ASSIGNMENT for ROLE OF EDUCATION TO UNDERSTAND THE SOCIAL DIVERSITY IN INDIA

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Education is generally seen as the foundation of society which brings economic wealth, social prosperity and political stability. It is a major aspect of development of any modern society and most significant indicator of overall development of any region.

The role of education system in the preservation of society and culture, particularly, it is very important in complex societies where families and other primary groups are not fully equipped to prepare the young for adulthood that is expected by larger society. Education is concerned with all people and considered as basic social need of all societies.

Through education one can acquire knowledge and participate in the process of empowerment. Indian traditional education system was neither open to all nor it had any uniformity. It was elitist in character and supported with religious purpose rather based on rationality which has created socioeconomic inequality.

Any society education plays a central role in conserving, modifying and transforming identities. Keeping in mind the heterogeneous character of Indian society, the national policy on education envisages harmonious development of all groups i.e. promoting development and maintaining group identities in an integrated manner. The balancing act of education is well reflected in the constitutional provision.

1.2 MEANING OF SOCIAL DIVERSITY

Social diversity is a feature of a society which is determined by caste, class, religion, occupational pattern in a given territory. This is very different from social hierarchy where society is divided into several layers of superiority and inferiority. Social diversity is all of the ways that people within a single culture are set apart from each other. Elements of social diversity can include ethnicity, lifestyle, religion, language, tastes and preferences.

By 'social diversity', we mean co-existence of different social groups within a given geopolitical setting or in simpler terms, differentiation of society into groups. Other terms such as, 'plurality', 'multiculturalism', 'social differentiation' etc.

1.2.1 Social diversity in India

India has been considered as perhaps the largest and most plural society in the world. Its plurality is in-built in its geographical, demographic, historical, political, economic and socio-cultural base. Its social diversity has been expressed in various forms such as languages, religions, tribes and castes.

Three kinds of social differences need special attention namely:

1. Gender,
2. Religion and
3. Castes.
Language is one of the main markers of group solidarity in any society. The social categorization in terms of languages is much stronger than any other social markers such as religion, class, caste, tribe etc.

The children from different social and economic groups attend different types of school. While the children from higher socio-economic groups attend good quality schools (i.e. schools well equipped with infrastructure and competent teachers), the children from disadvantaged groups end up in the poor quality schools (i.e. single teacher, multi grade situations, poorly trained teachers).

The need, therefore, is to intensify the efforts to make educational facilities accessible to such deprived groups in the deprived regions. This, in turn, means making special provisions to the disadvantaged children such as girls, SC/ST and minority groups. Furthermore this also calls for going beyond the rigid education system and making provisions of non formal or alternative education for children who either drop out or do not enroll at all.

1.3 HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE COMMUNITY

The meaning of community is very ordinary language, but it is necessary to understand community for its involvement. It should be noted that various communities may have different factors operating in similar or different manner indicating that community should be considered unique and should be understood and dealt with its specific context.

Thus, it is crucial to examine and understand community contexts, including characteristics and power balance. It is an inter-dependent unit of people having common interests, observing common tradition, living by its own norms and modes necessary for the welfare and progress of people living in that particular community.

Community generally denotes a group of people who have common interest and work together. We all live in a community and some of the common factors that bind us to our community are functions which are described below:

1. Language
2. Territory
3. Customs
4. Tradition and culture
5. Occupation
6. Common goal

1.3.1 Role of community to plays improves education?

Education in India is provided by the public sector as well as the private sector, with control and funding coming from three levels:

1. Central,
2. State, and
3. Local.

Community participation is a central and important factor in planning, implementation and monitoring interventions for Universal Elementary Education. Only community can promote the education by working with the school or college Principal and teachers, they
can act as pressure, if they find any irregularity in the functioning. The community can perform following.

1. Generating awareness about education benefits and increasing enrolment.
2. To increase the daily attendance rates of school students.
3. To increase girls’ retention in school.
4. Identifying, contributing educational and discussing the possible solutions.

The schools and college can perform better if there is close linkage between the communities, which can be established in the following ways:

1. Communicate regularly and clearly.
2. Encourage parent’s involvement.
3. Teachers should to guide and advise parents.
4. Share their skills and knowledge within.

When the community takes interest and is involved in education then the education does not remain limited to the books. The child is able to learn easily, not only learn through the books but also relate to the daily experience of their life. With the involvement of the community it is easy to identify the problems faced by the local people. Village education Committee can help to decide where the new school needs to be opened, which schools need to be repaired.

However, social and natural resources other than purely economic resources are also unevenly distributed in most societies and may contribute to social status. Norms of allocation can also affect the distribution of rights and privileges, social power, access to public goods such as education or the judicial system.

### 1.4 CHALLENGES OF DIVERSITY FOR EDUCATION

The concept of social diversities cannot be understood adequately, unless one is able to explain the underlying disparities prevailing within and among the diverse groups. The social groups are at different levels of educational and economic development.

The major challenges currently being faced by the education system in India are:

1. Achieving the Unfinished task to the citizens.
2. Cultural Nationalism and Nation Building.
3. Modern formal education.

India is a land of diversities. The processes of differentiation and unification have been going on simultaneously. The major implication of the social diversity for the education system is bringing the diverse groups. However assessment of the educational development indicates that although substantial progress has been made in the field of education.
But one of the major challenges for the education system in India has been to achieve universal elementary education. The main reason for the delay in achievement is that the education system has not been able to bring the most disadvantaged groups, that is, the SC/ST and girls and Muslim girls within its fold fully.

These groups are suffering from multiple disadvantages. The education system needs to treat the disadvantaged groups as special focus groups and reform its pedagogy in such a way that the most disadvantaged gets the maximum benefits and support.

2.0 CONCLUSION

Education gives us knowledge and knowledge is power. Today, education is one important criterion to judge the level of development of any individual and society. One of the major challenges of the education system in a diverse country like India is to provide a quality education to all the groups who are at different stages of development. One basic objective of the education system is to accommodate the diversities that exist in the population.

Finally, the diversity in India is unique. Being a large country with large population India presents endless varieties of physical features and cultural patterns. It is the land of many languages it is only in India. In short, it can be concluded that Indian national education system has started in achieving its objectives which were formulated by the constitution makers. The education system could be made successful if the government will provide appropriate allocation of funds as well as strict monitoring of education policies.