



# WASTAGE AND STAGNATION AT ELEMENTARY EDUCATION STAGE: AN OVERVIEW

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**Abstract:** The paper discusses the study of the problems during enrollment and retaining of the children. The causes of the wastage and stagnation at elementary education highlighted here. The maximum number of dropouts and grade repetition indicates the great challenge in achieving the goals for higher education. The ignorance of parents, poverty and failure in examination and cultural factors are responsible for maximum number of dropouts. Indian society is undergoing socioeconomic transformation. It has a very rich and old cultural heritage and aspiring to be a strong country at a global level. All these pressures are causing problems and other kinds of development. Deprivation on the other hand refers to loss of opportunities and privileges that are normally available to the general population. It means lack of basic necessities for the survival of an individual. This can take the form of inadequate environmental conditions, impoverished experiences and characteristics of the socially disadvantaged sections. According to the Committee 'wastage' meant premature withdrawal of children from school at any stage before the completion of the primary course. By 'stagnation' the committee meant detention in the same classes for more than one academic year. Regular promotion of the students to the next higher. The reasons for school dropout, stagnation and wastage are – socio- economic, psychological and educational. Sikhsha Abhiyan (Total Literacy Campaign) and Mid Day Meal Scheme. Kerala has the highest literacy rate in the country, and other states are also doing their best to decrease school dropouts. Stagnation stands for the retention of a child in a class for a period of more than one year. Gradually when a student takes more than one year to pass a class it is considered a case of stagnation. Stagnation is one of the most acute problems of tribal education.

**Key Words:** Dropouts, Wastage, Stagnation, Curriculum, Literacy.

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Education is a core sector for achieving the objective of employment, human resource development and bringing about much needed change in social environment leading to overall progress through efficient use of resources. An appropriate education system cultivates knowledge, skill, positive attitude, awareness and sense of responsibility towards rights and duties and imparts the inner strength to face humiliation and inequality. A strong nation requires strong social, political and economic foundation, and education is the primary tool to build the same. Education plays an important role in respect of successful implementation of government policies and in strengthening the social, technological and economic development of the lives of the people in any part of the globe. It is because education broadens the vision of the people and helps to comprehend various phenomena in right context. Education should not be limited to literacy. In simple terms, literacy is considered to be the ability to use language to read, write, listen and speak as well as ability to perform simple arithmetic. For successful functioning of democracy, no doubt, literate people are of great worth, but citizens with higher education are more desirable. Education in India is provided by both public sector and private sector, with control and funding coming from three levels: central, state, and local. The various articles of the Indian Constitution provide for education as a fundamental right. India has made progress in terms of increasing attendance rate and expanding literacy to approximately two thirds of the population. India's improved education system is often cited as one of the main contributors to its economy. However, India continues to face stern challenges. Despite growing investment in education, 25% of its population is still illiterate; only 15% of Indian students reach high school, and just 7%, of the 15% who make it to high school, graduate. The quality of education at all levels is being criticized to be significantly poor as compared with major developing nations.



**1.1. Meaning of wastage in education:** The first need for universalisation of primary education is to provide schools for all children; the second one is to enroll all children in them; the third need is to retain all children in schools; and the fourth need is to make them pass the final examination. However, the situation in our country is that at present, about 30 percent of the children drop out of school after enrolment, and those who are retained fail to complete the curriculum within the prescribed period. These phenomena are called wastage and stagnation. By wastage is meant to misspend the funds. This term is used in the educational field in the same sense. When a child takes admission in any course (physics, secondary or higher education), and abandons it in the middle without having it completed, it is called wastage. It is wastage in the sense that the time, energy and money invested from his enrolment to dropping out has gone waste. In India, this phenomenon was first brought to notice by Hartog Committee in 1929. According to it by wastage we mean the premature withdrawal of children from schools at any stage before the completion of the primary course - Hartog Committee, 1929. However, the fact remains that this wastage occurs at every stage of education. So, it should be defined as follows; By wastage in educational field is meant dropping out of a student after having taken admission in any course.

**1.2. Meaning of stagnation in education:** Stagnation means obstruction and this term is used in the same sense in the education field too. When a child completes a course in more time than prescribed for it is called stagnation. It is stagnation because it hinders to complete the course within the prescribed period. His continuity is broken and leading to additional investment of time energy and money. In India this phenomenon was first brought to notice by the Hartog Committee 1929. According to it by Stagnation we mean the retention of a child in lower class for a period more than one year. The fact however remains that this stagnation occurs at all Levels of Education. So it should be as follows; By stagnation in the educational field is meant by the completion of a course by a student in more time than prescribed for it.

## **2. WASTAGE AND STAGNATION AT ELEMENTARY EDUCATION STAGE:**

There was a time in India there was a massive phenomenon of wastage and stagnation at the elementary level. In 1960 – 61, about 78% children dropped out of elementary level classes (one to eight) before completion of their studies and about 60% of children completed the course in more than eight years. The Kothari Commission 1964- 66, recommended a number of effective suggestions for bringing down the level of wastage and stagnation. When there were put into practice the wastage came down from 78% in 1960- 61 to 73% in 1980-81. The National Education policy 1986 further recommended effective steps to reduce it and their implementation led to reduction of wastage to about 54% in 2000 -01 , as per the annual report of Human Resource Development Ministry. This wastage was reduced further to 43% in 2007 and to about 35% in 2011 while stagnation has remained to about 20% .Wastage and stagnation continue to take place at secondary and higher education levels too yet so much of wastage and stagnation at the elementary level is it something to worry about because it is mass education and it should be received by all compulsorily.

**2.1. Causes of wastage and stagnation at elementary education stage:** In India it was the Hartog Committee 1929 that thought of the causes of wastage and stagnation in the educational field at first. It mentioned these causes of wastage and stagnation at the elementary stage as lack of schools in rural and backward areas , defective curriculum and methods of teaching , Lack of teaching aids and teachers, irregular running off schools poverty and Illiteracy. In independent India these problems were discussed by the Kothari Commission 1964. According to it the chief causes of wastage and stagnation at the elementary stage are absence of compulsory primary education law, guardians being poor and illiterate, school being located far ,lack of trained teachers, teaching institutions and not being resourceful and no provision of suitable inspection. The National Education Policy 1968 and 1986 and as amended in 1992, Took up this problem very seriously the causes of wastage and stagnation at the elementary level at present can be classified as follows:

**Administrative causes** – Inadequate budget for education by the government, flexible fundamental policy of Education, lack of strict protocols by the compulsory elementary education act, Absence of elementary schools within a radius of one kilometer and higher primary schools within a radius of 2 - 3 kilometers, Primary teachers being employed for survey census and voters list job etc relaxed administrative and inspection system lack of honesty and dutifulness.

**Educational causes-** the pitiable condition of schools lack of good buildings , lack of teaching aids, inadequate number of teachers, lack of educational environment, burdensome curriculum and carelessness of teachers. Individual causes- some children being physically unhealthy, handicapped, mentally retarded and moron.

**Familial causes** - the chief cause is poverty at present about 30% of people are living below the poverty line and their children have to work for livelihood right from childhood. Secondly, guardians are indifferent and thirdly, there is no environment for study in these families



**Social Causes** - Social problems refer to the situations faced by the people in which achievement of genuine goals of a community or groups are not achieved due to difficulties at the level of system. Educational problems refer to issues of school dropout, stagnation and wastage. They are also social problems. These problems have many aspects including social, economic psychological and historical and other solution requires efforts from many angles.

**Poverty** - By thinking, 'feeling' and 'behaving' we come to form an attitude towards the people, events, objects etc. Poverty denies individuals and their family of basic rights such as equality, justice, dignity, health, basic comforts and personal security. It is defined in terms of objective and subjective poverty.

**Malnutrition and Development** - Malnutrition influences both physical growth and affects psychological development. Malnutrition and social impoverishment are major factors that bring about mental retardation.

**Personality Development** - Different personality patterns are suggested for the deprived and non-deprived groups. Highly deprived children are likely to be high on neuroticism and introversion, and low on extraversion than non-deprived children. Deprivation is also related to social maladjustment, immaturity, and withdrawal. It also predisposes children to delinquency, and proneness to more external and chance orientation than non deprived young adults.

**Motivational Consequences** - The experiences of rewards and punishments helps in the formation of one's motivational orientation, poverty condition leads to low need for achievement, low extension need, and a high need for dependence.

**Mental Health** - Although mental illness occurs in all ages, gender and backgrounds, the risk is higher among the poor and homeless, unemployed, and with low education.

**Psychological Interventions** - Helping the individual by building up and increasing support to the deprived person in terms of cognitive, motivational and behavioral skills. But it should be kept in mind that, continuous help may lead to psychological dependency and reliance on others. So, caution should be taken. Also, Psychological interventions should be operable at all three levels: the individual, community and societal.

**Drug addiction** - Drug addiction is a chronic problem that involves compulsive drug seeking and dependence on it despite the fact that it has harmful effects on the individual. Some of the risk factors that are involved in drug addiction are- individual biology, socioeconomic status, peer pressure, stress, quality of parenting, role models, and age etc. Genetic and environmental factors interact with developmental and maturity stages in a person's life. The earlier a person takes to consuming drugs the more serious the addiction. It is a common problem and a challenge during adolescence, when peer pressure to experiment with new things is present.

Two additional concepts of stagnation and wastage are important in the educational setting. The educational system needs to keep pace with demands and needs of the context and bring about changes in the curriculum and content of different educational fields. If it is not done, then educational stagnation takes place. When the education received is of little or no help to the person then it is termed as wastage of education.

The reasons for school dropout, stagnation and wastage are - socioeconomic, psychological and educational. Efforts to decrease the school dropout rate by government can be seen through programs such as **National Literacy Mission, Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan (Total Literacy Campaign) and Mid Day Meal Scheme**. Kerala has the highest literacy rate in the country, and other states are also doing their best to decrease school dropouts. These problems are closely related to each other and in fact influence each other also. Hence the solutions to these problems are not easy, inputs from various disciplines are required to help out these social problems. The role of psychology to understand human behaviour cannot be under estimated. Modification of attitudes, feelings and pattern of behaviour are significant. Psychologists along with other social scientists can provide strategies for achieving these changes

### **3. MEASURES FOR CHECKING WASTAGE AND STAGNATION AT ELEMENTARY EDUCATION STAGE:**

To resolve this problem at the elementary level the recommendations were first given by the hotel committee this recommendation included: responsibility for elementary education should not be left entirely to local bodies, the number of inspectors should be increased curriculum should be made useful for life, recreation activity should take place in schools, able and trained teachers should be appointed in school and their service conditions should be improved. In independent India the solution of this problem was considered by Kothari Commission 1964-66. After it the National Education Policy 1968 and National Education Policy 1986 to take steps to resolve this problem in the meanwhile the steps have been taken by the central government and state governments the important ones of which are creating awareness among Guardians, improving condition of schools, appointing teachers, providing free midday meals; and distributing books to poor students to pass the right to education at 2009 and to implement it as the law from on April 2010 now there is need to implement it properly with devotion moreover the following are also required :

- The central government should immediately provide 6% of the gross domestic product for education and it should be increased to 10% in the near future these funds should be utilized for universalization of elementary education making it available to everybody and then the act of compulsory primary education should be



implemented strictly for this it is necessary to make the administrative system fit and active. What is needed is that the personals at each level should work honestly and diligently.

- The operation blackboard is in operation for improving the condition of elementary schools however it is necessary to ensure optimum utilization of funds now the accountability of teachers should be fixed. There should be a code of conduct for teachers and teachers unions and those shirking work should be punished if teachers work honestly and devotedly it would amount to win the battle as good as half at this level it is necessary to reduce the burden of the curriculum the curriculum should be made limited useful and interesting.
- The students with ill health or minor handicap should be dealt with sympathetically and those who are deaf dumb or blind should be provided residential schools at the district level. Additional teaching should be made available for weaker children also they should be treated sympathetically there should be a provision for separate schools at the district level for those who are mentally retarded.
- Economic policies will have to be modified for eradication of poverty what the Education Department can do for it is to provide financial aid to the students from poor families.
- Social backwardness can be removed by education alone therefore more emphasis should be laid on compulsory elementary education as well as expansion of adult education. The means of mass communication are playing a vital role in it there is need to activate them a little more.
- The Kothari Commission 1964 to 1966 in its recommendation About reducing stagnation at the elementary level had suggested examination reform in which it is said that classes 1 and 2 or classes from 1 to 3 or classes from 1 to 4 or classes from one to five should be taken as a single unit as may be feasible and students be allowed to learn at their own rate and they should be tested after they complete the unit. It termed this as the integrated approach to primary education. State governments implemented it too but the outcome was not favorable. Some states stopped examining from class one to four but it did not have any positive outcome rather it lead to still more downfall in primary education only one reform has proved effective in the examination system that is to conduct re teaching for the failed students and re-examination at the start of the session immediate declaration of the result and promotion of passing students.

#### **4. CONCLUSION:**

There are number of causes of wastage and stagnation at elementary stage in our country. We have discussed the important causes and measures to remove them. There can be a few more causes to at some places such as unfavorable topographical situation migration of tribes from one place to another linguistic difficulties being faced by scheduled tribes etc. Such problems can be resolved keeping an eye the prevailing circumstances and so should be the case. Nothing can be too difficult for able honest and duty bound people. The steps that has been taken to prevent wastage and stagnation at the primary education level in our country until now the most effective of them have been the mid day meal scheme and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, however due to lack of honesty and dedication these have not proved as effective as they would have been. If all personnel connected with primary education function with the honesty and dedication there is no reason why wastage and stagnation occurring at this level cannot be checked.

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