

Education-First step towards Sustainability

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"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." –Malcolm X.

Education is the basic need of a human being.

It is a human right to get at least a quality primary and secondary education through which they can further choose their life path. Yet, for too many humans across the globe, schooling does not lead to learning, and this brings light to our 4 sustainable development goals.

QUALITY EDUCATION.

As we can see, the government of many countries has many policies which make primary education mandatory. But then the question arises whether the children of backward or underdeveloped countries and areas are getting the education with the fundamental skills as according to UNICEF 600 million children and adolescents worldwide are unable to attain minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics, even though two-thirds of them are in school[1].

Several reasons exist for why children around the world are deprived of education and learning. Poverty remains one of the most obstinate barriers. Furthermore, even in schools, insufficient teacher training, inadequate education materials, and insufficient infrastructure prevent many children from learning.

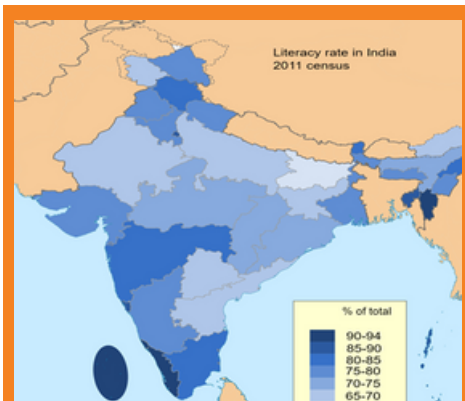
If we talk about our country India, then data shows that the average literacy rate in India is 77.70% in 2021.



Source: Author

As approximately 14% of Indians are illiterate and lack basic education. The National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (NFHS-5), points to a literacy rate amongst adult women (15-49 years) at 71.5%, & adult men (15-49 years) at 87.4% [2]. And among 77.4% only 50% of the people have proper education with good fundamentals. The participation rate in pre-primary organized learning (% of children aged 4 to 6) 85.2 was in 2020 whereas the Net primary enrollment rate (%) is 94.6 in 2020.[3].

Consequently, without proper education, a person cannot have proper employment and earning potential in life for their requirements and hence increasing the risk of adverse health and poverty.



Source: Ranking of states and union territories by literacy rate: 2011 Census of India Report (2013)

Therefore, every person should have access to quality education regardless of their socioeconomic status as education is the first step towards empowerment. Education has the true power of turning society in a positive way. We are also responsible for improving society by imparting our knowledge to unprivileged students and teaching them new skills which will help them in the future. A country's economy becomes more productive as the proportion of educated workers increases since educated workers can more efficiently carry out tasks that require literacy and critical thinking.

However, obtaining a higher level of education also carries a cost. Education does not have to be extensive to be beneficial to a country; basic literacy programs can still have a positive impact on the country's economy. In countries with more educated workers, economic growth is faster than in countries with less educated workers. Due to this, many countries finance primary and secondary education in order to boost economic growth. Education can be seen as an investment in human capital, the same way that better equipment can be seen as an investment. Thus, education plays an important role in bringing prosperity to a country and, thus, to the entire planet.

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