

# EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE INDIAN POLITICS

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## The concept of politics

Politics, the governance of the activities of a country or a state or any particular area can be termed as politics or political activity. It provides decision making power and organized control over community to a group of members and we call them political parties. The politics of India commissions within the framework of the Indian Constitution, as India is a democratic republic. Our country follows dual polity system, meaning, a double government (federal nature) system. According to this system the authority is divided among two levels i.e., Centre and the State, but both of them ensure their powers from the country's constitution.

## Does it control the education institutions?

There are two sectors providing education in India, one is public and the second is private. The public institutions are governed and funded by the Centre, state or local authorities. Various articles of the Indian Constitution states fundamental right of free and compulsory education to children between the age of 6 to 14. Thus, the line between the politics and educational institutions cannot be completely removed.

Talking about the line between the educational institutions and Indian politics, the line is necessary to solve the questions like what is the extent of education as a national problem? Or maintenance of the institutions of national importance such as Banaras Hindu University, Aligarh Muslim University or/and Delhi University. The relation between these two also led to the establishment of professional, vocational or technical training or the training of police officers or promotion of special research and studies or any scientific or technical assistance in the investigation or detection of crime under the Union List of our constitution. Not only the former mentioned functions the government escalates the functions in the department of education such as:

- (1) Educational and cultural relations with other countries;
- (2) The clearing house function of collecting and broadcasting ideas and information;

- (3) The coordinating function of harmonizing the educational activities of the Centre and the States;
- (4) Education in the Union Territories;
- (5) Scientific research;
- (6) Technical education;
- (7) Propagation, development and enrichment of Hindi;
- (8) Preservation and promotion of national culture inclusive of patronage to national art;
- (9) Patronage to the study of ancient Indian culture in general and the study of Sanskrit in particular;
- (10) Education of the handicapped;
- (11) Promotion and coordination of educational research;
- (12) Special responsibility for the cultural interests of the minorities;
- (13) Responsibility for the weaker sections of the people i.e. the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;
- (14) Responsibility for strengthening national unity through suitable programmes and particularly through those of emotional integration;
- (15) Grant of scholarships in an attempt to scout for talent, especially at the University stage;
- (16) Advanced professional and vocational training; and
- (17) Maintenance of Central Institutions or agencies for education; and
- (18) Provision of free and compulsory education up to the age of 14 years.<sup>1</sup>

### **Features, pros and cons of the Indian Education System**

The above mentioned 18 points can be termed as the features or the necessity of involvement of the government into the education system.

#### **PROS :**

- 1) Right to education.
- 2) Free university education for girls.
- 3) The scholarship system.
- 4) The universality of the Indian education system.
- 5) Focus on adult education.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.arvindguptatoys.com/arvindgupta/JPNaik\\_01.pdf](http://www.arvindguptatoys.com/arvindgupta/JPNaik_01.pdf)

**CONS :**

- 1) Reservation on the basis of caste/category.
- 2) Over-burdening the students.
- 3) Neglects innate skills.
- 4) Absence of counsellors.
- 5) Emphasis only on scores/marks.
- 6) Encourages flock mentality.

**A more insight to the above-mentioned cons of the Indian Education System**

- **Reservation in India:** It is a system that gives priority to those people born as Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes and Other Backwards Classes over General Category in the area of employment or educational institutions or selection of parliament or legislative members, etc. These classes are considered as socially and educationally backward classes. Now what happens when, because of the reservation policy in India, a person scoring for say 50% marks of SC category and another person scoring 85% marks of General category in an entrance examination of a public education institution, the person belonging to SC category will get admission in the institution and not the person who scored 85% because he belongs to General category.

**Suggestive Measure :** Let the reservation system be there, but change the base of reservation. Change the policy of choosing people on the basis of their category to either on the basis of income level, APL or BPL or just like there are tax slabs in India, setting up of percentage or score slabs for the same is also an option so that the deserving person should not be deprived because of this policy.

- **Over-burdening the students :** The entrance examination conducted by the public institutions like IIT, IIM, NLU, etc. The syllabus for these entrance examination is quite different from what the students study in their 10+2. Thus, it leads to an extra pressure upon students as they have to cope up with their school syllabus and also with their coaching syllabus for these exams.

**Suggestive Measure :** Either the government should change the syllabus of their school which is similar to the entrance examination or the entrance in these institutions should be done on the basis of what a student scores in his/her 10+2.

- **Neglects innate skills :** Innate skills or the natural skills of a student are neglected because there is a fixed number of subjects prescribed. The co-scholastic talents of a student are ignored, in order to follow up the prescribed scheduled subjects.



Suggestive Measure : There should be a compulsory follow up of the co-scholastic activities and grading system should be there for the same activities

- Absence of Counsellors : School/High school counsellors assist students at all levels, from elementary school to college. Listen to students' concerns about academic, emotional or social problems. Help students process their problems and plan goals and action. Mediate conflict between students and teachers of the institution and a 2014 survey by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (A.S.S.O.C.H.A.M.) found that a majority of private schools in the National Capital Region had been violating the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) guidelines on a mandatory provision for full-time student counsellors. The recent mandatory provision took into account the complexities that exist in the education system, as well as the different learning and psychosocial needs of children in their formative years. It also took into consideration the fact that children spend a majority of their time in schools, and the developmental tasks that they fulfil occur within the setting of the school.<sup>2</sup>

## Conclusion

The topic of my article was “How far should the line between politics and educational institutions be blurred?” And I would like to conclude by saying that there are pros and cons of each and everything that exists, there are pros and cons of the government involving in the educational institutions which I have already stated above. According to me the line between both of them is already blur but it just needs some amendments to be done, both the government and education institutions are independent if we see them individually but they choose to operate together. The policies were formed in the past when there was need of such system but the time has changed, it has evolved. Thus some amendments in their working are to be done and the line should remain between both of them.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://childrenfirstindia.com/role-of-the-school-counsellor/>