

Social Enterprises: Boon to Education Sector

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ABSTRACT

Back ground: Education is the basic element to end poverty in all forms, to be given to the people of this planet, to attain prosperity. Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development is the action plan of United Nations for people, planet and prosperity. **Objectives:** To provide an overview of existing social enterprise and the social entrepreneurs focusing on education and to learn the way they work to educate the schools stake holders, disabled children, helping and providing higher education. **Methodology:** A literature review was done from the secondary resources. **Results:** A plethora of social enterprise was found to be involved in providing services across the various stake holders of education sector. The remarkable role played by them in achieving sustainable development in education sector was found.

Keywords: Sustainable Development, Social Enterprise, Education sector.

1. INTRODUCTION

Education is a process of acquiring knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits. Education helps one to understand the world better, to perceive things better, gives a good perception of life, to mitigate most of the challenges faced in life, to get better prospects in career growth, empowers to change life, to reduce inequality, serves as an instrument to eliminate poverty, to overcome the gender inequality, improves the economy of the country.

Many countries give Compulsory free education comprising of primary and secondary education to its children from the age of 3 to 18 years, as such the lower and higher age range varies from country to country for so many great reasons.

Though the government framed several plans, policies to educate all its children still we find places where basic, quality primary education was not at the reach especially in rural parts of the country. As the responsibility lies in the hands of education system to solve the problem of unemployment, to lower the income inequality, to make employability possible, introducing employable skill set training, online courses were come to play.

Interestingly traditional idea of schooling was studying, writing and counting talents, however now literacy is thought as a means of identification, grasping, interpretation, formation, and conveying in this digitalised, textual content-mediated, data-rich and rapid-changing world. **2.Global scenario**

According to OECD definition for educated population means, a country with its people ages between 25 and 64 having completed some sort of tertiary training in the form of a 2-year or 4-year diploma or vocational program. Based on these guidelines, US funds ranked the top 10 most educated countries in the world were Luxemburg has 42.86% of educated population, Norway 43.0%, Finland 43.60%, Australia 43.74%, United States 45.67%, United Kingdom 45.96%, Korea 46.86%, Israel 49.90%, Japan 50.50%, Canada 56.27% respectively.

2. United Nations' Agenda

World Leaders of UN adopted **The 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development**, in September 2015 in a historic UN Summit. To achieve this it has identified 17 goals to transform the world. The 17 sustainable development goals were No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health & Well being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean energy, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Industry Innovation and Infrastructure, Reduced Inequality, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, Life Below Water, Life on Land, Peace, Justice and Strong Institution, Partnerships for the Goals. (un.org)

The Global Education 2030 schedule (UNESCO) focuses to “make sure of providing inclusive, fair and impartial high-quality education and support lifelong studying opportunities for all.” (un.Org) Though quality education being the fourth goal, Literacy would be the main driver to enable all other goals. Only an educated Community/Nation

could think about all other sustainable goals, as educated nationals could understand the importance and could extend their participation in reaching sustainable development. The 17th goal insist the partnership for the goals which means partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society.

3. Higher Education

When it comes to the question of tertiary education otherwise called as higher education, it is not given compulsorily in most of the places. Higher education was not possible to many because of their culture, gender, social class, economic status, geography, lack of technology, etc.

India has one of the largest higher education systems in the world; with more than 700 universities, 11,000 diploma-level bodies and 37,000 colleges. Despite this, fewer than one in ten young people have access to tertiary education in India, and demand for places consistently outstrips supply. (British council).

3.1 Bharat Calling

The prevailing ambiguity regarding higher education were due to lack of exposure, illusions about fees, poor exposure to filling online application, commuting to exam centres, difficult in arranging minimum basic cost and so on as identified by **Bharat Calling**. To overcome the problem Bharat Calling an initiative of Mehto in 2009 at Madhya Pradesh, with help from TISS, to deal with dropout percentage and to inculcate the awareness about the higher education opportunities among rural students. They conduct a basic orientation, in rural government schools about the availability of numerous career alternatives to be had through better higher education, accompanied by way of a camp of 30 days that helps school students to apply for admission to higher education institutes of their preference. It helps youngsters from small rural settings to benefit access for admission in the topmost universities, inclusive of guidance in form filling, to know the status of application, admission procedure and a next follow up till they get an admission in the colleges to pursue their higher education. This social enterprise was awarded life time fellowship by National Social Entrepreneurship forum 2011 and Best Social Venture -Manoudyami TISS 203. This social venture partnering with **DBS**, has so far conducted camps in 27 schools involving volunteers from several

universities. Thereby it provides platform to marginalised students for higher education, with complete support.

3.2 University of The People(UoPeople)

This is the world's first university to function as a non-profit higher education institute. It is an online, tuition free, accredited American university. This social enterprise started in 2009 has gone a step higher than the former, offering free under graduate and post graduate courses for all qualified people of the world. This distance learning online university has students enrolled from 194 countries and 18552 students since 2009. Students must pay a minimal administrative expenses which could be used for processing applications and for assessment of final exam; but, students who can't manage to pay for the administrative costs can be eligible for scholarships. This social corporation makes an extremely low price college degree possible.

Shai Reshef is the founder and president. He strongly believes that higher education is not the same as before. Earlier it was a privilege of certain class or group of people but now recognised as a right to all. That's why he created an internet education platform that makes it pretty low priced to people around the world. He is The game changer in higher education. Shai Reshef used his social company to leverage partnership with New York University, Yale Law School, Hewlett-Packard, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Microsoft.

World Bank reports that, around the world an approximate of 250 million children, after spending two to three years in school though were unable to read and write. To get better learning results, strategic planning and proper interventions needs to be carried out at all levels of the education system. So any changes or improvement designed in education sector should include all the stakeholders. The stakeholders of the education sector is students, children, teachers, community and parents. There are several social enterprises which aims for developing and helping the stakeholders to impart quality education in the community.

4. Various Intervention of Social Enterprises

4.1 Focus on Teachers

Ellen Moir, founder of **New Teacher Center (NTC)** focuses the importance of teacher effectiveness which could be improved by specific mentoring, training, and other support

practices help make teachers great. NTC is a widely acknowledged leader in the field of teacher effectiveness, serving 25,000 new teachers and 1.5 million students. It improves student education by accelerating teacher and school leaders effectiveness. Teachers can contemplate a path of social entrepreneurship because teachers fundamentally care about developing their people—their students knowing well about every child and their family background and all other personal details and they have the access to know about the student's problem also. So it would be easy for a teacher to involve the students for their continuous education and plan a better way to educate the community.

4.2 Focus on Youth

Teach For India is a non-profit social enterprise, recruits graduates from college all over the country and also working professionals irrespective of their discipline of study may be engineer, lawyer, mathematician, statistician, physics or commerce. These college graduates have to work for two years as full-time teachers in schools receiving poor funds or no funds most of the times. The exposure that the fellows got to the grassroots realities of India's education system and impact they got during their service in under-resourced schools urges them to attain knowledge, skills, and mindsets necessary in building a larger movement for equity in education.

4.3 Focus on Schools

Adhyayan as a social enterprise, works with a mission to transform 1 lakh schools by 2025, of which 75% will be low-cost government and affordable private schools placing the process of school audits in the hands of 'insiders' in schools, like parents, staff and students for the improvement of each school. They help in building leadership and transforming the quality schooling with an international approach suiting the need of the community.

4.4 Focus on Parents

Eduraft helps parents to choose a right kind of education, other services such as arranging tuition classes and extra-curricular activities for their children. Based on requirements Eduraft shortlists the schools and helps in tracking admission processes also targets tutorials and classes providing allied school activities. It is a listing service that aims at providing a) the tutors the right target audience and b) the parents important information for their decision-making process.

4.5 Focus on disabled

The Kahani Project having 600 stories on their online repository in ten languages and reached 40 countries, keeping the non availability of books for differently abled and visually impaired children. The ability to narrate a story would definitely help the children to develop confidence, expression, language, reduces fear of verbal expression. Storytelling moulds the personality of the child in a way that improves the memory ,verbal proficiency, enhance listening skills, and the creativity of the child.

4.6 Focus on English literacy

Leap for Word is a English literacy program. To widen the bottleneck for millions of Indians because of Lack of English, limits their opportunities to grow in life. Almost all higher education and most quality jobs require at least a basic understanding of English. Leap for word help students in rural India learn English .

4.7 Focus on Vocational Education

Classleskillnet provides training on employable skills by connecting teachers and students from various institutions across the world. It conducts online workshop, skill training, living module to equip oneself in a specific domain. It emphasises the importance of skills than knowledge.

4.8 Focus on Curriculum

iDiscoveri was conceived as a social enterprise with a mission to revive education in India. It focuses on curriculum, teaching those syllabus. They developed XSEED, a program that aims educate children from ages 3 to 13 years old, through a quality curriculum that adds quality teaching to the classroom and thereby it improves student learning.

4.9 Focus on books

Hippocampus initially started children's library in order to teach students to use their leisure time usefully. Now it is helping schools to establish and maintain libraries. It also trains teachers on how to involve students library activities. It also establishes low-cost, education centres with a unique focus on community and curriculum, in many places of the country.

5. CONCLUSION

Thus many social entrepreneurs started their ventures to disprove that higher education was not for the fortunate few but for every one. Social enterprises started to focused on promoting education and literacy for the development of the mankind. Social entrepreneurship used to teach literacy and numeracy as well as creativity and innovation and as a way to create value

for people and planet. Social entrepreneurship has huge potential to engage teachers and young people, and to transform education for good. It can build the social capital of children across the world to work with others from different backgrounds and ages. It can build the social capital of teachers and entrepreneurs, helping them find a common language. Social enterprise models could be incorporated to reach the base of the pyramid more effectively.

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