

# **What is the meaning of Basic Education in India**

**Roopa Vijaywargiya**

*Assistant Professor, Shri Vaishnav Institute of Law, Indore*

## **Abstract**

Education means the process of learning or teaching. It is similar as we give food to our empty stomach, in the same way the brain got food in the form of education. The Education is necessary because a human take the biological birth from the mother, but his actual birth take place when his education starts because at that moment the brain starts working and new things, ideas, thought process begins. When a human start thinking about right and wrong, what is good and bad, what is world etc. similar kinds of topics arises in the mind of a human. Education helps in the growth and development of human. We can say if a person is not educated then he can behave in any manner but if he is educated he will behave in civilized manner. Basic education helps a child to develop a base on which the whole life of that child will run. If Basic education is proper child will grow and if it is not, then his life will remain in dark. The brain of a child is just like a raw clay and if it is properly nourished then a very good structure can be formed but if it is not then it will be a waste brain which can become a criminal or any such kind. By this research paper I am trying to explain the Right to Education is fundamental right and what is Basic Education for a human. I am saying human because it includes person of every age despite of religion, age, gender, place of birth or any other kind of Economic, social or any other barrier.

***Keywords: Basic education, Elementary education, Illiteracy, Universalization of Education***

## **Introduction**

*"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." --- Said by John Dewey.*

The Education is not preparation for life, it is life itself is very meaningful and rightly said. Education is necessary part of life. It is true that an education decides what will be your future and not only future of yours, but future of nation depends on the education. The Education as a

word means to acquire the knowledge and to use this knowledge to develop the skills for the development of life.<sup>1</sup> Education plays a cardinal role in transforming a society into civilized nation. It accelerates the progress of the country in every sphere of national activity. It operates as a 'multiplier' by enhancing the entitlement of all individual rights and freedom. It enables a person to control the benefits derived from other rights. It is 'the key to unlock and protect other human rights.' It embodies all civil political, social, economic and cultural rights. No segment of the citizens can be ignored or left behind because it would hamper the progress of the country.

If we notice the social value of Education, we found that education is not only the need of individual, but it is the need of the society. The society and education are inter-related. Sometimes society needs education and education needs society, both depend on the growth of each other.

### **Levels of Education-**

In India school education is divided in 4 levels –

Lower Primary – Age 6 to 10

Upper Primary – Age 11 to 12

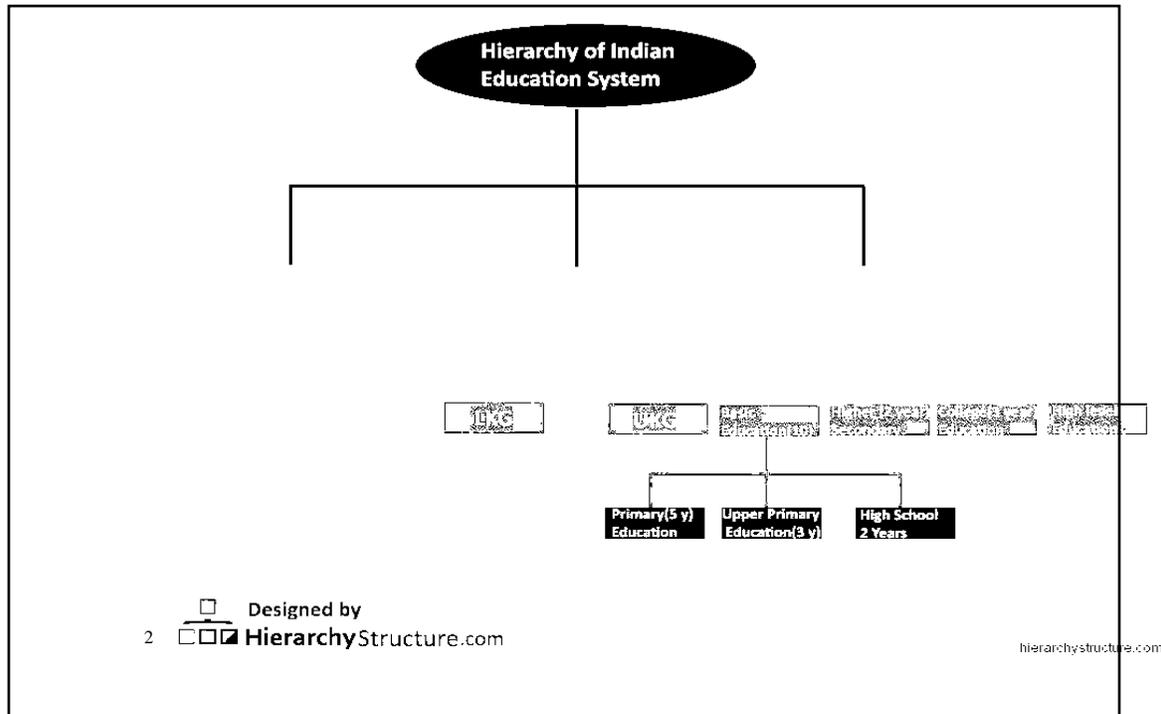
High School – Age 13 to 15

Higher Secondary – Age 17 to 18

After 18 college education in the name of Higher studies or Technical studies starts.

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<sup>1</sup><http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/183067/4/chapter%201>



Above diagram represent the Hierarchy of Indian Education system. The Education system is divided in three wings: Pre-Nursery, Kindergarten and 10+2+3 patterned education. Kindergarten is divided in two parts as Lower KG and Upper KG. The 10+2+3 patterned education is divided as Basic Education, Higher Secondary, College Education and High-Level Education. The Basic Education is divided as:

- 1) Primary Education
- 2) Upper Primary Education
- 3) High School

### Basic Education: Meaning-

In India as we always keep our custom above all the law. In our Ancient eras the education would mean the education which a child got from his first teacher as mother and then in the Gurukuls. It is known as their Basic education, but as the time changes there is lot of changes appeared in the education. So now a days basic education means <sup>3</sup>According to the

<sup>2</sup><https://www.hierarchystructure.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Hierarchy-of-Indian-Education-System/>

<sup>3</sup>[www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org).

International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED), basic education comprises the two stages primary education and lower secondary education.<sup>4</sup>Primary education and elementary education is typically the first stage of formal education, coming after preschool and before secondary education (The first two grades of primary school, Grades 1 and 2, are also part of early childhood education). Primary education usually takes place in a primary school or elementary school. In some countries, primary education is followed by middle school, an educational stage which exists in some countries, and takes place between primary school and high schoolcollege.

The meaning of basic education differs from country to country. Although the difference is not on big grounds because the meaning of basic is through root. This meaning is same for all countries. The universal basic education means primary education of children.<sup>5</sup>Basic education featured heavily in the 1997 ISCED document, but the term was not included in the glossary. Each country interpreted the term in different ways, and leading up to the 2011 revision, a discussion paper was issued to seek clarification. In most countries, ISCED 1 corresponds to the nationally designated primary education, and basic education includes that and ISCED 2 lower secondary education (the lower level of secondary school). In other countries, where there is no break between primary and lower secondary education “basic education” covers the entire compulsory school period. For statistical reasons, ISCED 1 is then considered to be the first six years of schooling. Universal basic education is regarded as a priority for developing countries and is the focus of the Education For All movement led by UNESCO. It is also included in the Millennium Development Goals as goal number 2: achieve universal primary education by 2015.

<sup>6</sup>Achieving the right to education for all is one of the biggest challenges of our times. The second International Development Goal addresses this challenge: universalizing primary education in all countries by 2015. This is also one of the main objectives set at the World Education Forum (April 2000), where the right to basic education for all was reaffirmed as a fundamental human right. Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and

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<sup>4</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primary\\_education#India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primary_education#India)

<sup>5</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basic\\_education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basic_education)

<sup>6</sup>[http://www.right-to-education.org/sites/right-to-education.org/files/resource-attachments/UNESC\\_RTE\\_Scope\\_and\\_Implementation\\_General\\_Comment\\_13\\_on\\_the\\_RTE\\_Article\\_13\\_ICESCR\\_2003\\_En.pdf](http://www.right-to-education.org/sites/right-to-education.org/files/resource-attachments/UNESC_RTE_Scope_and_Implementation_General_Comment_13_on_the_RTE_Article_13_ICESCR_2003_En.pdf)

Cultural Rights covers this right most comprehensively. The provisions it contains were drafted at the suggestion of UNESCO's Director-General. The right to education is also recognized in other international and regional instruments. A few instruments elaborated by UNESCO relating to the right to education give expression to this right in its different aspects.

It means the Right to education is fundamentally recognized by whole world. The universalization of elementary education in India is done by various schemes like<sup>7</sup>Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Operation Blackboard (OB), District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), Mid-Day Meals Scheme, Education for All (EFA), National Education Policy (NEP), and Non-Formal Education etc.

### **Universalization of Education**

The Universalization of Education is one of the most important in the global scenario. India is also trying to implement this concept in our country.<sup>8</sup>The surest instrument for attaining sustainable development of a high order in India is to invest heavily in education for all. The growing success of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) surely demonstrates that our country is learning the truth of that old ages. Indeed, SSA and its goal of Universal Elementary Education provides a sound basis for sustainable development. However, this is not enough. The growing number of children in the elementary school system is bringing pressure to bear on the need for further education. Universalisation of Secondary Education should now be our goal: this will generate creation of human capital and will provide sufficient conditions for accelerating growth and development and equity as also quality of life for everyone in India. It is, therefore, time to consider the issue of Universalisation of Secondary Education and the achievement of that goal by 2020.

### **Right to Education-**

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<sup>7</sup>Universalization of elementary education under different schemes by Indu Bala Ph.D. Research Scholar, Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa, Haryana, India

<sup>8</sup>[http://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/document-reports/universalisation.pdf](http://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/document-reports/universalisation.pdf)

The Right to education is guaranteed by our parliament to be the Fundamental Right of a human. It is now put as Article 21A of Constitution of India.<sup>9</sup> As early as in 1978, the Supreme Court of India has widened the scope of Article 21 of Indian Constitution. The Court then held that, “the right to education flows directly from the right to life” as “the right to life and dignity of an individual cannot be assured unless it accompanied by the right to education. After that one more step was taken forward and The Right to Education Act was passed by parliament.<sup>10</sup> The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act or Right to Education Act (RTE), is an Act of the Parliament of India. India became one of 135 countries to make education a fundamental right of every child. The Act makes education a fundamental right of every child between the ages of 6 and 14. It requires all private schools to reserve 25% of seats to children. Kids are admitted in to private schools based on economic status or caste-based reservations. The RTE Act requires surveys that will monitor all neighbourhoods, identify children requiring education, and set up facilities for providing it. The Right to Education of persons with disabilities until 18 years of age is laid down under a separate legislation - the Persons with Disabilities Act.

Education on our law is included in Concurrent list on which union and state both have power to make law. It is responsibility of everyone including Central government, State government and other local bodies to successfully implement the law of Education. At least primary, elementary or basic education should be given to every child. In our Constitution it is included in Fundamental duties also because it is duty of every citizen of India and it is also included in Directive Principles of State policy because it is holy duty of State to implement it.

### **Conclusion-**

As we have seen above the education is most essential part of life. For creating a nation, a good and educated youth is required. The education is one of the medium by which one can represent himself before the world. The basic education is right of individual and there is no any age or gender bar for it. We should always try that basic education should be imparted to all child whether child belong to any family or not, whether they may have enough fund or not, or whether they may be of any sex or religion. Education should be treated like a food and this

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<sup>9</sup>Mohini Jain Vs. Union of India AIR 1992 SC 1858

<sup>10</sup><http://righttoeducation.in/know-your-rte/about>

inspiration should be put in the brains of a child from their birth. As per UNO first we must study our home then neighbour then city then country and if all this is done then we should help the other countries. The main aim is education should be spread in the whole world and each person should be educated, and Illiteracy should be removed.