

The Indian Education System: Does the Legal and Political Representation of Education Challenge Western Pathways Towards Social Development?

Rohan Singh

Research Question

To what extent has India's representation of education as a fundamental civil liberty evolved through political and legal discourses since becoming independent?

Context

- Independent Sovereignty in 1947
- First Constitution in 1949
- Education represented as a fundamental right is the continuing theme found throughout the country's History
- education = the greatest example of India's investment into democracy

Methodology

- Discourse Analysis
- Analysed legal statutes and political speeches from three different time periods: 1949, 1980s and 2016/2017.
- Identified Three Discourses from each time period:
 1. Education as a means towards national development
 2. A discourse of Social Equality
 3. A discourse of Pre-School Education
- Looked for how each discourse builds on one another
- Using my Indian ethnicity and knowledge of Indian history to understand the meaning continuity in India's representation of education

A special thanks to my mentor, Professor Maina Singh and my research sequence professors, Aaron Boesenecker and Laura Field

India's Representation of Education

Political Stability, Economic Success.

Global Hegemony By 2050

"Make India once again a First-Class nation."

Nehru on Education

Findings

Discourse	Evidence	Political Textual Evidence	Legal Evidence	Interpretation
Higher Education a necessary Pathway to Social Development	Nehru Political Speech, and 1949 Indian Constitution	Education the basis for a "first class nation"	- Educational institutions are of "national importance" - Education is "fundamental" right to freedom.	Indian's political and legal framework shaped the country's developmental trajectory.
Social Equality	Indira Gandhi Speeches in 1980s and 1986 National Policy on Education	Educated Women have "a role" for Indian to be seen as different on the global stage.	Education the "agent of basic change in the status of women." Education for Equality placed in the framework as "Part IV" of the legal statute.	Recognising the success education has had since 1949. Educations as a means for Female Empowerment.
The Importance of Pre-School Education	2016 New Education Policy, and Union Minister, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi Speech	Education is a prerequisite for "early childhood care."	Early childhood is the most important period of learning. Pre-School Education categorised as the first item of agenda in the 2016 New Education Policy legal statute.	There is also a recognition of the success education has. The contemporary government now committed to provide education to children below the age of six to fulfil the constitutions' categorisation of education as a "right to freedom."

Conclusions

- The Educational Path India has taken was the only option available and may be the only option available transit
- India's middle class only country the only one to have grown due to education
- Evidence of the "Path Dependency" taken by the country gives an insight into the trajectory direction India has experienced. This Path was envisioned by the country's leaders.
- Continuity in this representation of Education shows the strength of the constitution

Why is This Important?

- India was built with a vision of stability and democracy.
- The way education was represented was the only viable option to a country whom inherited all the disarray associated with the end of colonial rule. . .
- India's investment into education as a development strategy shows why they have grown at faster rates compared to their neighbours.
- Continuity in how education has been represented shows the strength of a strong democracy