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# **ACADEMIC FAILURE AND DROPOUT AMONG TEENAGERS FROM SCHOOL WITH REFERENCE TO THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION: CAUSES, EFFECT AND SOLUTION**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Education always plays an important role in developing a nation as it shapes individuals and societies by teaching them moral values and civic senses, which later help in developing critical thinking, learning creativity, and abilities like problem-solving. Besides taking multiple initiatives and launching various schemes regarding education, the dropout rate of teenagers in both rural and urban areas is increasing. Few children continue their education after being enrolled in school; the majority either fail or drop out. It is particularly concerning to policymakers as the number of school dropouts has been rising, particularly in rural areas. The article focuses on the factors or problems behind that lead to dropout and academic failure. The study also focuses on the causes of academic failure and dropout and states solutions to such causes.

**Keyword:** Education, Poverty, literacy, Academic, Dropout, Student, Knowledge, life.

## INTRODUCTION

Education is the foundation of progress, growth, and development in a person's life. Education makes a man wise, knowledgeable, and skilled in many fields. It is a tool to achieve greater success in life. Education has evolved throughout history from teaching orally to modern digital teaching platforms. Knowledge can be gained from everywhere, but moral values, moral education, and shaping a child's personality can only be taught by teachers in schools. Parents can teach their child in studies, and only a school can teach a child social skills by making them perform on stage, debate poetry, do science experiments, and prepare and guide them for careers. Additionally, as young people commit the majority of crimes, education also contributes to a lower crime rate. Juveniles are children who have not reached the age of 18 years. And as per the Indian Laws, Section 2(k) of the Juvenile Justice Act (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, a juvenile is a person who is under 16 years of age. Prior to the JJ Act of 2015, the age limit for juveniles was set at 18 years (Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, 2006, 2012)<sup>1</sup>. Most of the country's education has been made compulsory till a certain age. Whereas in India, students can enrol themselves in schools till the age of 14 years. Dropping out of school can limit future opportunities, extend poverty, and lead to inequality in society. The reason behind academic failure and dropout can vary from area to area; it can be both complex and diverse. In many cases, poverty and family challenges are the factors that lead a teenager to drop out of school. The article discusses the reasons that lead to academic failure and dropping out of school, its effect, causes, and solution.

## SCOPE

1. The article outlines the reasons behind teenagers dropping out of schools.
2. To spread awareness regarding the importance of education among teenagers and parents.
3. To find out the causes of academic failure and dropout from schools among teenagers.
4. To provide a solution for the cause of academic failure and dropout from schools among teenagers.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Namita Vyas, *Juvenile Delinquency an Emerging Trends in India* 6 JETIR.747, 747-756 (2019)

## **RIGHT TO EDUCATION**

The right to education in India has evolved over decades. Though before the pre-independence period, education was not treated importantly during British rule, in the present scenario globally, the right to education is identified as a human right upheld in a number of international conventions and covenants.

### **1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948**

Article 26 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that education is a fundamental right, and it should be free till the elementary level. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available, and higher education should be equally accessible to all based on merit. Education must also promote human rights, understanding, peace, and tolerance and give power to the children's parents to choose the kind of education they want for their children.

### **2. International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESSR), 1966**

Articles 13 and 14 of the ICESSR International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights state compulsory free primary education for all and state that states must take steps to implement free education. Higher education shall be equally accessible. Though India ratified the ICESSR in 1979, influencing its later policies on fees and compulsory education.

### **3. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989**

Articles 28 and 29 of the CRC state that education must be free and compulsory for both primary and secondary education for all children. And children's dignity must also be respected at schools. Development such as the personality of a child, talents, and social skills must be taught at school. The government must take all the possible measures to persuade regular school attendance, reduce academic failure, and reduce dropout rates. India ratified the CRC in 1992, influencing the enactment of The Right to Education (RTE), 2009.

#### **4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 1979**

Article 10 of the Act ensures equal access to education for girls and women. This act also states equal opportunities in scholarships, sports, and vocational education. Again, India ratified CEDAW in 1993, leading to gender-inclusive policies in education.<sup>5</sup> Sustainable Development Goals, 2015 Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, 2015, aims to provide quality education by 2030. It will also eliminate all gender inequality in education, leading to improved literacy globally. India has aligned its National Education Policy 2020 with Sustainable Development Goals-4 in order to improve educational issues.

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### **HISTORY**

#### **Pre-Independence Period**

During ancient times, India had a traditional education system like Gurukul, but it's totally different from today's modern education system. Later, the Charter Act of 1813 allowed Christian's missionaries to promote education. However, education remains only limited to certain areas of society.

#### **Post-Independence period**

Section 45 of the Indian Constitution, 1950, deals with free and compulsory education for children up to 14 years. The National Policy on Education of 1968 ensures free and compulsory

education.

### **Constitutional Amendment**

86th Constitutional Amendment added 21A in the Indian Constitution, which states free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years as a fundamental right.

Article 51A(K) states that parents are responsible for ensuring education for their own children. Later, this amendment laid down the foundation of the Right to Education Act, 2009.

### **Right to Education Act, 2009**

The act was passed to enforce Article 21 of the Indian Constitution in 1950 and came into force on April 1, 2010. The act states free and compulsory education for children 6 to 14 years in government schools and 25% reservation for economic backward classes in private schools. This act also prohibits capitation fees and screening tests for admission in schools. It also banned punishment, both mental and physical. School containing proper infrastructure and teacher.

### **CASE LAWS**

#### **Mohini Jain v. State of Karnataka & others<sup>2</sup>**

It is a landmark case in India's legal history where the courts ruled that education is a fundamental right under Article 21(Right to Life and Personal Liberty) of the Indian Constitution. Completely banned capitation fees. A human being's right to live with dignity needs to be protected under several circumstances. This ensures that individuals have the right to education, and it is the duty of the state to provide free education to all citizens.

#### **Unnikrishnan v. State of Andhra Pradesh<sup>3</sup>**

In the previous case of Mohini Jain, the court declared the right to education a fundamental right and banned capitation fees, leading the private university to challenge such a case. They argued that private universities had the right to charge fees since they are not fully funded by

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<sup>2</sup> Mohini Jain v. State of Karnataka & others, AIR 1992 SC 1858

<sup>3</sup> Unnikrishnan v. State of Andhra Pradesh, AIR 1993 SCR (1) 594

the government. The bench was of 5 judges of the Supreme Court, where the Supreme Court ruled that education from 6 to 14 years of age is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. Banned excessive capacitation fees, but private schools and colleges can charge fees a regulated fee. In this case, the court also introduces 50% seats to be filled at government-controlled fees known as free seats; the remaining 50% seats will be payment seats. This case leads to the 86th Constitutional Amendment, 2002, and the Right to Education Act, 2009.

## **CAUSES AND EFFECT FOR THE ACADEMIC FAILURE AND DROPOUT FROM SCHOOLS**

### **1. Lack of parents' support**

Teenagers residing mostly in rural areas get less support from their parents. Parents who lack awareness and are mostly illiterate always discourage their children once they fail the exams. Most of the parents were intentionally forced to drop out of school to support their families because for poor people, money comes first, then education. Lack of encouragement in studies also leads teenagers to fail in their academics.

### **2. Family conflicts**

Divorced parents, domestic violence, or frequently drunk flights between parents are another main reason for academic failure and dropout from school. For even children, their surroundings matter; no child can grow in a situation where both the parents argue daily or domestic violence takes place. In such a situation, a child is not able to grow; rather, they adapt bad habits to find mental peace. Having divorced parents can be taboo for teenagers, as they would be neglected by both of the parents. A child needs both mother and father to grow and develop any qualities, and when a child misses one, the child fails to adjust in the society. Such acts lead to academic failure and dropout, leading them to commit more heinous crimes as influenced by what they saw in their own homes.

### **3. Distance and transportation**

Distance is one of the reasons why most of the student's drop out of school. Though education is free, in some areas the schools are far from their house. Teenagers residing in rural and hilly

areas often lose interest as they have to walk miles away from their homes to reach schools, especially for people living in hilly areas during rainy seasons. The teenagers are bound to remain at home due to weather conditions making the roads more slippery due to unmaintained roads eventually leading them to drop out of school and also fail at academics. Lack of transport in some areas also leads to dropouts from schools, as such situations make the teenagers lose interest.

#### **4. Personal factors**

Parents, teachers, or any family member can only guide or show us the road towards the goal, but they cannot bring success to us. Success can only be achieved by ourselves with focus and interest. Students who are not interested in studies often struggle to stay engaged. Those types of students either get involved with certain types of gangs to look cool in front of others.

Dropping out of school or failing in academics can also be due to a lack of self-esteem and confidence due to any discouragement faced in his or her childhood days. That's why teenagers need encouragement starting from their early life.

Health issues can be another personal reason for academic failure and dropping out because, if we compare the health of rural children and urban children, rural children tend to get sick or suffer from illness more than children living in urban areas. That's because of the unhygienic water they get to drink and improper lifestyle, no proper food, and a stable home, leading teenagers to anxiety and depression.

#### **5. Modern luxury lifestyle**

Poor people often choose easy and short processes to earn money and get success in order to maintain a lifestyle they cannot afford. Especially girls living in rural areas get themselves engaged to prostitution willingly in order to get successful in a short amount of time; due to this, they either fail or drop out of school.

#### **6. School-related problems**

Poor teaching method, due to which most of the student's dropout from schools due to the poor teaching method, Bullying and harassment, Lack of guidance by the teachers. Discouragement

by teachers after failing in academics, neglect by teachers, Unfriendly surroundings and overloaded curriculum.

## **7. Socio-economic factors**

Pregnancy at an early age and marriage in some parts of India are cultural beliefs of certain communities that don't prioritize girls studying in schools.

## **EDUCATIONAL SCHEMES RELATED TO RIGHT TO EDUCATION**

1. AAROHAN program
2. SAPTADHARA under RMSA
3. Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan
4. Mid-Day Meal Scheme
5. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao
6. PM CARES for Children Scheme

## **SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Schools**

1. Improve the teaching method and add digital learning methods of teaching.
2. Good qualified teachers specialized in a particular course.
3. More productive programs where students will engage themselves, which will make teenagers feel less boring and increase the interest level in studies.
4. Anti-bullying campaign and time-to-time feedback from students.

### **Family**

1. Engaging in children's studies by reviewing what had been taught at the school and



having an update about the studies.

2. Encourage and support the children to continue studies even after multiple failures without embarrassment.
3. Stable environment.
4. No child marriage and pregnancy.

### **Government**

1. Governments should launch more programs where they can provide free education to more children in the villages.
2. The quality of midday meals should be increased.
3. There should be awareness programs for both parents and children that will help them know about the importance of education.
4. Expand scholarship and financial aid for underprivileged students.
5. Training for students who face problems regarding vocal in academics.
6. Awareness campaign, NGO, and flexible learning options.

### **CONCLUSION**

Academic failure and dropout from schools are serious concerns. The reasons for such can be social, economic, as well as financial. But every problem has a solution, such as improving teaching methods, awareness programs, or parental involvement. All these are necessary. A new approach is necessary because, despite launching various schemes, teenagers still choose to drop out of school. The goals here should not be limited to preventing failure but also to creating a system where students happily study without dropping out.