

## Explicate Case Study

The liberal governments world over work to have all it's citizens enjoy equality of opportunity, rather than equality in their end state of being. The state of public education system in a country is one of the two measures considered while evaluating equality of opportunity, the other being public access to healthcare.

In 2009 , the Government of India established the right of children to free and compulsory education(RTE) Act. This legislation ensures free mandatory education for every Indian between the ages of 6 and 14. This law also mandates that all private schools in India reserve 25% of admissions space for poor children, who in turn will be reimbursed by the government .The government also levies an education cess to fund it's mission of free universal education.

But it's steps have not yielded desired results despite the best intentions. Reports by independent agencies have repeatedly pointed out that only a quarter of public school teachers in India are usually present in the class and only half of them actually teach. These reports also reveal that about one-third of India's primary schools lack proper infrastructure and one-tenth lack basic materials like blackboards. Further ,access to education does not guarantee a valuable learning experience. The Annual Status of Education Report(ASER) 2016 by Pratham Educational Foundation shows a slight improvement in enrolment and learning skills of students, but the annual reports if seen over the past 10 years, show a declining trend.

Many children attending public schools either drop out before the age of 14 or simply get by without truly learning anything of value .As a result , they are not equipped to compete for better paying jobs, further widening the gap between the rich and poor. Many people belonging to poor families , out of a desire to get their children have access to best education, send them to private schools. But it weighs heavy on their pockets. Other people, who cannot pay or in case private schools are located far away, are forced to send their children to sub standard public schools .

25 % admissions reservation in private schools is more of a quick fix approach, and quite a distraction from actually reducing the inequality between public and private education. So clearly the present scenario in the education sector leaves a lot to be desired. The government has failed in it's duty to provide equality of opportunity. The education sector , alike many other areas, has fallen prey to the gargantuan bureaucracy which is supposed to run it. Many NGO's and edu-tech companies are trying to bridge the gap between private and public education, especially in the rural areas. But it would be too much to expect them to fill this deep chasm anytime in the near future .

India needs a radical change in it's strategy to deliver quality education to it's people. Incremental changes would'nt do.

So , come up with a model education policy for the country, taking into consideration the ground reality. The solutions provided will be judged on the basis of their originality, lucidity and practical applicability in the Indian scenario.