



Commentary

The School System is Responsible for Low Test Scores in India

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ABSTRACT

The education system as a whole has remained mostly unchanged since our British masters left it to us. Our educational system just offers us with a regular knowledge bundle that does not contribute significantly to their comprehension and problem-solving abilities. The objective of the paper aims to search the reasons for low test scores in the Indian education system. This study is descriptive in nature based basically on primary as well as on secondary sources of education. There are several causes investigated in the study. There is no educational planning in accordance with the country's political and economic framework. It's odd to notice that students in India prefer vacation days than school days. Besides so many problems, there are still many genius people in India who are making our nation to feel proud.

I. INTRODUCTION

Our current educational system has a number of flaws. Despite certain educational improvements, the unpleasant truth is that the system as a whole remains how we received it from our British masters. Today's educational system only gives a regular knowledge bundle that contributes nothing to their comprehension and problem-solving abilities.

Objective of the Study: The paper aims to search the reasons or defects for low test scores in Indian education system.

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II. METHOD AND MATERIALS

This study is primarily descriptive in nature and based basically on primary as well as on secondary sources of education. The information from secondary sources are collected from websites and online journals established at various periods. Being a student of Engineering College in VIT at Vellore, most of the parts of this article is written from my own past experiences in different schools.

Analysis: The many information gathered from various sources, particularly websites, were reviewed, processed, sorted, and presented logically and methodically under relevant headings in order to obtain the results and conclusion.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There are several reasons why School System is responsible for low test scores. Among them some vital reasons are discussed below:

1. Low Attendance,
2. Lack of interest towards studies,
3. Neglecting Indian Languages,
4. Abolition of Gurukula system
4. Educational Imbalance between Rural and Urban,
5. Political Interference in the Educational Institutions, and
6. Reservation Policy

Now, I am going to discuss about all of these reasons one by one.

1. Low Attendance: We can find a lot of schools in India, which are not having a proper infrastructure. Even these schools cannot provide fundamental facilities such as drinking water, wash room facilities, electricity, furniture, different types of study materials and so on. According to a survey in 2018⁵:

- 68% toilets in Government Schools are usable.
- 18% of teachers had no professional qualifications in teaching.



- Only 16% of Govt. Schools have computers & 4% of Govt. Schools have internet connection.
- 40% of Govt. Schools do not have a playground.
- 43% of Govt. Schools do not have a proper boundary wall.

These are the reasons why students are not attending schools regularly.

2. Lack of interest towards studies: The educational model that we have in India mainly focuses on memory based learning rather than skill based learning. Today's education system acts as a root for a rat race where millions of students compete with each other working tirelessly for long hours. This rat race is all directed to a piece of paper which is "indispensable" in judging our future. The piece of paper judges us not on how well we understand the concept but on how well we can memorise it. Currently, education is just a narrow prison of mundane thoughts which prohibit us from thinking outside the box. There are students who are not good in memorizing things, these types of students often get low grades and hence they lack their interest towards studies. Students who are passionate in drawing, sports, dancing, singing, etc. do not get a proper guidance in school to develop their talents. Even in engineering colleges, the students are learning the theory part more than the application part. For example, in VIT at Vellore (Tamil Nadu) we have 3 theory classes and 1 practical class in a week for 4 credit courses (subject). Students must have practical experiences more. Also, lack of skilled faculties in schools affects our education system. For example it is very common in schools that a Hindi faculty is taking the classes for both Hindi and Sanskrit. The schools are not hiring someone who is specialized in Sanskrit. Again, teachers' wages are poor, and they have little social standing. I have also mentioned earlier that 18% of the teachers had no professional qualification in teaching.

The emphasis on literary education remains, syllabi are out-of-date, and the examination system is unchanged; the lot of instructors has not improved, and pupils are no more qualified or disciplined to confront the harsh realities of life.¹

As quoted by Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful tool which you can use to change the world" but I believe that education is crucial for us to remodel it into ways which bring out thinkers not machines. Education is meant to open doors of opportunity to discover, learn new things and unlock the secrets of nature and the world.



These are the main reasons why students are lacking their interest toward studies, which eventually results in low test scores.

(3) Neglecting Indian Languages: There was a period when India was recognised for having the greatest education system in the world, and it drew individuals from all over the world. But now as we look at it, everything has changed. Our educational system primarily focuses on pupils' theoretical knowledge. The student memorises everything, enters the test hall, blurts everything out on paper, and exits with empty thoughts. Even parents and instructors are concerned with grades rather than knowledge. A genius is someone who achieves the highest achievements.²

The British created the educational system in order to solidify British imperialism in India by generating a large number of office clerks. But they did not attempt to frame the education system to inculcate intelligent with the harmony of the Indian social and cultural conditions among the people. There was little emphasis on technical and vocational education. It was unsuitable for young males who frequently found themselves incapable of facing the battle for survival.¹

Back in the year of 1835, English Education Act was passed in the British Parliament. This act was proposed by Thomas Macaulay. The main objective was to develop such individuals who are Indians by blood but British by behavior i.e., “Indian in blood and colour but English in taste, opinion, words and intellect.” Even after the independence we are the following the same educational system neglecting Indian languages.

If we observe the other nations of the world such as Japan, Germany, France, Russia, USA, China, they all prefer their own native languages than any other language. But in India, we are more dependent on English than our Indian languages. The languages like Sanskrit and Tamil are the oldest languages of the world, which are originated from India. But we, the Indians are shameless; most of us do not know the importance of these languages. Children are not getting the atmosphere to speak in English in their homes. But when they are reaching schools, things are totally different. They are facing a lot of problems due to lack of command in English. These affect the test scores.



4. Abolition of Gurukula System: The Gurukula System was an old educational system. In India, a gurukula is a form of school. It was a residential setting, with shishya (students) living close to the guru, frequently in the same house. In a Gurukul, shishyas lived together as equals, regardless of social rank, and learned from and assisted the guru in his daily life. They did not collect fees, simply a modest gurudakshina (fee), which was not always in monetary form. The Gurukul method instilled a sense of respect and dedication. The world-famous Nalanda and Takshishila universities in India were the world's earliest university systems, teaching practically all topics. Students from all around the world came to learn here. With the formation of the British Empire, western education became engrained in Indian society, causing a significant blow to Indian education. The British played their cards so well that even after seventy-four years of independence, we are still in a trance, unable and unable to break free from one of the biggest hypnoses ever woven over a complete nation.⁴

4. Educational Imbalance between Rural and Urban: There is an imbalance of educational system between rural and urban areas. There are fewer facilities such as internet, computer, etc. in schools and colleges the rural areas than urban areas. Again, there are some private schools and private colleges in urban areas. Literary education at these schools and institutions is so expensive that it gradually becomes a more or less exclusive luxury of the affluent household. As a result, rural areas have no prestigious schools or colleges.

5. Political Interference in the Educational Institutions: Recently, there have been political interferences in many educational institutions, resulting in students under the umbrella of a political party resorting to violence in the colleges or on the street, burning buses, stoning public servants, pulling down telegraph and telephone poles, pulling 'gheraos,' manhandling teachers, engaging in mass-copying during examinations, and forcing the authorities to close down the institutions. Even the implementation of N.C.C. or N.S.C. has not resulted in more disciplined citizenry. Evil politics has made significant inroads into educational systems.¹



6. Reservation Policy: Aside from this mindset, the reservation policy is another impediment to achieving a low test result. As per Indian Reservation Policy, near about 50% post in educational sector is reserved as quota for Schedule Cast (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Class (OBC) on the basis of caste either for admission or service. The Constitutionality of such reservations cannot be challenged. The reservation of Schedule Cast (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Class (OBC) is also enacted for a particular duration, but these provisions are extended so much that till the present day we face the ugly reality of reservation and no political, executive or judicial is competent enough to curtail these provisions. As a result, the deserved candidates either for admission in higher studies or job are deprived. Already prominent teachers or job holders have to work under their low qualitative students or juniors due to the reservation policy. There is a concern for lesser economic growth. It acts as a hurdle in achieving our desired objective of increased growth rate. In this way it is impossible to boost our economy and this legislation as quota reservation does not serve the purpose of the country. India has already witnessed the ill effects of reservations. India will never be a super power in the world till the reservation policy is in effect.

IV. SUGGESTIONS

1. The crisis in modern education system can be solved by appointing the deserved candidates for teachers and other administrative posts with high salary without reservation through open competition so as to give a prestigious place in the society. The education sector should be free from reservation policy. The education sector should be made prestigious so as to attract the highly qualitative persons to be appointed.

2. The current dilemma stems from the school's failure to decide what it will do with the pupils and what it will educate them.¹ Our schools have failed to pay adequate thought to the educational material required to prepare the masses to function in a democracy. Students should be taught our past glory in the history so as to make them proud for our ancestors and to grow tendency to follow them.

3. The conventional educational system is frequently boring and depressing for children. Children in the American educational system attend solely play until they are seven or eight years old. They are instructed to play with toys and identify the different elements of the toys. They have a good time. They are



taught some simple words and asked to spell them. A young kid should not be treated as though it has reached intellectual maturity. The educational curricula placed the youngsters under a lot of mental strain. Of course, when youngsters are forced to study lessons that are beyond their comprehension, they do so. This approach of overwhelming youngsters with knowledge that is beyond their comprehension is unjustifiable.

The Indian educational system is structured in such a way that it does not encourage unique thinking and writing. There is a tutorial system in the United States and other nations. A group of students discuss their concerns with their instructor and have a thorough understanding of their courses. It is critical to assess students' knowledge and performance in class on a daily basis. Examinations should not be used to assess a student's knowledge on their own. It is past time for educational officials to address this issue.³

4. Students with great intelligence, stunning creativity, and excellent talent, i.e., average and above average, should get distinct instruction in schools and institutions.

5. The Indian educational system should prioritise learning over tests. Unfortunately, education has become a profitable industry, losing its original mission. The poor quality of teaching in government institutions has fueled the emergence of commercial coaching programmes across India. Due to the lack of benefits, students nowadays seldom consider becoming teachers. Many of them, who are passionate about engineering and medical, are studying just for the sake of receiving a large income and benefits package. Middle-class parents pay what the coaching classes want; this has become a worrying business in our country.⁴

V. CONCLUSION

There is no educational planning in accordance with the country's political and economic framework. Schools are packed because there are few places for the children to go. It's odd to notice that students in India prefer vacation days than school days. Despite so many issues, India still has many brilliant people who make our country proud. In the United States, 12 percent of scientists and 38 percent of doctors are Indians; in NASA, 36 percent, or nearly four out of ten scientists, are Indians. Indians make up 34% of Microsoft employees, 28% of



IBM employees, 17% of Intel employees, and 13% of Xerox employees. But our country is still not developing as it should. All of this need a comprehensive overhaul. Reservations should not be granted on the basis of caste, but rather on the basis of people's financial circumstances.²

Education is the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge. It is impossible to share without communicating. English should not be outlawed in primary schools since it is the world language. Learning Hindi, the national and state language, improves internal communication. A group of experienced instructors from various sections of our country may reform our current educational system and implement adjustments. They are the best people for the job, not a bunch of politicians with no education background.

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