General Assembly
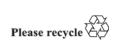
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26 February–5 April 2024
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by CIRID (Centre Independent de Recherches et d'Iniatives pour le Dialogue), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[29 January 2024]

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* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.

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Skill Development and Educational Infrastructure in India

Skill development, coupled with a robust educational infrastructure, is crucial for fostering human capital, economic growth, and social development in India. Following is the initiatives recently undertaken to this effect in a nutshell:

- Flagged off in 2015, Skill India Mission, such as, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) launched for skill training and recognition, eyes empowering a large number of Indian youth with industry-relevant skills for securing better livelihood.

- Likewise, Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), which gear individuals up with vocational training for jobs in industrial sector, have been modernized and upgraded to meet industry requirements.

- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has joined hands with private sector partners for playing a pivotal role in coordinating and implementing developmental drives by organizing programmes and catalyzing collaboration with industries.

- National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) encourages industry to engage apprentices through financial incentives to both and apprenticeship programmes for practical training and skill development across various sectors.

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs) act as skill development centers that offer training programmes in line with industry requirements, with focus on creation of a skilled workforce for diverse sectors, including manufacturing, healthcare, and information technology.

- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) seeks to provide quality elementary education to all children within the 6 to 14 age bracket through emphasis on improving infrastructure, teacher quality and enrollment rates.

"India has made significant strides in improving literacy rates over the past two decades. In the early 2000s, our country faced challenges in providing education to all, but the implementation of key government initiatives like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Right to Education Act has brought about remarkable changes. As per Statista, literacy rates in India have been on the rise, indicating improved access to education, but there still is room for further expansion. A workforce with greater education has led to the success of many sectors and enterprises. Employers in sectors like IT, finance and banking, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, retail and e-commerce, automotive and manufacturing, and entertainment and media have all profited from having knowledgeable and competent staff.

- Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) aims at realizing universalization of secondary education through enhancement of access, infrastructure and quality of education.

- With a view to ensuring wider access to quality education, initiatives like SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) offer online courses via smart classrooms and digital learning resources to ensure modernization of educational infrastructure.

- Mid-Day Meal Scheme has been executed to improve enrollment, attendance, and nutrition levels among students in government schools, ensuring that children receive at least one nutritious meal every school day.

- Rising popularity of e-learning platforms and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) sets the stage further for higher education and skill development, with Coursera, pedX, and Udacity provide access to global institutions.

- National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisages revamping education system through emphasis on holistic development, skill-building, and flexible learning pathways by way of integrating vocational education into mainstream education.

- Riding high with innovative learning methods, many private and government initiatives now pursue project-based learning, STEM education, and experiential learning. Observing the progress of India in the field of Education and literacy, it can easily be said that the country would soon achieve its goal of 100% literacy and education to all its citizens.

Recommendation:

The NGO CIRID (Centre Independent de Recherches et d'Iniatives pour le Dialogue) recommend that a process to be put in place for upward mobility in a time of exponential technological advances.