Course-501 Elementary Education in India: A Socio- Cultural Perspective

Assignment-I

Note: Answer the following questions in about 500 words.
ASSIGNMENT-I

1. What type of changes you want in yourself as a teacher to cater the need of the changing society and learner? Explain with at least two examples.

   Answer-

   According to changing nature of today's society, we may realize the noticable changes and development taking place in the global society due to ICT(Information and communication Technology) today. ICT influences all walks of our life. This whole new social order is emerging in last couple decades. There is no precedence to these changes. The technological development and advances in the emerging world is so fast that, it is not possible to have a clear prediction of what will happen in just a couple decades. But, One can visualize the next coming years by the following points.

   a. The form of the future society that we visualize.
   b. The changes taking place in the conceptual framework of education taking place due to the advancing generation.
   c. Changes taking place in delivery modes.
   d. will the education system of today be still relevant for the future, or are we just moving towards no progress.

   This transforming generation needs an immediate plan of action for the education system to cope up with the new social structure and its unprecedented needs.

   So, As a teacher, to cater the changing status of society and learners, I would like to make the following change-

   1. **To develop better learning-resources**-
      For today's learning society implementation of new technologies in education is an important notion. Instructional processes are changing in

respect to the learner's autonomy. The learner is supreme and has got all the resources and choices available to select his or her strategy. New learning processes like self study, cooperative and collaborative learning, e-learning and branded learning. Group learning working-developing together, L3 groups of teachers/learners, social networking and blogs, are being used with every increasing frequency for sharing ideas, experiences, discussion and learning. Development and use of OERs, techniques and technologies for curriculum development and delivery, new pedadogy like constructive pedadogy, are proving more effective than the traditional ones in creation and sharing of knowledge.

2. **Performing as technology-pedgogue**-
Today's education techniques are also influenced by ICT applications. We can see that ICT can be useful in curriculum development and delivery modes, learning processes, like collaborative working, learning and developing. Self study. Open educational resources. L3 groups, online learning, etc.

Teachers today have to address to the issues related to this new learning process and newer learning environment. They have to find ways to facilitate learning and accelerate the process of change. Today's student will need new competencies, potential, skills, to be productive and efficient citizens of this global society. Education as an instrument of social change has to cater to the needs of the emerging society.

Question 2. Survey some schools in your locality and enlist the major issues of the elementary education. Suggest the ways to resolve these issues.

Answer-

 I have completed surveying the schools in our locality and have listed below the major issues of elementary education and their ways to resolve them-

Issues-

1. Poverty.
2. Less retention of children in school.
3. Gender discrimination among children.

Poverty- In elementary schools, one of the major issue i have noticed is poverty. They have to assist their parents at their workplace to earn some income and to carry out their livelihood of their family. From childhood they have to bear the family's burden, and sacrifice education for it. This is one of the reason for their less involvement in schools.

Resolution- As far as concerned about this issue is that, that all the government elementary schools have data of children who study in the schools and those who don't, all these records are maintained and reviewed every year in "BAL PANJI".

The way in which poverty can really be tackled according to me is to give more earning opportunities to their parents that the children would not have to work and can continue their studies. This would involve making a change in economy.

Less retention in schools-

This is a common issue that i see in government schools. In rural areas, most illiterate parents do not pay attention to their children's education. That is why, it is seen that most of these rural children do not attend school., and rather work and play outside of school. If there is no motivation from their parents then, it is a hard thing for children to think of themselves.

Resolution-

As a teacher, i think there should be a mass education campaign in rural areas to tell them and convince them that there is no future without education, and tell them the importance of education for their children and their own future. And, make education method intersting and engaging , so the children have fun learning, while will definitely lead to better number of children in schools.

Gender discrimination among children-

Discrimination based on gender is one of the impediments of elementary education. Girls are most often the victims of discrimination and are thus deprived of education. This is a curse of our society.

Resolution-

This is a very serious issue and should be resolved immediately. Government has provided many facilities and schemes for girls, still girls are lagging behind. So, as a teacher, i would like to stress on gender equality on the education level and tell them about the importance of girl education in our society. Overall, children from aged 6-14 have fundamental right of education irrespective of age and sex.

So, it's easy to find out the issue that affects elementary education, their reason for not attendance, or not schooling at all. Or, if Part-time type of education is available then, they can study as well as work. And we cannot forced parents to send children to school at all situations either, as often times, it is rather important for them to work than to study, so, it is a good approach according to me that, part-time education can be implemented, if possible.

ASSIGNMENT-II

Question 1. Enlist the various reasons for exclusion. What strategies you will adopt to setup an inclusive school and classroom?

Answer-

The main reasons for exclusion in a school or classroom
1. **Background of the child** - The children who are from a minority community or from poor families may not get enough importance. It does often happen that well to do children are given more priority by their friends and easily made friends, while, the later is left behind and does not really get opportunity to make friends.

2. **Variation in the learning abilities of children** - Bright students may look down upon the slow learners. This is a very bad habit that is unbelievably prevalent, and should be discontinued. Even when their peer is not good in a subject, they are well better than them in another field.

3. **Disability** - The children who have some sort of disability may feel excluded. Some students have a stuttering problem, and are found to be mostly with themselves.

4. Or they may feel different due to their looks , weight ot gender. They may be weak, and bullied too. Bullying is an oiffence and should be stopped.

Here i am compiled some strategies to make a classroom more inclusive. They are-

1. Use of suitable teaching and learning materials - Use of visual, audio, and audio-visual teaching aids to suit the needs of all the children.

2. Use of proper teaching methods - Teaching and learning should not involve only memorizing. There should be practical work which gives an opportunity to the students to express their different talents and skills.

3. Teaching should be interesting and simple - The content should be appropriate for the age group and abilities of the students. It should be presented in a simple way

which is easy to understand. Interactive activities should be taken up in which all can participate.

4. Setting up a friendly and congenial environment in the classroom - There should be no form of violence or fear. The children should feel comfortable and safe. The atmosphere in the classroom should not be stressful.

5. All the children should be given equal attention - The teachers should be suitably trained so that they can impart knowledge keeping in mind the needs of all the children.

Question 2. You as a teacher, critically analyse the implementation issues of Right to Education Act, 2009, face by your school. Suggest ways for better implementation of the Act?

Answer-

The right of children to free and compulsory education or right to education(RTE), is an Act of the parliament of India enacted on 4th august 2009, which expresses the modalities of the importance of free and compulsory education for children between 6 and 14 in India under article 21a of the Indian constutution.

I appreciate on the behalf of the Indian government that it took such a big step to promote betterment of education in India. As with the act, some issues faced by our school are-

A There are no special provisions to maintain quality of education. Here, i would like to stress more on education quality rather than right , as seen in some eight graders that they are not very fit to solve lower grade mathematical problems.

B The school do not have different toilet for boys and girls, and i think this is a serious issue that needs to be solved. As children grow up, they need to have different toilets for the needs they have.

C The concept of school management committee is limited to government schools, and the people can play a good role to promote better education in private schools too.

D . the budgeting and issuance of grants to private schools for purpose of free education, mid day meals, etc at regular intervals with adequate money is also a big hurdle in implementation of RTE.

E . There have been cases that, the teachers themselves involve themself in the free day meals and gives away significant amount of time ensuring the meals are good.

Suggestions For Better Implementation of the Right to Education-

With the RTE coming into effect, a new horizon of endless opportunities to achieve the goal of ensuring 100% primary education for all children in India has opened up. This act makes it mandatory for all the schools (Private schools in its ambit too) to provide free elementary education to the poor living in remote areas. The schools in that area will ensure transportation for the poor along with the other requirements. This will really have an impact on the increase in the literacy rate in India.

Even after 70 years independence, a majority of population in India is not able to enjoy the best of facilities. In some areas the poverty problem is quite grim. This RTE will work as a positive force in breaking the vicious circle in which millions of Indians are trapped. The RTE has brought a new hope for our country. Let's hope its implementation gets honestly done!

The days are not far when India will be placed on par with the other advanced countries. More importantly, education will improve the quality of skilled manpower in India. And soon the skilled people of India will eliminate all the existing problems in our country.

However, in spite of the passing of the Act, its implementation throughout India is quite poor. Laws are seldom respected in India. The Indian Government should make a task force to ensure it is followed and implemented in true spirit. All the schools must submit the data related to the implementation of the RTE Act. Those schools that fail to implement, their affiliation should to be withdrawn until they abide by the law.

The Government in association with NGOs should work in this regard for its successful implementation.

ASSIGNMENT-III

Question 1. Who are the ones who have dropped-out? Visit some schools in your locality and prepare a list on the drop-out children at the elementary level in your District. Enlist the reasons for the same? What can you do, as a teacher, to ensure that students retention in school?

Answer-

The students that do not join or left school due to poverty, migration of families , child, marriage, lack of school infrastructure, or far located school, etc, are the ones that are said to be dropped out.

I have visited the schools in our locality and found a fair amount of drop outs. Here I will list them out in a table, with their name and their reason of dropping out.

Name	Reason
Akai haolai	He is 12 years and met with his parents face to face to understand the reason why, and found that when his father fell very ill he left 7th grade to take on his father's work, to earn some income. He wants money, and always in need. As for his age, he have a very developed mentality.
Bishal nath	Bishal is around 10 years old, with toen clothes and bushy hair. He works collecting old recyclable plastics, and work as an apprentice in a small motor workshop. When asked why he left school. He said that, if he didn't work, who will bring food home.
Rani kumari	She is 8 years old, and her parents did not let her to go to school because she is schedule caste and school comes under high caste. So, when she is sent to school, her mother says, the people of higher caste treats her badly.
Mohan das	Mohan is a drop out, and his reason is school is boring. He is from a middle class family, and thinks school is just a waste of time. He is 13 years old.
Priya	She does not go to school, because, her school is too far away

I have found many others but, i have not listed here. I listed the only importance ones according to me, the other reasons were broad but, not classifiable.

From my study i have put up a list of why students leave school:

Cost: The cost of advanced education has been rising relentlessly for quite a long time, and students without money related help or parental guide frequently locate this monetary weight excessively, making it impossible to hold up.

Isolation: Numerous students either don't or can't contact faculty for help with coursework, which abandons them feeling disconnected in their examinations.

Social challenges: Students who find that they experience difficulty coordinating into a social group or making companions in higher education regularly leave school.

Unclear Expectations. Numerous students trust that the scholarly and individual expectations at their school or college have never been clarified, and they neglect to get a degree as a result of it.

And the resolution on How to end drop-out crisis:

Show Students Habits of Success:

Numerous students leave schools or colleges since they don't comprehend what is anticipated from them or are new to the resources the college offers.

Develop Small Goals:

Unfortunately, colleges that don't set objectives have a harder time measuring achievement and setting up successful projects.

Gather Data and Put It to Good Use:

To address the issue of low student retention rates, colleges must accumulate information on program adequacy, student accomplishment, and asset allotment.

Poll Students:

A standout amongst other approaches to shield students from leaving and shorten issues before they emerge is to overview students frequently.

Increase Resources for Academic Advising:

Academic advising is a basic factor in student achievement. Accommodating, learned, open guides are fundamental for helping students access to campus programs.

Conclusion-

The study explores the reason behind school drop outs and the measures to eradicate such problems. As evident, that this issue is a critical one, and taken fast and eradicative measures to end this once and for all. In this age of progress, and cyber activity, the education in rural areas have to be elevated as to meet and teach the children , and also produce big ministers from the small areas that the future children can be motivated to achieve.