

Quality Education

Quality is at the heart of education and what takes place in classrooms and other learning environments is fundamentally important to the future well-being of children, young people and adults. A quality education is one that satisfies basic learning needs and enriches the lives of learners and their overall experience of living.

Quality education means, the education which fulfill the desired standard of knowledge and skill. This education is the key to reducing the numbers of children who cannot read and write and those out of school. It is also vital for every individual's potential to become a global citizen.

Human rights education is also an essential element of quality education. Quality education aims not only at forming trained professional workers but also contributes to the development of individuals who possess the skills to act and interact in a just society.

UNICEF (2000) and UNESCO (2004) recognize five dimensions of education quality:

- Learner
- Environment
- Context
- Priorities
- Outcomes

All are founded on the rights of the whole child and of all children, enabling them to survive and be protected, and providing for their development and participation.

Indicators of Quality Education

Following are the indicators of quality education-

- Healthy, well-nourished and motivated students.

- Well-trained teachers and active learning techniques.

- Adequate facilities and learning materials.

- A relevant curriculum that can be taught and learned in a local language and builds upon the knowledge and experience of the teachers and learners.

- An environment that not only encourages learning but is welcoming, gender-sensitive, healthy and safe.

- A clear definition and accurate assessment of learning outcomes, including knowledge, skills, attitudes and values.

- Participatory governance and management.

- Respect for and engagement with local communities and cultures.

Enhancement of Quality in Secondary Education

Schools handle the important responsibility of imparting education to students and developing them into responsible and enterprising individuals. This can only be achieved when the quality of education provided is the top priority of every school. Quality education in schools has been a topic of discussion everywhere. Schools need to take the initiative to improve the infrastructure and the curriculum drafted for every class. Below, discussed are a few basic measures that schools can take to enhance the quality of secondary education:

Ongoing Teacher Development: Teachers need constant polishing of their skills. It is important they stay updated with the changing trends in the teaching industry and implement that in their classrooms. By means of ongoing professional development teachers can learn from each other's experience and also catch up on the latest techniques of teaching, emerging technology tools for the classroom, new curriculum resources, and more. Also they need to get the experiential and collaborative exposure that is connected to and derived from working with students and understanding them. Since they serve as the most important resource of ensuring quality education in schools, it is important that regular professional development sessions are arranged for them.

Student Assessment: It is important that the progress of every child is tracked to understand the effectiveness of the curriculum implemented. Hence, schools should organize regular tests to assess the understanding of the students. Summative and formative assessments help teachers to gauge the grasping level of the child and make the required improvements in the teaching methods. Written and oral tests should be given to students at regular intervals. This will not only help the teachers but also the parents to know of the child's progress.

Innovative Teaching Methods: Implementation of new teaching methods will help students to concentrate better on the topic being taught. Teachers can try methods like assigns projects to facilitate self research, organizing quizzes, planning outdoor activities, explaining with the help of live demonstration etc. Also teachers can develop methods by means of which they can give personal attention to each student and solve their queries. Applying a new approach to introduce the subject will make it attractive to the students which will help to gain their interest. This will in turn ensure quality education in schools.

Education Service Providers: Schools can even seek for the services of education service providers. These are experts at developing new and innovative methods of teaching keeping in mind the requirement of every class. They arrange workshops to train teachers on improved methods of classroom management and teaching. The aim of their workshop is to provide comprehensive training of applying the curriculum with use of innovative teaching techniques

and managing the class more efficiently. Moreover, the course helps teachers to prepare a curriculum that matches the requirement of students at different levels of understanding.

Education quality is a notion with many different aspects. An education sector of good quality is the basis for the establishment of a society of equal opportunities, safety and security, participation and eventually democracy and good governance in a country. A system that focuses on quality education allows children to develop and grow in school environments that are supportive and at the same time challenging, which nurture them to become confident, have good self-esteem and willing to strive forward yet at the same time feel a sense of responsibility towards others in their community. We believe that all our schools can be such places where children of different abilities develop, learn and grow together.

Mehjabeen Hussain
Assistant Professor
College of Education, Nagaon
Email- mehjabeen11jan@gmail.com