



# PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF SECONDARY EDUCATION IN ASSAM

**Ronia Parbin**

Research Scholar, Dept. of Education

University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya

## ABSTRACT

Education in its general sense is a form of learning in which the knowledge, skill and habits of a group of people are transferred from one generation to the next through teaching and training. Teachers are static, readymade professionals who come to school to enable to have all the necessary education and skills required to teach effectively. Teacher education is the crossroads that has been passing through critical period. Quality in teacher education is the concern of all section of the society because quality of teacher education is the prerequisite for secondary school education. Secondary education is a stage of education that is imparted abler primary education and before higher education. It is that stage of education which helps children to become efficient members of a complex modern society both primary education and higher education are closely related to secondary as it is bridge between two. The progress of a country largely depends on expansion and improvement of secondary education. Apart from acquisition of knowledge and development of mental capacity of the individual, secondary education helps in bringing awareness and respect for worth of human person. It must inculcate sense of true patriotism and develop democratic citizenship. Secondary education also develop the capacity for clear thinking and respectively of new ideas, the intellectual integrity to distinguish truth from falsehood and fact from propaganda, scientific attitude of mind to think objectively and dispassionately. But our state, it is seen that secondary education has to face many problems in various situation. Therefore, an attempt has been made through this paper to study the various major problems faced by secondary education in Assam and also have tried to give proper solution in this regarded.

Key words-Secondary education, problems, prospects.

## INTRODUCTION

Education is a powerful tool which helps in harvesting success in every field of life. Education is the primary process of shaping and moulding the overall human behavior and nature of potentialities. Secondary education occupies a very strategies position in modern age. It come in between primary and higher education and extends in to the spheres of both. As an intermediate link, it sets the pace for the emphasis in primary education is determined largely by the objectives content and method of teaching followed in the high school. On the other hand, the quality of education in colleges and universities depends on the scholastic foundation, laid in the high school.

The secondary education is the final stage of education after which they enter into a practical life and take up employment in government, semi government and private sector .The efficiency in employment, to a large extent, depends on the quality of secondary education.

## METHODOLOGY

Methodology refers to philosophy on which research is based and it concludes assumptions and values that serve as basic for research and are used for interviewing data and reaching conclusion.

The descriptive method of educational Research is very common which is used our study. This method helps to explain educational phenomena in terms of the conditions or relationship that exists. It deals with clearly defined problems and has definite objectives.

This paper is theoretical in nature. It is based on secondary data collected from various secondary sources like books, journals, newspaper, internet etc.

## VOCATIONALIZATION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

There is a great need of Vocationalization of secondary education. The Indian Education Commission of 1882 recommended the introduction of practical subjects in Secondary Schools. The Hartog Committee (1992) also recommended diversion of more boys to industrial and commercial courses. In 1937 wood report about contained a provision for annual activities in school curriculum. Mahatma Gandhi recommended education through the craft. The idea of Gandhi was translated in to practice in the form of basic education. However due to practice difficulties the scheme of basic education became a failure .In the words of the Secondary Education Commission of 1952-53 Secondary education should be vocationalized in a large measure total enrolment at the higher secondary stage by 1986.

Thus the secondary education commission of 1952-53 recommended vocationalization of secondary education for improving the productive efficiency and to increase the national wealth and thereby to raise the standard of living. Especially the higher secondary schools will play a greater role in the vocationalization of secondary school curriculum. Although various vocational subjects has been introduced since then in our secondary schools. Yet the efforts from satisfactory and there is largest need to improve the situation.

## MAIN PROBLEMS OF SECONDARY EDUCATION IN ASSAM

Secondary education in Assam is provided by the schools which are run either by the state or under the management of private organizations. Most of the schools are affiliated to SEBA. Also there are several schools in Assam which are affiliated to CBSC. The secondary education has been divided into two sections-lower secondary and higher secondary.

To improve the quality of secondary education in our country, a number of commissions have been appointed and many steps have been taken by the government. But unfortunately, in spite of their measures the secondary education in our state is lagging behind in quality. It has been unable to achieve each of objectives due to certain problems. The major problems that the secondary education in Assam has confronted are discussed below-

- In some secondary schools of rural areas of Assam the school buildings are small in numbers of students and existing are in dilapidated condition .In most cases the desks and benches are not enough which hampers in the teaching learning process and causes disturbance in children's mental activity in turn it affects on their intellectual development.
- Curriculum refers to the program of study. As the students of the secondary stage of education are their adolescence period, the curriculum should be planned in such a way that it helps the students to decide their roles in the society. The secondary education commission (1952-1953) recommended that the curriculum should be recognized to keeping in view the demands of the times and those of country. But, the present curriculum of secondary education is not appropriate to fulfill the needs of the students as well as the society. The curriculum has failed to keep pace with the contemporary time.

- Since independence various committees and commission have mentioned various aims of secondary education. But the secondary schools of Assam have not materialized those aim till date, instead those remain only printed on papers. Secondary education is not complete by itself. In Assam it is regarded only as a ladder to higher education. Hence, its main defect is its aimlessness.
- In the present system of secondary education there is little scope for total development of personality or individuality which is the avowed aim of education in all ages. Adolescence stage which covers secondary education in the proper stage for such development.
- Another problem of secondary education is lack of properly qualified and trained teachers. In many secondary schools teachers are appointed without proper pre-service training. Therefore inspite of having better teaching qualification and training are not opting for teaching job.
- Secondary education does not provide opportunities leadership training. Students are the future leaders in different walk of our national life such as their traits of leadership should be cultivated when they are young and sensitive enough. Secondary stage can be regarded as the breeding ground for leadership training.
- Another problem of secondary education is textbooks, which is also intimately connected with the problem of curriculum and methodology of teaching. Many students suffer from want of text books which are very costly. Textbooks are often changed. This has added fuel to the fire 45% of the population in our country leaves below the subsistence level. It is not possible for them to purchase text books for their children and to supply necessary stationery needed for educational purpose.
- One of the problems of secondary stage of education in Assam is the problem of discipline. We often notice indiscipline among the secondary school students who are mostly from the schools run by the state government. To make students ideal citizens it is important to inculcate the value of discipline in them.
- Parents who are illiterate do not fully realize the importance of education for them as well as for their children. It stands as a constraint the education of their children. Though massive program for removing adult illiteracy has been taken up those programs of are quiet inadequate. So it has not provided a conductive atmosphere to attract student to go to school.
- Since independence there is a gap between the education of boys and girls in Assam, especially in the rural areas and of the illiterate parents. There are some areas where education of girls is not considered essential. Those people prefer girls to engage in household works to send them to school. The prejudices against girls education is the major problems in the universalization of secondary education.
- The secondary education of Assam always suffers due to economic hardship. Assam is primarily an agrarian economy and nearly 70% of the total population in the state is dependent on agriculture and allied sectors. With 34.40% of people living below the poverty line and with a per capita income of Rs 30569-(Economic survey of Assam, (2011-12), Govt. can hardly afford to make massive investment that are required for proper growth of secondary education.
- To improve and expand secondary education, it is important to create awareness in parents towards education. In Assam most of the student who hail from rural areas, do not gate and educational environment of their homes. The parents of such students are indifferent towards the needs of their children, Therefore the students get little opportunity for supplementing the education given at school.
- For effective teaching and learning, well equipped laboratories and subject room are needed, but the truth is that a majority of secondary school of Assam till today lack these essentials facilities many school and colleges have building that the call laboratories, but most of these are not equipped with essential books and current journals and magazines. Also, many school and colleges do not have science laboratories while a good number of those that have, do not poses the basic tools or equipment as microscopes, dissecting instrument and specimens.

- Also many schools do have “special room for teaching such basic subjects as history, geography etc. In such a situation as this, the teacher cannot put in their best, and the students too cannot learn properly, and the overall development of the children, within the school system is retarded.
- The concept of ‘poverty’ refers to a situation and process of serious deprivation or lack of resources and material necessary for living within a minimum standard of human dignity and well-being. Admission and being in school today is merely on ability to pay what is demanded by school operators and not on what could be offered academically and this is essence widens the scope of poverty prevalence as well as the gap between the rich and poor which education is designed to bridge. Poor students even do not get admitted in many smart institutions because they offer this opportunity only for their greed only.
- The present secondary education is not related to productivity. In most of the western countries secondary education is highly related to productivity. But this is not so in our country. Secondary education in our state does not help to gain national production both in agricultural as well as in industrial. The schemes of core periphery and work experience have failed miserably and the plus-two stage has not yet been Vocationalised as proposed.
- Research basically aims at improving knowledge and understanding for solution of vital problems faced by man in the field of education and for developing theories and generalizations. Though Research has been conducted till now, these cannot satisfy the inquisitive and scientific thirst for knowledge.
- The system of examination in secondary education is full of defects. Examination is the part and parcel of the process of education. The present system of education creates anxiety and fear in students. In the last couple of years numerous reports have been published in the media on the anomalies in conducting examinations. To make the secondary education in Assam a better one, it is important to reform the system of examination.
- The evaluation system has been found defective. Evaluation are confirm only to the bookish examination pattern which cannot developed the students skills and abilities.
- In our state, secondary students generally suffer from lack of proper guidance and counseling with the result that education is pursued aimlessly. Teachers are not ready to bear this responsibility.
- Overcrowded classroom is a problem in the secondary schools. When the number of students is high per classroom, it becomes difficult for the teacher to pay attention to each student and on their development becomes less, proper guidance cannot be provided.
- Secondary education today neglects co-curricular activities. Mere curricular activities cannot help to develop all round personality of an individual. Here lies the need of organization of co-curricular activities.

## PROSPECTS OF SECONDARY EDUCATION IN ASSAM

- To make the secondary education potent and successful, it is important to tackle the problems confronting to it. In this regard some prospects can be forwarded as follows-
- State or central government should provide adequate funds to the secondary school for proper infrastructure.
- The teacher is a person who performs multifarious activities. A teacher is the guide to his/her students. With the changing time, the attitude of the teacher should also be changed.
- Emphasis should be given on both pre-service and in-service teacher education should be conducted to make teachers aware of the importance of teacher education.

- As mentioned earlier, the secondary education lacks well-planned and suitable curriculum. To lesson this problem, teacher can participate in curriculum and material development. It will also be helpful in developing their effectiveness.
- Gender and social discrimination also causes problems in secondary education. These also create hindrance in social development. To ensure the quality of secondary education it must be freed from all types of inequalities.
- Vocational education should be included in secondary school curriculum. It will bring a change to the education system which is mainly bookish and theoretical. Also, it will help in preparing the secondary school students for their future life. The students keep pace with the contemporary
- To make the students keep pace with the contemporary time, various programs such as debate competition, symposium, quiz competition etc. Should be organized in schools. These will increase their knowledge and build their confidence.
- The part of secondary school students are in their adolescence, which is the cross road of life. Therefore guidance and counseling should be made an integral part of secondary education, as recommended by Indian education commission, 1964-66.
- Importance should be given for Research study to solve problems of secondary education.
- Illiterate parents should be encouraged through adult education to send their children to school.
- Modern learning aids such as computers, internet Web site facilities, overhead projectors, films etc should be provided in school.
- Educating and re-orientation of teachers, parents and students on the need to discourage examination malpractice in school.
- Common school system should be introduced.
- Guidance and counseling should be an integral part of education.
- Effective facilities should be provided for the training of teacher.
- Qualitative and affordable education should be made available for all.

## CONCLUSION

Everyone should try to solve the existing problems of secondary education for the better future of the nation, as future rests on the hand of student-teacher. Education must aim at increasing the productive or vocational efficiency of young students. Diversification of courses should be introduced at the secondary stage so that large number of students may take up agricultural, technical, commercial or other practical courses which will train their varied aptitudes and quality education.

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