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Sibaram Khara
Sharda University, Greater
Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

Educational transformation of community child is an essential factor for solid foundation of Viksit Bharat

Sibaram Khara

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Abstract

India has made an ambitious aim to become a developed country by 2047. India needs to develop its own indigenous solutions for development gaining substantial economic growth to increase not only per capita income, but also to develop world class infrastructure along with ambience. However, India also needs to ensure the human development index with global standard citizen. More than 11.8% of total population in India belongs to the age group of 0-6 years of children. They are to be educated with skills to prepare leaders and work force to contribute for developed India in 20 years. Considerable percentage of these child belongs to rural area & community sector, and their education, development and skills will lay a solid foundation for Viksit Bharat.

Keywords: Community, labour, education, skills, Viksit Bharat

Introduction

Current population of India is about 1.44 billion and 17.72% of total population of the world. Urban populations in India is 36.3% and overall gender ratio of men and women in India is 51.6:48.4^[1]. The population distribution between age group 0-4 years is 7.8% and the population in age group between 5-9 years is 8.1%. Hence, the population in age group between 0-6 years is ~12%. We wish to highlight the age group between 0-6 years because in 17 years they are expected to be higher study when they reach in age group of 17-23 years. In 17 years, India will also be in a phase to be attaining the credentials to be recognized as developed country. Hence the education and skills of these section of population will be crucial to contribute in the transition phase of development in India and to take the developed status forward.

The population in age group between 15-24 years who are in higher secondary and higher study is 17.6%. Their contribution in building developed country will be very important as they are acquiring education and skills now. Thus kind to skills and research they will be able to carry out for implementation is crucial factor to build developed country. These population must be give facility to work in modern technology to take lead in indigenous solutions.

The literacy rate in India is 77.7% with 84.7% male and 70.3% female. Although, state-wise literacy rate in India varies where Kerala has the highest literacy (96.2%) rates and Bihar has the lowest literacy (66.4%). The literacy rate in urban is 86% and that in rural is 71%^[4]. Total current population of children between 0-6 years of age (11.8%) is around 16 crore. The children belong to urban community such as workers, labours and others have more problem than village children as far as access to education is concerned. This because the general education facility is village is more accessible. However, for service class people, the education facility in urban is more than the those in village. Total illiterate population in India (22.30%) is 32 crore which is almost the population size of USA. 20 crore of such illiterate population are belonging to rural India. Thus India has tremendous challenges to give affordable education with skills to such as huge size of population. There are scopes for expansion of education infrastructure in urban, but in rural the education infrastructure is limited as private institutes are not so profitable for investors. The size of illiterate children of age group between 0-6 years is 3.5 core out of which 1.28 core in urban and 2.22 crore in rural.

Corresponding Author:
Sibaram Khara
Sharda University, Greater
Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

In this article, we emphasize on how important it is for India to give affordable access to education of unprivileged children. If India needs to become developed country, the education with skills of to such children are very essential. We present the issues and challenges in the grassroot level as far as education to access is concerned for community and village children. The study on family of unprivileged people has been done through community connect program of Sharda university in collaboration with Shivani foundation who are working in a centre provided by Export Promotional Industrial Park (EPIP), Kasna, Greater Noida, UP. where large number of workers stay in the area with their family members. The centre brought almost 50-60 children of industry labours in the centre and hosted them regularly for their overall development, education and skilling. The centre has identified number of issues and challenges of such labours and their children. Finally when propose some solutions required to be implemented to convert the children of labourers into an educated and skilled labour for next generation for development of family, society and country as a whole.

Community

Our study is focussed on a community comprises of industry and village labours. The industry labours and their children have some social issues that are different from those prevailing in village labours.

Industry and construction labours: There several hundreds of small industries in the area of Kasna, Greater Noida, UP. Besides the engineers, technicians and officers, these industries use labours for various works related to shifting and moving of materials and products. More than 60% labours came from outside the UP state and come from Bihar and west Bengal. Almost 40% labours are from own state Uttar Pradesh and most of them are from outside Greater Noida and from other districts. Greater Noida is an upcoming global city and large number of construction is on progress. Therefore, large number of labours are also engaged in these construction works. Local authority has provided shelters to construction labours with basic facilities for such labour near to industry and construction sites. This is required because the labours must stay close to the construction sites so that they are readily available and come in time. If required, labours work overtime as builders want to complete the construction at faster pace. Usually a tin shaded shelter of 50-75 sq. ft. provided each family. Some labour stay single, but most of the labours (80%) stay with family. Each family has 2-3 or more children. Some labours have brought their parents in the small shelter and stay with them. It is important to note that the labours in the shelters share the facilities on requirement and they have very good and cordial relationship.

Some industry labours stay in shelters and some stay in a general rented facility slightly better than shelter. It is also found that some labours adjust to stay in the factory itself where both labours and factory owners are mutually benefitted. Some industry labours with seniority acquire skills and become supervisors, painters, plumbers, electricians, mechanics and operators. Their life style usually changes and like to stay in rented house. Some of them become self-engaged with independent service provider and give works to some other labours.

Village and Agriculture Labours: Most of the village labours are engaged in agricultural works such as preparing soil of farms, ploughing, using tractors, sawing, harvesting, trashing, manuring, weeding out, etc. In Greater Noida, some village labours come from other districts and they stay in government provided labour shelters. These labours specifically come during harvesting of wheat.

Comparison between industry and agricultural labours

- Usually, village and agricultural labours work in the same village in which they stay or at most they go to the other places and come back to home at the end of the day. But, industry workers usually move near to the industry which may be anywhere in the country.
- The scope of elevation of job role of agricultural labours are not as bright as those are for industry labours. Industry labours have scope to learn other skills which benefit them to change their job role and wages. This is because more technical skills are required in construction and industry works at different level of roles.
- Village labours usually prefer to leave the agricultural works and wish to go for industry works at distant places for more technical roles and increases wages. They move out of their own state to other states as well. On the contrary, industry labours move from industry to village (native place) due to social reasons such as protect parental house, look after parents, marriage of daughters, to start small business in village out their previous saving from industry works, etc.
- Work security in village is dependent on the geographical and environmental situation. Any natural calamity may kill the thousands of job over night. However, job security in industry is brighter. Even if organisation fails, they can switch to other organisation. Their job security hampers duo to nigger calamity such as pandemic, etc.

Both industry and agriculture labours need to be given modern skills to increase the productivity and entrepreneurship. Agricultural labours need to be enabled to take up agro-based projects to elevate in career thereby contributing to national growth. The poultry, fishery, food processing, organic farming, etc. are important. Village workers field work can be converted into white colour jobs by the use of modern technology to attract youth in agriculture. Currently, labours need to involve in muds and waters thus village workers are not much respected and they try to prefer industry labours. This creates labour crisis for agricultural works in rural India which is becoming serious day by day. Thus the education and skills to this community certainly help in building developed India. But India will have challenges specifically in village to implement the skilled based education. The idea of vocational courses in secondary and higher secondary education needs to be implemented in full spirit to take India forward in 20 years. Digital road ways to country side will be key enabler not only to enhance literacy level, but also the help attain the target of gross enrolment ratio (GER) of 50%. Thus access to education to community child at affordable cost and reduction in dropout rates in primary, secondary and higher secondary level need to be reduced drastically.

Delve in Community Issues: Our physical survey and interaction with labours and their children in Kasna area revealed some valuable facts in living condition, sanitation, financial background, health awareness, educational constraints, child labours, anti-social trends, women problems, mobility, skills requirement, food habit, social life. These facts are useful to understand the people and take corrective measures social, educational and economic development of the people. It is worth mentioning here that usual wages for labour is four hundred rupees per day. For expert labours, the wages goes up to six to seven hundred rupees per day.

Living condition: The labours live in a common place with number of tin shaded shelters. Their lavatory system is common. People need co-operate with other to manage the limited and common toilet facilities. People need to wake up early or think their appropriate time so that in a short span of time the common toilets can be used and they can be prepared to go for days work. Local municipality arrange timely evaluation of toilet chambers. Sometimes the toilet reservoir overflows if it is not evaluated in time.

People will usually have common bath place as well. Few water taps shall be provided in reserved place in and around, people need to take bath. However, women the bathing place is separated by themselves. Water tap is not provided to the shelter directly. Similarly, they do not have cooking gas connection. Usually they use kerosene stoves for cooking. They store water in the shelter and mange some place for cooking. These people usually do not have any complaint to their life. They seem happy, in fact, some people even do not think what better life can be there for them.

Financial background: The visit to community and discussion with industry labours brings out diversified financial background of labours from where they moved out to work here.

- Some people have good properties in village, but for better scope they came as labours.
- Some people did not have any property, they were just village works and moved out for industry workers.

Some of these people had better ambience in life in their village, still preferred to work in constraints as industry labour because of better scopes. They also think that they will earn own respect in front family members in villages.

Health care: Lack of health consciousness is one of the biggest concern in the community. There are multiple reasons for their poor health care conditions.

- Lack of awareness and knowledge to take basic care of sanity, cleanliness and government facilities.
- There are some health care centres in the area or in a short distance, but still people somewhat careless to visit medical centre. This happens because the awareness level and consciousness and motivation is very poor. Probably education and number health camps bring them the desired awareness.

Educational constraints: During our community visit to industrial area of Kasna, we have seen that May children are not going to schools. Their parents go to works, they prefer

stay at home but do not go to school. We have gathered the reasons for their dis-interest in education.

- Some families have 2-4 children between the age group of 2-8 years. Usually ender child of a family needs to take care of his/her sister(s)/brother(s) during the absence of their parents in works.
- Some families are not interested to send the children to school so that they avoid education expenditure and prepare children to engage in works for more family income.
- There is not such schooling facility with affordable cost or with not cost nearby.
- The families face financial burden of transport cost to send the children to schools.
- Some families do not have homely ambience and facilities to give the basic support for education to children.
- No such success story of such children to motivate them towards education for better life.
- Some government facilities such as ICDS are not situated within their easy reach and access.

Child labours: The issue of child labour in industrial area is very common. The child are engaged in various small works related to wide aspects of jobs. Some boys are engaged in some small shops nearby packaging, moving items within the a shop, small loading, delivery. They work in fish market, grocery shops, vegetable shops, repairing shops, etc ^[5].

Poor parents feel very good to see their children working and earning small account. With such earning the objective of life changes to only money earning motive. The children who earn money at very tiny age, it is difficult for them to change their mind towards study and education thereafter. This barrier is to be broken if India needs to transform at bottom level. The literacy and skilled worker can be achieved by directing such children towards education. Since, size of population of such category across pan India is huge, India needs to address at grass root level to transform these children.

During survey it is seen that the stakeholders has very meagre direct connect with such community. Although, many officers and administrator are aware of the issues of the community, the direct service provider are out of reach of such community.

Un-social trends: The anti-social and unsocial activities likely to be born in community and its affects spread outside the community. The unsocial activities are cultivated among children as they do not go to schools and work in improper ambience.

- They tend to make habit of smoking at early age.
- Some of them tend to be addicted to some liquid due to improper association.
- They are likely to be used by anti-social persons in illegal activities. With little success in such activities they tend to be more furious. Over the time they grow up, they become are involved in some serious anti-social activities.
- They tend to acquire some bad etiquette and foul language.
- With the involvement in variety of unsocial activities they tend to become more unsympathetic and loses the entire value system.

- Their behaviour creates uncondusive social environment and ambience which if not befitting for education for other children. Thus a culture of neglect towards education is culminated.

The only way to make the more socially aware and responsible citizen is to engagement them in education. This approach will not divert them from unsocial activities to education, but also help in building good society. The community can be only be transformed with the proper education to their children. This efforts is crucial to transform India as a developed country.

Female issues: In the community, females in the category of small child, grown up child, teen age, women and old age ladies reside in a congested area.

- Small Childs of age group between 2-6 years are taken care of by their elders. Their educations are dependent on the wills and wish of their elders. Thus, their education is in dim situation as elders are busy to look after daily works and do not have much time to devote for education. As per our survey report in the labour community in Kasna area, 60% child of this age group do not at all go to school. Hence they remain illiterate. For further study in this aspect, we need to do approximate estimation of such illiterate child in entire Gautam Budhnagar District, in UP state and in pan India. We need to do a lot to transform India through the educational and economic development of these children.
- The girls between age group of 7-12 have very challenging time. These girls cannot do daily work like the boys of same age do. If they were going to schools, then they had to stop the schools to look after the sisters and brothers. The timing of nearby schools usually from 8AM-1PM for 10AM-4PM. They face difficulties to spare 5-6 hrs for six days in a week. Rather, it is more lucrative for them to invest the time for some income. Thus after studying in class 3 or class 4, they quit the schooling. Their parents start thinking the future of girls such as marriage settlement. We conclude from the interaction with community. Parents think if their child study more up to class 8 or class 10, then they will face difficulties to get the boys for marriage with equal education. Qualified males usually would not prefer the girls of labour for marriage. Thus, the parents usually do not take much interest to continue the schooling of their girls specifically after class 3, 4 and 5 when the girls are in the age group of 7-10 years. They also think that their girls after studying in class 6-7 will feel shy to work with other illiterate labours. Thus heavy dropout happens(98% as per our survey report) at this age for the children of labours.
- Hardly any girl between age group of 13-19 years go the schools. Usually parents try to settle their marriage as this age. They settle the marriage in village or in the industry area. 25% of such parents prefer to arrange marriage in village. The parents leave the industry and move to village for arranging marriage of their daughters. 75% of such girl are engaged in industry area in various roles. Some girls are engaged as maid servant in the residential society nearby. Some girls are engaged in works along their parents. Of course, they get married of their own or arranged by parents. Those

who get married to industry labour, their next generation child suffer the same fate of labours. Some girls (about 20% get married to other people who are doing small business such as vegetable sellers, street food seller, painter, plumbers, electricians, technicians, etc. Their next generation children get little more privileged to go to schools for education. Almost 80% of next generation children of such family do not become industry labour.

- Any possibility of child trafficking has also be explored during survey and interaction ^[7]. No such case of missing of boy(s) is reported. However, few cases over the few years regarding missing of girl(s) is narrated by some people in the form of story. However, the exact identify of the girls could not be traced although people strongly presented the case. This is perhaps, the parents and people did not keep documents regarding missing cases due to their ignorance. However, our survey team took it as a positive information believing the simplicity and ignorance of the people.
- During interaction in survey process, the points regarding the women respect, dignity and right were discussed. Girls and women expressed displeasures on the gestures and prevailing attitudes shown by surrounding people in the residence as well as in the work place. The team got negative response from some teen age girls and women (20%) during interaction on the sexual harassment. Survey could not delve much into the trafficking of girls and forced in sex workers. However, it was surveyed using Internet to get information on percentage of poor girls engaged in sex works and there are challenges in some community based research ^{[6], [7]}. It is understood from the internet survey that poor girls are not preferred much for sex works as they are not liked much owing to their filthy and general looks. It is seen that only 2%-4% of poor girls from all sections of society involved in sex profession. Thus involvement of industry worker's girls have very little involvement in sex works.

Mobility: The works have frequent movement with their child at various location with varied reasons. People move because they wish to visit the home for a break or to attend important function of relatives/home. They move due to causality at home. They move out of the community as they decide to live in village home for an indefinite period as village works. Sometimes they move due to close down of their factory or work place, so they move back to village home. The workers move out from one location to another location due the change of site of works or due to change in factory/company. The two important points regarding their mobility is very important.

- They usually move along with their children.
- They move frequently as well as randomly and for indefinite period.

Therefore, the study or education of children hampers severely duo to their randomised movement. It is difficult for children to maintain continual motivation for education. Most of the time, they miss the final examination due to movement and then they quit the study. Some child do not come back with parents and stay at village home for various reasons. During the survey in the Kasna industry area it is seen that 90% children (age group between 6-10 years)

discontinued the study due to missing of class examination and it happened due to movement of their parents. Most of them have been the eldest child.

Skills requirement: cannot be given training without being 8 passed. Child labour issue will arise.

Food habit: The child's of labours are very fond of any kind of food. It is seen that in the child care centre, if food/snacks are not provided they starting showing reluctant to come the centre. After eating food, most of them want to carry some food items to home. Some child's do not eat their share, rather carry it to homes. Food cannot be an alluring agent to attract child in the centre. This is because when food will stop, they will also stop coming. The balance is very important. Integrated Child Care and Development Service (ICDS), is regarded as food providing centre for child. The purpose of development and basic education for child is dimming. The effectiveness and success index need to be reviewed in this system. This type of centre shall play the key role to enhance scopes for the access to education thereby it will increase literacy as well as GER.

Social life: Community has little social life. Hardly any social events organised by them. As they always in the struggle of getting basic facility and amenity, think of some social and cultural events is unexpected. However, they love to attend some 'mela' where they find the ordinary shops for their needs. Love to spend in the event of their monetary capability. They never forget the rituals and spiritual practices of village India. They try their best to keep themselves aligned with the religious practices as done by their relatives and family members in village homes.

Life skills and talents: The child in the community are not brought with full care and support. Many of them are left in challenging situation. They are pushed to manage many things by themselves the in very elementary age as they start walking. Hence these child learn many life skills as how to survive without support. If water is not there they use filthy water or go remote place to find water alone. If dresses are torn, they themselves may ask for garments to other people. If mother is sick and unable to get up, then small child is forced to cook. If fire woods for cooking is not there, they can arrange from anywhere. If money is not there, they walk large distance to avoid bus fare. Their life management skills increases every day. But, sometimes these challenges force them to do some unsocial way of fulfilling the needs. That is why some community child are forced to adopt unsocial means of survival. Since they manage their lives in different challenging situation they usually become more matured. Some of them become very talented with their real world understanding. In the child development centre, it is seen that these child picks up the songs, paintings, alphabets, poems at faster pace.

Transformation

These child represents a small portion of a large community across the state and the country. We need to identify the community groups who do not have easy access to education. In village, poor children have fairly easy access to ICDS and primary schools. But the urban community children do not have so easy access to basic education

specifically the children in industry and construction sites. Few initiatives need to be taken to get them in basic education such as free transport facility. The school bus of similar kind of transport can pick up for the schools and drop back home. In each, district, a budget can be made to estimate the cost of this service. When country will be moving towards developed status, free transportation service shall be provided in train, ferry and busses. To make the country developed government needs to allocate budget for free school buses. This may be the game changer.

There are numerous NGOs who give such services in bits and pieces here and there. Government can take service of NGOs to provide some root level services to community. It is understood from our survey, government servants have constraints to be engaged in ground level day to day activities of social services. NGOs have become more effective and productive in community and social services^[8]. Government needs to give social-projects to NGOs on merit basis to implement the community development including child education.

The platform for easy access to open schooling for children shall be done. Children who are unable to go to school and spare full time, they can attend the centre for a short time. This may two to three hours in a day as per the feasibility of the children. Children are unable to go the schools because of their house works when their parents are eon work. Thus open schooling will be very effective for them. Government needs to come out with some more befitting and productive policy to facilitate such student for open schooling^[9]. We also need to formulate better implementation methods to engage maximum kids in such system.

Government need to come out with not only the supports for children but also the incentives to students or family. Parents are to be motivated with financial supports or incentives.

Conclusion

In this article, we present that a significant section of child belongs to community. We stressed upon the factors to take the community child in the education system to make India a developed country. The issues related to the children of industry labours in urban area have been identified through rigorous survey and interaction with the community. Only free food to the community child will not be sufficient to bring the child in basic education but the free transport facility is essential. There are better opportunities for skills in urban area, but certified skills cannot be provided to community child as hardly they continue education beyond primary level. Therefore, there is a utter need to plan for all round support to community child such that maxim of them complete secondary education i.e., class VIII and X. then they can be given good training to engage them as skilled work force for developed India.

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