

Role of Privatization in Education and Its Impacts on Society : An Analysis of Patna

Dr. Shailendra Kumar Singh

PGT, ST. Michael's High School, Patna

MA (Soc), MA (Eco) , M.Ed., Ph.D. (Sociology, Patna University, Patna)

Research Scholar, Department of Education, Magadh University

Abstract : Today, the one single subject that has acquired wide polemical debate throughout the world is the debate on privatization, on its consequences and impacts on various economic strata of people as well as on education in Indian society. Privatization of education in India introduced new policies and programmes to increase employment, outcome and income opportunities and achieve economic development at National and International level. It has brought about a rapid change in the educational scenario of India. Privatization in education encourages the individual and society to establish educational institutions to meet the growing demand for education. As a result private educational institutes are growing day by day throughout the country. The paper reveals an attempt to analyse the role of privatization in education and its impacts on society, inclusively of Patna Town. I decided to make my study a micro type, to probe into a definite area, several people of different backgrounds, which agitate them to oppose or support the process of privatization.

In this paper, I have also discussed about why our govt. in recent times is thinking more about privatization of education. I also discussed the positive and negative impacts of this issue and what are the possible solutions before us to deal with this issue.

Keywords : Privatization, Education, Need of Privatization in India, Pros and Cons of Privatization, Alternative measures by the Government, Conclusion & Suggestions.

Introduction

Society and the nation take the responsibility of imparting education to the people to bring about an adaptable change in them. For this purpose, human and physical resources are arranged. In India it is one of the important task of the government to provide education to all and improve the literacy rate of the country. Till now our education system is mainly oriented on government based public system. Public education systems primarily concentrate on giving education to large masses rather than giving importance to providing quality education. Due to this, the quality of education in our primary, secondary and higher education fallen below the standards which gave scope for the private organizations to dominate over public educational system at present. The situation has reached a stage where government authorities are also believing that it is good for the government to privatize education to reduce the burden in running the government public education institutions at all levels. Now the question comes, if such a step will be initiated by the government is it possible

to implement Right to Education Act (2009) impressively in the country and also what would be its impact on people who are residing in Patna.

Objective :

- (i) To study the growth of private institutions.
- (ii) To find out the positive and negative impact of privatization on education.
- (iii) To study the impact of privatization on education in Patna
- (iv) Suggestion for improving quality of education & conclusions.

Privatization :

The term privatization is defined as a process of transferring of assets, management, functions or responsibilities previously owned or carried out by the state to private sectors. Privatization of education means transfer of activities, assets and responsibilities of educational institutions from government sectors to private sectors. Privatization of education in India introduced new policies and programmes to increase employment, outcome and income opportunities and achieve economic development at National and International level. It has brought about a rapid change in the educational scenario of India. Privatization encourages the individual and society to establish school, colleges and private universities to meet the growing demand for education. As a result, private educational institutions are growing day by day throughout the country.

Objective of Privatization of Education in India :

- To provide quality education in India
- To promote advance technology so that we may give competition to the developed countries of the world.
- To reduce the gap between Industry and Education.
- To reduce the burden of government.
- To provide education in remote as well as small urban area.
- To generate highly skilled personnel for economic development in the country.
- To meet the education for International Standards.

Methodology :

This study used both primary and secondary data for analysis. Primary data were used to comprehend the growth of private educational institutions and students enrolment in India, Secondary data were used to analyse the gap between demand and supply of higher education and find out the positive and negative impact of privatization of education. The present study was conducted in Patna, capital of Bihar, The literacy rate of Patna is 70.68%, out of which male is 78.48% and female is 61.96% as per 2011 census report. There were 200 samples randomly selected to collect information related to the present study.

Growth of Private Institution

There has been a fast growth of private educational institutions in India. It is shown in the Table-1.

Private Institutions			
S. No.	Year	Share of self-financed institutions to total institutions	Share of student's enrolment to total enrolment
1.	2001	42.6	32.9
2.	2007	61.8	58.9
3.	2012	63.9	67.1
4.	2015	65.2	68.3

Source : FICCI Higher Education Summit–2015

The above table shows that share of unaided private educational institutions to the total number of educational institutions increased from 42.6% in 2001 to 65.2% in 2015. It is also seen that the share of student's enrolment to the total enrolment increased from 32.9 to 68.3 during the same periods. Thus, it is observed that one third institutions are privately owned and more than one third of students are studying there. It proves that there is a fast growth in the number of private educational institutions and student's enrolment in India.

As the study was exclusively done for Patna District, some secondary datas are used to see the growth of private institutions in Patna. There are around 700 CBSE and ICSE affiliated schools, running in Bihar and Patna contains around 240 CBSE and ICSE affiliated schools run by private sectors however the government schools are around 125 right from primary to secondary level. However around 300 more privately owned schools are found which have not been affiliated by any board.

It has been observed that more than 70% schools are run by the private sectors and less than 30% are run by the government sectors in Patna.

Need of Privatization of Education in India :

After independence the government was playing the most important role in providing education to the masses. In the begining these institutions were working very promptly as honest and dedicated people were working with great dedication, but as the time passed, government educational institutions became lethargic because of inefficient functioning of government, lack of proper grip of government on the management of these institutions. These reasons made worsening of standards in these institutions and this gave a lee way for the origin of private institutions. The running of private institutes mainly depend upon the quality education they provide and the result they show out of their efforts. The managements of these private institutions have put

their heart and souls in providing quality education to the masses. In this way the disciplined and efficient way of functioning of these institutions attracted public.

It is found that the infrastructural facilities in government schools are inadequate and poor. Most of these do not have buildings, library, electricity, computer, drinking water, hygiene toilet, laboratories, benches and desks, blackboards, etc. Even these institutions are suffering with lack of teachers. Privatization has turned education into economic goods and it is bought and sold for money. Private schools have well equipped with better infrastructural facilities compared with that of government, which attracted the people from all categories to get their children admitted and may be prepared for employment.

Alternative measures for the government :

According to Article 45 of the constitution of India, there should be free and compulsory education for all children between the age of 6-14 years. So focus has shifted to elementary education. But the government is unable to provide education to all because of its poor infrastructural facilities and even unable to provide it to poor class people.

Demand for education is high. If govt. can't afford to provide and fund all the education that the parent expect for their children then those parents will seek private suppliers. Government system is unable to cope with increase in enrolment because they must raise money from the tax payers. In this condition, private provision is the only way in which education system can grow in response to increase in demand.

There are general pressure to privatize education system. One of factor is global economic and social change. But the poor class people would be unable to adopt fully privatization of education because of their poor economic condition.

Thus government must adopt some of the alternative measures regarding privatization of education so that even poor people may be benefited.

- The government has to follow present semi- privatization system so that government as well as private institutions run simultaneously. Those people who are able to afford fees of private institutions they may send their children to such institutions for getting quality education. The government must give some aid to the private institutions so that such institutions may provide education to the poor class people at subsidised price.
- If the government starts giving value to the certificates got from government institutions then such institutions will become popular and once again public get attracted to these institutes. The government must be serious about the strict and disciplined management of educational institutions so that quality education must be provided.
- If the government steps towards complete privatization of education it should take several strengthen measures to provide free education to poor and disadvantaged people of the society. In case, if complete privatization occurs, the government has no need to spend any money on infrastructure, salaries of the

staff, maintenance of schools, etc. This money they can spend on for assisting private organizations in building the infrastructures and in maintenance of all institutes, providing education to all poor people by way of paying money through efficient money transfer system. The government must form a committee who will look after this system. This system will enable every poor person to get quality education. This alternative measure will help government to provide quality education to all without bearing any extra burden.

Positive impacts of privatization of education :

Table-1
Positive impact of Privatization

S.N.	Positive Impact	No. of respondent	Percent
1	Increases educational institutions	67	33.5
2	Produces human resources	68	34.0
3	Reduces financial burden of the government	19	9.5
4	Generates employment opportunities	31	15.5
5	Reduces regional imbalances	15	7.5
		200	100.00

Sources : Field Survey

- The role of privatization is very important in India as it provides quality education to the over populated country because of the disciplined and efficient management. The study is conducted in Patna town of 200 respondents of several categories, such as poor class, lower middle class and upper middle class.
- 33.5% respondents accepted that the institutions always look for upgradation of the technologies so that these may provide skilled labour for the society.
- Moreover, it produces more and more human resources to meet the increasing demand for skilled and qualified one in agricultural industrial and service sectors. This result was accepted by 34% respondents in Patna.
- Among the total respondents only 9.5% are in this opinion that it decreases the financial burden of the state and the central government on education.
- It generates employment opportunities to educated youth in the labour market 15.5% respondents accepted this statement.
- 7.5% respondents are this opinion in the study that it leads to regional development, as establishment of educational institutions in rural areas expanded the electricity, transportation and communication, market facilities, etc.
- It motivates the parents to send their children for education. Thus, privatization encourages the rural parents to admit their children in schools as well as colleges.

Negative impacts of Privatization

Table-2
Negative impact of Privatization

S.N.	Negative Impact	No. of respondent	Percent
1	High cost of education	71	35.5
2	Private Business	48	24.0
3	Poor faculty	33	16.5
4	Inadequate infrastructure	26	13.0
5	Lack of quality education	22	11.0
		200	100.00

Sources : Field Survey

- Privatization has also negative impact on education and society. It increases the cost of education. It charges different fees to increase its income. 35.5% respondents expressed.
- 24% respondents commented that private institution turn educational institutions into private business firms this makes the value of education down.
- The study found that infrastructural facilities in the private institutions in Patna is inadequate and poor. Most of these do not have separate buildings, especially for staff and library. Even basic facilities like drinking water, hygiene toilet and equipped laboratories are not available. It is reported by 13% respondents. Privatization has turned education in to economic goods and it is bought and sold for money.
- About 16.5% respondents have this opinion that several educational institutions are having poor faculty members. Their degrees and qualities are even overlooked by the management and appointing inefficient teachers at low wages.
- Exploitation of workers is found in many educational institutions for e.g. low and delayed payment affect the working capacity of the teaching and non-teaching staffs, lack of co-operation between management and subordinates affect the academic environment of the educational institutions. About 11.0% respondents have this opinion in the study area.

It is observed from the study that because of complete privatization if done, all people right from poor class to rich class have to depend on these institutions, which ultimately affects the education system in India and many people can't complete their primary education as cost of education is not feasible for the poor as well as for the ordinary people.

Conclusion & Suggestions :

The study arrives at the conclusion that in one way privatization leads to improvement of quality education in our education system but on the other hand it deprives free education to all now as it is envisaged in our constitution. Improvement of government institutions in the present situation appears to be bleak.

The government encourages the privatization of education to achieve economic development through maximum utilization of human resources, but the lack of quality education affects employability of educated in society. In fact it increases the number of degree holders on the one hand and unemployment on the other. The reason is many of them are poor communication skill and practical knowledge. So, such type of education should be given which will prepare them for employment or engage in self employment.

Privatization increases the no. of educational institutions both in rural and urban areas which enables the parents to admit their children in these institutions. It generates employment and income opportunities. It increases the cost of education. It affects the poor and ordinary income groups. The quality of faculty is poor. Many of them are not fully qualified and experienced and they are also weak in language fluency and subject. Many educational institutions in Patna having are inadequate infrastructural facilities.

Government and educational authorities should give affiliation to only those institutions which fulfil the requirements of the affiliation bye-laws, like qualified and experienced teaching and non-teaching staffs, proper infrastructure, safety measures, reasonable salary, etc.

The private institutions should maintain quality and standards of education in this regard regulatory bodies should be established in the state because education is the responsibility of state government as per constitution of India. It should decide the fee structure as per government norms. It should check the salaries and status to the teachers for minimizing their exploitation. Only then our education system gets reformed in the private sector.

The better opinion appears to be aiding private organizations by providing infrastructural facilities, basic amenities, etc. by the government which will make our education system work more efficiently. But to provide quality education to the poor also, government has to adopt an efficient money transfer system so that the fees for the poor children may be given by the government. The individuals and religious organizations which are running educational institutions should keep in mind that man is more important than money and thus they should run it for the welfare of the man and society at minimum cost.

Therefore, it is concluded that if the above mentioned suggestions will be implemented, the quality of education provided through privatization will be improved and society may get good human resources which will ultimately help in economic development of the nation.

References :

1. Ansari M.S. (2005) Teacher in the Emerging Indian Society International Publishing House, Meerut.
2. Bhatia K.K. and Narang, C.L. (2004) Philosophical and Sociological Bases of Education Tandon Publishing, Ludhina.
3. Singh K. (2015), "Right to Education Report", published by HRC, 29 session June 10, 2015.
4. Unesco (2016), "Global education monitoring Report", de Fontenog 75352, Paris 07 spy France Retrieved March 4, 2018.
5. Education Privatization : Causes, Consequences and planning implications by United Nations Educational, Scientific and cultural organization ISBN : 92 : 803 : 1239-1
6. Aggarwal J.C. (2002) Theory and Principles of Education Vikas Publishing House, New Delhi.
7. Privatization of education Global Trends of Human rights in impacts from www.right-to-education.org.