

ROLE OF NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN PROVIDING EDUCATION TO SLUM CHILDREN IN NORTH WEST DELHI

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INTRODUCTION

Education is very important for an individual's success in life. Education has a vital role in the personal and the social development of a human being. Education generally works as the foundation of society which brings economic wealth, social prosperity and political stability. In agreement with the Constitutional pledge to ensure free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of 14 years, provision of universal elementary education has been working as a salient feature of national policy since independence. Universalisation of elementary education (UEE) in its totality is still an indefinable goal and much ground is yet to be covered. "Education for all" declares that everyone has a right to education. Its aim is to give everyone a chance to learn and benefit from basic education – not as an accident of circumstance, or as a privilege, but as a RIGHT. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 as well as Article 21-A, inserted in the Constitution of India through the Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002, became operational on 1st April 2010. Its implementation will directly benefit close to 10 million children who do not go to schools at present. The Non-Formal Education (NFE) scheme was initiated in 1979 for the children of 6-14 years of age, who remain outside the formal education system due to various reasons. NFE cater learning needs of working children and children in difficult circumstances. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have been playing a major role in education of marginalized groups in developing countries since 1980s. They came out as alternative providers of education against the backdrop of the State's failure to provide relevant and quality education for economically and culturally disadvantaged

ABSTRACT

India is a diverse country where people from different economic background legitimize this diversity in a real sense. Education for the poor people especially those are living in a slum is a major concern for the nation today. Different government policies are still unable to bring these students to school on regular basis as many of these children are working as child laborers. Non Governmental Organization is a ray of hope for these kinds of areas in order to improve their educational opportunities. This study focuses on the role of NGOs which are working to improve education of slum children. Two NGOs namely Chetnalaya and Prayas were selected from North West Delhi as sample. 20 students, 4 teachers and 4 coordinators were selected for data collection. Interviews and focused group discussion were used for the data collection process. Finding of the study reveals that NGOs working in the field of education of children are a great help to improve the national literacy. These NGOs interact directly with the families of the children & convince them to send their children to study at NGO centre. Flexible timing, facilities provided to children and regular communication with the family make the task of teaching children possible in these areas.

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