



**UN INDIA
VOLUNTEERS**



Discussion

Team UN Volunteers-India

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**Dr Sekar Srinivasan - The UN
Educationist**

(Conversation starter)

Dear members shall we start a detailed discussion on

HOW TO BUILD QUALITY SCHOOLS WITH ATTRACTIVE ENROLLMENT AND SUSTAINED PROGRESS IN RURAL AREAS.

I request the eminent personalities of this group to share their experiences and suggestions.

▪**Mr. Cosmos Ennu Kwaw:** Building quality schools with attractive enrollment and sustained progress in rural areas is a complex task that requires a multifaceted approach. From my reading and practices, here are some strategies that can help:

1. Infrastructure development: Building and maintaining school infrastructure is crucial for providing a conducive learning environment. This includes constructing classrooms, libraries, laboratories, playgrounds, and other facilities that can enhance the learning experience of students.

2. Teacher training: Providing regular training to teachers can help them stay up-to-date with the latest teaching methodologies and technologies. This can help them deliver high-quality education to students.

3. Use of technology: Integrating technology into the classroom can help students learn more effectively and efficiently. This includes using digital

tools such as tablets, laptops, and interactive whiteboards.

4. Community participation: Involving parents and community members in school activities can help build a sense of ownership and pride in the school. This can lead to increased enrollment and better academic performance.

5. Incentivizing teachers: Providing incentives such as higher salaries, bonuses, or promotions can motivate teachers to perform better and stay committed to their jobs.

6. Awareness campaigns: Conducting awareness campaigns about the

importance of education can help increase enrollment rates in rural areas.

7. Multilingual education: Providing education in local languages can help students learn better and feel more connected to their culture.

These strategies are not exhaustive but can provide a starting point for building quality schools with attractive enrollment and sustained progress in rural areas.

▪**Mrs. Nandhini:** 1. Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to understand the specific educational needs of rural areas in India.

2. Improve infrastructure by providing well-equipped classrooms, libraries,

laboratories, and technology-based learning resources.

3. Recruit and retain qualified teachers by offering competitive salaries, professional development opportunities, and career growth prospects.

4. Enhance the curriculum to make it relevant, inclusive, and aligned with the needs of rural students.

5. Foster strong community engagement by involving parents, village leaders, and NGOs in school activities and decision-making processes.

6. Establish scholarships and merit-based incentives to motivate students and attract enrollment in rural schools.

7. Promote the use of technology for enhanced learning outcomes, including access to digital resources and online courses.

8. Address transportation challenges by providing safe and reliable transportation services for students in rural areas.

9. Implement comprehensive health and nutrition programs to improve student attendance and overall well-being.

10. Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the progress of rural schools and identify areas requiring support.

11. Conduct marketing and awareness campaigns to highlight the quality education and opportunities available in rural schools.

12. Advocate for increased government support and funding specifically targeted at improving rural education.

13. Facilitate collaboration and knowledge-sharing among schools in

rural areas through peer learning networks.

14. Encourage and empower parents to actively participate in their children's education through workshops and parent-teacher meetings.

15. Ensure the presence of competent and dedicated regional education officers to monitor progress and provide guidance.

16. Incorporate local culture and heritage into the school curriculum and extracurricular activities.

17. Establish scholarship programs to support students from rural areas in pursuing higher education.

18. Develop a strong alumni network to serve as role models, mentors, and provide support to current students.

19. Collaborate with private organizations, foundations, and corporate entities through public-private partnerships to leverage resources and expertise.

20. Continuously assess the impact of implemented strategies and interventions to ensure sustained progress in rural education.

▪**Mr. Azeez:** In order to improve the state of rural education in India, addressing several prevalent challenges is crucial. Poverty remains a significant barrier hindering educational progress in rural areas. To mitigate this, providing free or highly subsidized education can significantly boost enrollment rates. By alleviating the financial burden on parents for their children's education,

more families would be inclined to send their children to school.

However, the issue of insufficient schools persists, especially affordable ones.

Establishing a greater number of schools that are economical for the middle and lower-income strata of society is essential. Bridging the gap between the number of educational institutions and the rising awareness of education's importance is paramount.

Moreover, the inadequate infrastructure of rural educational institutions poses a serious challenge. Insufficient numbers of well-trained teachers and an improper student-teacher ratio contribute to low-quality education, defeating the purpose of attending school. Investing in school

infrastructure and ensuring a sufficient number of competent educators is fundamental to establishing a strong educational foundation.

Traditional teaching methods prevalent in rural schools further exacerbate the problem. The need of the hour is to shift from rote learning to more progressive and concept-based teaching approaches. Embracing innovative and effective teaching methods will lead to a more holistic development of students, improving the overall educational experience.

Additionally, the advancement in technology and the digital gap between urban and rural areas cannot be ignored. Promoting computer literacy and

imparting technological education in rural schools is essential. This will equip students with essential skills, aligning them with the educational standards of urban areas and enhancing their overall development.

—Problems with teachers in rural areas which are blocking India's educational growth

Our country is facing a critical issue where pedagogical innovations designed to enhance education primarily benefit urban areas, leaving the rural educational landscape largely overlooked. Given that approximately 65% of the population resides in rural India, focusing on rural education is imperative, considering the numerous challenges it confronts,

including a shortage of teachers, teacher absenteeism, and subpar teaching quality.

One of the primary problems lies in the non-permanence of teachers in rural schools. Many government-run schools in rural areas rely on ad hoc teachers due to financial constraints, offering meager pay compared to permanent positions. This lack of stability and the absence of promising career prospects demotivate these teachers, resulting in a perpetual shortage as they seek more permanent and fulfilling opportunities.

Teacher absenteeism is another critical concern. The lack of accountability for teachers and school authorities contributes to high rates of absenteeism.

Despite efforts to monitor teacher attendance through School Development and Management Committees (SDMCs), their effectiveness remains limited, failing to address this persistent issue adequately.

Non-teaching duties, such as election invigilation, often divert teachers' attention from their primary role in schools. Additionally, challenging commutes to distant duty locations, compounded by inadequate transportation infrastructure in rural India, further exacerbate absenteeism among teachers.

To address the teacher shortage, several states have exempted candidates from the Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET).

However, this move, aimed at quickly resolving the teacher deficit, has inadvertently lowered the overall teaching quality in these states and beyond. Consequently, enhancing the quality of teachers becomes a pressing concern at a national level.

Furthermore, the dearth of quality teacher training institutes perpetuates the problem. While numerous private teacher-training institutes exist in India, the quality of education they provide is often substandard. A crucial aspect for motivating teachers and ensuring teaching excellence is continuous professional development, necessitating a significant focus on enhancing training quality and accessibility.

▪**Ms. Leena Rai Kalra (Leader):** Agreed
Even rural schools don't want to
innovate, create and include skilling in the
curriculum

They are after marks leaving behind the
need of the upgradation at practical level
though a few are following the norms and
updated features to impart education but
mostly are keeping everything in papers
and least bother for the qualified staff or
the exact quality education

Moreover they are trying not to recruit
the right candidate as head of the
institution however, either fulfilling
through the officiating position or
coordinators these days

The survey can increase the chances of
better enrollment for the next session but
it is not to be limited to canvassing, it

should be true to explore the culture, family background and the expectations of parents. Let parents get engaged in school activities and functioning and their interaction should be planned on a regular basis. Special events and training or skilling sessions of students to be included in the activity calendar of the session.

▪**Dr Balasubramanian:** India got independence in 1947 and now we are landing on moon and sending satellites like town bus and still we are sadly talking about insufficient teachers , many government offices with empty chairs , poor recruitment policy , government is delaying with appointments , even police set and judicial department they are not filling the vacancies

And we are very organised with cricket team 11 players and so many substitutes for doctors , coaches , assistants , bats and balls so on and government schools and many (private schools in cities) don't even have a playground ,

We are very good with policy makers and book writers and so many commissions , principals and vice chancellors open their mouth and their wisdom thought only after the retirements and zero in exercising (perhaps some exceptions might be there), don't have Systematic follow ups.

▪**Mr. Nahid Raza:** The best way to increase enrollment is to serve children unconditionally. Have a robust academic system in place. Report the assessments

with parents. Parents must know what next.

Round the year planning with the head, teachers, students and parents and its efficient execution.

▪**Mrs. Ruchi Jain:** What I feel is that our education system has to have a drastic change. As we have been taught and now teaching the coming generations with that same curriculum, subjects, life style, schooling objectives, assessments and evaluation standards, scores and admissions' goal n many more. As we have already entered the AI era, the coming generation has to be a step ahead of the coming technologies. Here the question arises why? The simple answer is - we need smart people to handle the

technically upgraded globe. So in my opinion, we should start seriously whether our education system is up to the checklist or not.

I would like to know all of the respected members' opinions on my very thoughts, and I do value all the opinions. I am working with an Edtech company, and looking forward to escalating this issue on our board.

▪**Dr Balasubramanian:** Good evening madam , Company policies and government policies never match (the speed)

Companies may have 5G internet connection and all staff may have smart phones and 100% (electricity or battery UPS) Fast in updates

Sadly we don't even have 24/7 power supply and many government schools (even in Urban areas - without toilets and water facilities)

Though the government is implementing many policies , how long it takes to reach the end user.

And very sorry to say this , even if we cannot run the government exam without leaking the exam Papers .

I was wondering how the IGCSE(British council) is running all over the world , twice in a year.

Never seen a printing mistake or paper correction or fail or pass for the absentee so on .

So kindly never compare with the private company or private university formula with the government ideology , my kind request .

And sorry if any false comments from my side (and anyway it's a discussion - right please) and I will reconsider