

# Privatisation of education in india



In a modern society, education is a very important sector. Education, at the individual level helps in the process of socialisation. At the level of society, it ensures that the traditional wisdom passes from one generation to the others and the new and modern knowledge is imbibed by the present generation. The government of every nation is particularly careful about the educational sector because it is crucial for the development of that nation.

Thus traditionally the task of educating people has fallen on the government more, so, if the government has adopted welfare approach, as is done today by most nations. But since the last decade or two the concept of the governance has changed. More and more governments are adopting the role of directing rather than intervening and financing. We, in India also have a welfare government.

However, since the last decade India has taken the road to liberalisation. At the same time India has followed a gradual and cautious approach to liberalisation. In a liberal economy there is a dismantling of government sector initiatives and the task of economic activities devolves on the Private sector. It is in this context that we have debated upon privatisation of education. Privatisation of education has both negative and positive fallouts. Therefore any discussion on privatisation of education must take into account both its positive and negative impacts.

It has been argued that privatisation of education is necessary from several stand points. In the first place, education has become a very expensive venture which the government cannot afford. Secondly, the educational

infrastructure of the government is poor. There are shortages of school buildings, teaching staff and other facilities.

The government lacks resources. All these adversely affect the overall equality of education. It has also been suggested that since the government spends so much on education and is not able to reap the proportionate rewards due to several reasons, therefore, education should be privatised. This is especially true for higher education like advanced research which costs the government a fortune. Given these facts, privatisation of education has been proposed.

But, for a poor country like India, privatisation of education will not be without its unmitigated ills. First of all, how many Indian families can really afford the high cost of private education? According to official estimates 50 percent of the Indian population still lives below the poverty line. Will it then be possible for these families to afford the cost of private education, especially when India is all for the universalizing of primary education? It is also feared that the entry of private sector in the field of education will distort education. It will become elitist and capitalist in nature.

Technically skilled work-force will cater to the demands of the big industrial houses, rather than thinking in terms of nationalist goals. Privatisation of education will further widen the gulf dividing the rich and the poor. Keeping these problems in mind, it is suggested that the government should keep primary and secondary education in its own hands. The higher education and technical education should be guided by the government, while at the same time should be.