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# Evolution of Education India: Pitfalls and a Road Ahead

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## **ABSTRACT**

*In the words of Nelson Mandela, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Education in simple words is an effort of the senior people to transfer their knowledge to the younger members of society. Education plays a key role in the development of a country – its civilization, its culture, its customs. Starting in about 3000 B.C.E., the advancement in education has undergone a sea change. From the times of yore, when teachers and students used to live together at a distant place to the digitalization of teaching methods, where one can obtain an education at their comfort levels, it has come a long way and is still going through numerous changes. The confinement of education within the four walls of a classroom, filled with chalk dust and screeches of blackboards is being transferred to online platforms, with the intervention of internet and technology. The traditional motives of education were to pass on the traditions and customs of the society one lived in, which was mainly imparted by the means of oral recitation and included the concepts of religion. Modern education, along with teachings of religion, also covers studies of advances in science and technology.*

*The main motive of the research paper is to draw a parallelism between traditional education and modern education. Here we have tried to show how education has evolved and what are the advantages and disadvantages of this evolution and how we can improve it further.*

**Keywords: - Traditional Education, Modern Education, digitalization, evolution**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Education is as old as the human race and is an ever-changing, ever-expanding dynamic concept. The meaning changes from time to time, from country to country, and from person to person and is interpreted from the person's background and ideals. It is, therefore, rightly said that the last word on education can never be said and thus, it is not a static concept.

Etymologically, the term “Education” originated from the Latin word 'educare' this means “to bring up” or “to nourish”, consistent with this view, the most purpose of education is 'to lead’. Man gains educational experiences from cradle to grave which causes changes within the behavior.

## **DEFINING EDUCATION**

Education can be defined as the process of developing and enhancing innate abilities and cultivation of various physical, mental, moral, and spiritual powers of an individual. Tagore defined education as “Education is that which makes one's life in harmony with all existence and thus enables the mind to find the ultimate truth which gives us the wealth of inner light and love and gives significance to love”. In a narrow sense, education is often used and it is imparted at a specific place, maybe schools, college, home by a specific set of persons, called teachers or gurus. The broad meaning of education describes the educational process which is broad-based, which is a lifelong process.

Education is imparted to preserve individual life and plays a significant role in the progress of the human race. The community exists for the individual, not the individual for the community. The one

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essential element that separates us from the dumb, that helps create better societies, develop virtues, and provides us a way of freedom—is Education. It helps us question, gives us an analytical mind, and helps us reject superstitions.

Technology has profoundly impacted every aspect of contemporary society, and education is no exception. The interference of technology, specifically the internet, is a boon as well as a curse which has dramatically changed the course of education. The various objectives of education are:

- To ensure that every pupil gets enough opportunities to prove their potential to make progress
- To provide them with opportunities to learn so that they can acquire new skills and polish the existing ones
- To give pupils experience of all forms of education; linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, aesthetic, and creative.
- To make sure that the content of education will be appropriate to pupils having different age, gender, aptitudes.
- To assist the needy students with the required support so that they can also access the curriculum and use their potential to grow further
- To provide moral and spiritual guidance to the individuals
- To inculcate Human values among the students.
- To establish a PSCHE curriculum that develops independent thinking skills (e.g. through Mind lab, P4C, de Bono's thinking hats), creates a sense of school community (e.g. through SEAL, Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) and generates an awareness of the wider world (e.g. through educating children about public institutions).

### **History of Educational System In India:-**

The development of education is a continuum, which gathers its history into a living stream, flowing through the present into the future. The education system has undergone drastic changes and has evolved a lot from the past. There are many unique things about our india education system which makes it different from other education system like fundamentals like language, culture, and dialect, etc. The development of the education system in India is often divided into five stages:

1. Ancient Period/Vedic Period:
2. Buddhist Period
3. Medieval period.
4. British period
5. Post Independence period

Within in the times of yore, India had the Gurukula System of education .In this gurkula system , the teacher and student used to live together far from their home and they were narrates tales, stories, etc which help them to acquire knowledge on philosophy, arts, science administration, and military techniques. Students used to assist their gurus and other seniors in their day to day activities . Women like Gargi, Gayatri, and Maitrayi were prominent personas who participated in educational debates and scholarly researches. The major disadvantage of this kind of education is that the eligibility criterion . only the Brahmin and the Kshatriyas were eligible for education, there was no provision for the lower strata of society for any kind of education.

During the medievel age , it was the Vedic school and madras that dominated the society .This system of education prevailed until the British interfered. it was the British who introduced the modern

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education in India. The most prominent and fashionable language English was introduced in India by Thomas Bahibton Macauley and thereafter the education system consisted of subjects like science, mathematics, language, history, geography, and civics. Subjects like philosophy and metaphysics were considered unnecessary at school level education system. At that time, education was confined to the four walls of the classroom and hence the teacher and students enjoyed a great bond and had a greater understanding of each other. The education system was under construction and was dynamic in nature, it got influenced by various institutions throughout different places. The best part in evolution in education at that time was eradication of the eligibility criterion. Now education was not based on eligibility criterion, anybody in lieu of their caste , gender, creed , etc can enroll himself for education. Hence the partiality in education partially vanished.

The Indian education system has undergone drastic change. The subjects and content of Indian education has evolved from Vedas, religious studies , etc to reality, scientific happenings, history etc . we are not only given an idea to see events from a religious point of you but we are educated enough to analyze the scientific possibility .After Independence, India established numerous schools to foster education in every region among every stratum of society. Now there is school in every corner of the society which help parents decide the best possible alternative foe their wards that is giving the best of education and co-scholastic outlook.

The major challenge in Indian education system is that there is huge variety and diversity in Indian cultures, languages and different religions . Even after 72 years of Independence, India is lagging in the field of education. The colonial legacy still dominates the education policy. Education in India, from the start, has been catering to the requirements of the chosen group of the community. The common folk; their needs, and their aspirations were never considered. There have been attempts to bring about variation in the education system whenever there was a crisis within the economy. In the ancient, and post Independence periods it received an equivalent sort of treatment, which resulted in further inequalities within the society. This is partly a result of the way the policies have been formulated.

### **Evolution of Education in India-**

Technological advancement has exerted pressures on traditional educational practices, forcing changes on the time-honored scholarly methods and displacing education from classrooms to a virtual world, merging educational theories and scientific technology . Various organizations are now shifting their focus to innovation in learning methods instead of following the textbook learning process. The method is meant to facilitate concepts of collaborative learning with students from all over the world i.e. forming learning communities and involving strategies that highlight student achievements. The dominance of the pen-paper examination process has declined significantly over the last decade. Several national entrances have also included the online modes in their system, thereby facilitating the youth in terms of reducing constraints. This democratizing medium allows supporting socio-constructivist modes of learning as mass-connectivity has enhanced and information is now found at the tips of one's finger. The accessibility of e-books, lecture videos, and even a virtual practical laboratory has eased the method of collecting information, which earlier had to be looked up in books, encyclopedias. A digital juggling of engagements along with day to day activities and commitments has benefitted to construct a self-improved environment rather than relying on the norms of the system.

After the invention of search engines and other online mediums of education, all stakeholders have become too reliant on them for seeking knowledge, data, etc. However, this is often categorized as the

misuse of potential. It is a known incontrovertible fact research and research work to true education is what water to the biosphere is and it is made quite plausible after shifting the existent knowledge to the online medium of education.

Open discussions, radical questioning, active rather than passive methods of learning, continuous experimentation, self-suited goals are a few elemental signs of progress made over the traditional model. The internet has already become an integral part of education in the developed countries, but it should also be kept in mind that in third world countries like India, half its population has no direct experience of using the web or access to the advancement of technology in the least.

Education, tertiary and secondary, is facing the challenge to reinvent itself, not simply to reform. Universities and schools should be driven to work in the direction to integrate more hard and soft skills. "Experience education" approach is fundamental to facilitate the integration of educational programs with the economy and society. The world needs more globalized education, not less. New forms of education are appearing across the world. They practice innovative approaches, market (private) orientation, and internationalization. They focus on transferring concrete knowledge and empowering the young generations and therefore generating the skills necessary for a successful career.

### Role of Government in Promoting Education:-

Steps	Description	Statistics
Scholarships	Government has made a very good initiative by offering attractive incentives and scholarships to the meritorious and needy students	In India, there are different scholarships for students at different levels. Nirmala Sitharaman has earmarked Rs 141 crore for college and university scholarships, down from the 2019-20 allocation of Rs 356 crore, which was revised upwards to Rs 381 crore.
Free education:-	Offering free of cost education in government schools and colleges. Government has also increased the no. of such school and colleges and has also improved the condition of the existing ones	Budget 2019 hikes outlay for education by 13% to Rs 94,853 crore. The Centre earmarked Rs 94,853.64 crore outlay for the education sector for fiscal 2019-20 in the Budget announced on Friday, an increase of over 13 percent from the revised estimates of 2018-19 financial year
Midday meal	The government has introduced the mid-day meal intending to enhance enrolment, retention, and attendance and simultaneously improve nutritional levels among children	The interim budget for 2019-20 has allocated Rs 11,000 crore for the national program of mid-day meals in schools – Rs 500 crore more than the funds earmarked in the February 2018 Union budget by finance minister Late Arun Jaitley.
Education awareness	Arranging campaigns to promote the importance of education. Thus to encourage all segment of common masses to send their wards to school and colleges	The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act or Right to Education Act (RTE), The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), etc are initiatives taken by the government to increase education awareness
Other initiatives	Recently the government has come up with many new initiatives like -"Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan", etc	(TIMES, DEC'22, 2020) Under SSA around 192 million children of 1.1 million habitations are served. People's participation is the base for the success of SSA. The community participation & monitoring are encouraged by the scheme at each stage of implementation of the program. SSA's core objective is to attain UEE in the Country.

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### **Modern Education in India:-**

It is an irrefutable fact that the advanced world is now dependent on the internet to forward the method of progress in every walk of life. It has become impossible to imagine a world in which the activities of our lifestyle are proceeded without the utilization of the internet. Modern education can be defined as the sort of education which extends its boundary beyond the four walls of the classroom and enhances the learning process with the involvement of a variety of technology that includes computers, projectors, indulged with the basic element of our daily life, the Internet, and many more. This technique of education is mainly online, which favors independent learning methods. Though there are several requisite conditions for the success of online education, like the online learners must be self-directed towards achieving their academic goals and ought to be self-motivated, as it highly relies on the visual method of learning. In this system of learning, the learners are a heterogeneous group of people, regardless of their age, gender, nationality, profession, etc. They can acquire knowledge from the varied courses offered by different universities in any part of the globe. The online or modern education system provides learners with an unrestrained source of learning material.

The modern system of education is highly dissimilar from the traditional system of education. It teaches about the skills required today, i.e. the skills of science and technology, medical sciences, etc. Additionally to listening, it holds the sector of writing, visualizing, imagining, and thinking skills. This system also includes written tests to examine if the scholars are learning properly or not, which is completed in a very formal way. The methodology used for teaching is extremely interactive. The modern education system is an abrupt evolution of the traditional education system which was imparted to the students in less than a decade ago.

Overcoming the troubles related to the classroom teaching methods, modern education has become successful in imparting knowledge to those sitting inside the comfort zones of their homes. Delivering knowledge through online platforms or websites, the recognition and preference of modern education are increasing day by day. Modern education has completely eradicated the limitation of a physical classroom benefitting a broad range of students from every nook and corner of the globe. People busting an intense schedule and many who discontinued their studies due to job-related complications or personal issues have resumed their learning because of this online platform. Through means of digital/smart boards, students can visualize the outside world sitting inside the classroom- theory classes are made far more interesting and interactive, providing a diversified range of curriculum and also bestowing audio-visual guidance to the oral lectures.

The growth of the Internet within the planet provides many opportunities for many people around the world in many different ways (Dogruer, 2011). When students are considered, the utilization of the Internet is mainly for social and entertainment purposes. However, the Internet provides not only social connection and entertainment but also benefits other sections, especially academic and scientific information. Additionally, the Internet can be used as a tool to learn the latest news all around the world as well as getting any kind of information that serves different purposes such as learning more information about a hobby or health. Therefore, it can be said that the Internet is the source of spreading information quickly to an outsized audience and of going beyond the limitation of time and space. In light of the above information, it is vitally important to urge students to use this invaluable source to require any kind of information they need in their academic studies.

## Distinction Of Traditional Education Vs Modern Education

Area	Traditional education	Modern education ( Online Education )
<b>Research</b>	The scholars throughout the world went through libraries, refer books, articles, journals, etc	In this era, keep research aside, we are too dependent on the internet for education.
<b>Interaction</b>	The interaction between the students was more and they enjoyed a strong relationship	The interaction between the students and teachers were comparatively very less and they had very little idea about students background
<b>Efforts/ Dependence</b>	The efforts of the students were more. They worked hard to gather information	Nowadays we are too dependent on the online modes to gather information.
<b>Flexibility of time</b>	In the traditional model of education, time is fixed	In modern education, time is flexible
<b>Materials</b>	In this mode of education, learning materials are quite limited	In this mode of education, learning materials are unlimited
<b>Cost</b>	Traditional education is somewhat costly; the indirect cost like books, stationeries, tuition fee, classroom setup expense can count to huge amount of money.	The cost incurred in this type of education is comparatively less and there is no indirect cost like books. pens , classrooms, etc.

**Source: Author's Compilation**

### Increasing Skill Gap in India

The attainment of a college degree not necessarily implies the presence of requisite skills which a person must contain in order to be eligible for employment. To qualify in the race of life, the combination of a degree along with the skills is necessary. Mere completion of semesters with a high grade does not imply the intelligence of a person. Both, skill as well as education, need to go concurrently to be the survival of the fittest.

In the current scenario, education is primarily based on theoretical grades and practical knowledge is not given the utmost importance it requires. The high rate of unemployment among the educated is both due to the lack of sufficient jobs and poor schooling as well as the mediocre quality of education offered at most colleges. A large number of graduates, who believe rote-learning are an integral part of the learning system, are considered unfit for employment and hence, are considered unsuitable for employment that is proportionate with their degrees.

According to economic times, CP Gurnani, CEO & MD of Tech Mahindra, 94% of engineering graduated were not fit for hire. "The top 10 IT companies take only 6% of engineering graduates. What happens to the remaining 94%?" he said in an interview with TOI. Due to the widening skill gap, the now industry has to retrain even those who get hired. "If you come to Tech Mahindra, I have created a five-acre tech & learning center. Other top companies have also created similar facilities for skilled employees for learning ability, skill development, and is ready for the market, the obligation is now shifting on the industry," he said.

The Aspiring Minds study claimed that only 4.77 percent of candidates could write the correct logic for a program—a minimum requirement for any programming job. More than 36,000 engineering students from IT-related branches of over 500 colleges took Automata—a Machine Learning based assessment of software development skills—and more than 60% could not even write code that compiles. Only 1.4 percent could write functionally correct and efficient code, it said.

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Today's education system consists of a variety of advantages and disadvantages.

The most significant change in the evolution of education is the concept of 'Distance Learning' or 'Distance Education'. It has enabled everyone, irrespective of their age, to enroll into any program or course which fits in his/her interest and requirement. In this method, learners can study at any university, as per their liking, without paying visits to the place. The concept of studying from home, or any pace of their comfort zone was brought into reality with the help of technology. The second aspect is flexibility. Here, the student can learn from any corner of the globe at any time, without actually traveling to a campus. He/she can learn at his/her own pace. The online education is student-centered; where a student gets more focused on the areas they need to be improved and provides them with endless knowledge. The traveling cost of the students is free as they can learn from sitting in their comfort zones. The fee structure is not required both for the institution as well as for its instructors. It doesn't require any course books or tuition fees; hence it is comparatively low cost. Once the learner completes his/her course, they are provided with their certificates within a short period.

In comparison to the benefits of this technique of learning, there are some basic disadvantages too. The first and foremost is the lack of social interaction between the teacher and the student. These are self-paced courses that make the learners difficult in developing a relationship with their peers. There is the availability of limited social interaction as well as limited face-to-face interactions. The second basic disadvantage is the chance of easily getting distracted. Students with less determination and lack of self-motivation, also the ones with ADHD have higher chances of getting distracted easily by this system of education. Here, learners lose track of their applied courses and end up doing or learning something else. The last significant disadvantage of this system is that there are high chances of students getting isolated. By isolation, we mean that the learners don't have any interaction with the outside world, which ends up them feeling lonely and stressed.

Hence today's education system must update their curriculum so that more emphasis can be given on practical knowledge which will help in skill development of the common masses and bring down the unemployment ratio. Education must come with skills, without skills education will be worthless.

Common masses must not rush towards grades, certificates, etc but they should run towards knowledge.

Hence educational institutions must update their curriculum to make it more practical based as compared to the present times

### **CONCLUSION:-**

The world is now a small global village and education is one of the foremost aspects of bonding for bonding the future generations. The implementation of technology in educational sectors has many side-effects on education alongside the benefits. With the arrival of online learning, more people can connect, learn, and grow on their terms, without many of the obstacles that are associated with traditional, on-campus education. The arrival of the internet has solved certain inefficiencies of the last decade along with finding solutions to the problems of contemporary education, which also included social and cultural tribulations. While online colleges may never totally replace the traditional experience, it is undeniable that online education has had a major impact on not only on how we pursue education, but on how we teach, learn, and perceive knowledge. There is plenty of scope of increased

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usage of the internet within education and with time, the future of education may well involve increased use of the internet and would certainly be determined by it as well. It is important to educate students by combining the earlier and the modern learning ways and ensuring that both the modes merge in a single track so that a student emerges successful in all phases of life.

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