooling is basic to national development, for the parents and students, quality education means, improving the quality of education invariably, raising the levels of academic performance usually measured in the test scores in the various subjects which form part of school curriculum by establishing the quality criteria associated with the indicators will help schools to point out the important areas of their own activities - their own advantages and disadvantages and development opportunities. In India, quality schooling and teaching will lead to more literate people and lower dropout rates. This once again has further benefits such as less poverty and fewer socio-economic problems, increase in girls’ enrolment and decrease in girls’ dropout rates.

Keywords
Quality, School Education.