



# *Learning Descriptive*





# *Learning Descriptive*

## **Essays on Education: (300 WORDS)**

***First:***

"Every child has the right to quality education and learning."

Raju Madhavan of Bangalore was taught at home by his mother because he was not accepted into any mainstream school. The reason was his epilepsy, autism, and learning disability. This exclusion not only affects his education but also hinders his ability to participate in social, economic, and political life. Hence, is inclusive education a utopia or an achievable reality?

It is particularly concerning because Raju is not the only child to face such challenges. According to UNESCO, 60% of children with disabilities in India don't attend any educational institution. Globally, 240 million children with disabilities are often overlooked in policymaking, limiting their access to education.

### **Impediments to Inclusive Education**

Teacher shortages, a lack of trained staff for specially-abled children requiring individual attention, an inadequate learning environment, and hesitant societal acceptance hinder enrollments for inclusive education. The Ministry of Human Resource Development reported in 2023 that approximately 1.5 million teaching positions were vacant in government schools across India. This can lead to high student-teacher ratios, making it difficult to provide individual attention. Further, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment indicated that less than 5% of schools in India were fully accessible to children with disabilities.

### **Removing Hurdles**

An increase in government expenditure towards education of at least 8-10% of GDP is essential to train teachers, improve accessibility, and reduce class sizes. Initiatives to train non-special educators with pioneer institutions like Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust and the Rehabilitation Council of India to increase the quality and numbers of special educators at every level of education can facilitate better learning through inclusive education. Only then can the aim of education—to help individuals like Raju Madhavan become critical and well-rounded individuals—be fulfilled.



# *Learning Descriptive*

## ***Second:***

Education traces its roots back to ancient times with institutions like Gurukuls and Pathshalas that imparted knowledge of Vedas and Upanishads. However, the landscape changed with the arrival of Europeans, ushering in modern education through initiatives like Macaulay's Minutes (downward filtration theory) and Wood's Dispatch. Post-Independence, our Constitution safeguarded educational rights with Article 21 and the Right to Education Act 2009. Yet, Census 2011 data reveals contradictions, with 26% of India's population being illiterate. There exists a significant literacy rate gap among states, with Kerala at 96% and Bihar at 65%.

### **Challenges at the Root of Education Sector**

The primary culprit behind India's educational infrastructure challenges is inadequate funding. The Economic Survey reports that India's total education expenditure is only 2.9% of its GDP, with a mere 11% allocated to higher education. This results in deficient higher education opportunities and a curriculum that lacks demand-centric skills, subsequently impacting employability (where 47% of youth lack employability skills). Insufficient funding also leads to a scarcity of qualified teachers, contributing to high student-teacher ratios (nearly 1.2 lakh schools with only one teacher each) and exacerbating school dropout rates.

### **Measures to Unlock Avenues of Progress**

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." - Benjamin Franklin. Franklin's words emphasise the critical role of education in fostering overall development. Building on this insight, efforts are being made to revitalise the education sector. The New Education Policy 2020 aims to increase education expenditure to 6% of the total budget. Initiatives such as "NISHTHA" and "Vidyanjali" focus on teacher training and volunteer engagement, while NGOs like "UDAAN" and "NANHI KALI" offer vital support. Mid-Day Meal schemes play a crucial role in reducing school dropout rates. Finally, stories like that of Bhimabai Jondhale inspire awareness and empowerment among citizens, driving our nation forward by leaps and bounds.



# *Learning Descriptive*

## ***Third:***

Education in India has traversed a profound journey from ancient gurukuls imparting Vedic knowledge to modern-day classrooms equipped with digital tools. Despite these advancements, significant challenges persist, questioning the accessibility and quality of education across the nation.

Historically, India's education system evolved under colonial influences with reforms like Macaulay's Minutes and Wood's Dispatch, aimed at modernising curriculum and institutional frameworks. Post-independence, constitutional provisions such as Article 21 and the Right to Education Act, 2009, aimed to ensure universal access to education. However, Census data from 2011 reveals persistent disparities: while states like Kerala boast a 96% literacy rate, Bihar lags at 65%, highlighting uneven educational opportunities.

Central to these challenges is inadequate funding, with India allocating only 2.9% of its GDP to education, a figure insufficient to meet the diverse needs of its vast population. This underfunding results in shortages of trained teachers, overcrowded classrooms, and limited access to quality education, particularly in rural and marginalised communities.

To address these issues, the New Education Policy of 2020 proposes increasing education spending to 6% of GDP, aiming to enhance infrastructure and educational outcomes. Initiatives like "NISHITA" and "Vidyanjali" focus on teacher training and community engagement, fostering a supportive environment for learning. Integrating digital technologies and vocational training into curricula also aims to align education with industry needs, enhancing employability among graduates.

Looking ahead, promoting media literacy and critical thinking skills among students is crucial in navigating the digital age responsibly. By fostering a culture of inquiry and equipping students to discern misinformation, education can empower future generations to contribute meaningfully to society.

In conclusion, education stands as a pivotal tool for societal progress, offering pathways to individual empowerment and national development. Through strategic investments, innovative reforms, and a commitment to inclusive education, India can unlock the transformative potential of education, ensuring a brighter future for all its citizens.



# *Learning Descriptive*

## ***Fourth:***

The foundation of society lies in its education system. A student drops out of school. A teacher goes above and beyond to inspire their students. A community rallies to build a new library. These stories, each different, highlight the multifaceted nature of education. Often, people come across such headlines, nod in agreement, and then forget about them. But education is more than a fleeting headline; it is the cornerstone of progress and development.

Gone are the days when education was limited to the wealthy elite. Gone are the days when learning materials were scarce and confined to dusty bookshelves. Today, education is accessible at the click of a button. The world's knowledge is at our fingertips, and yet, this abundance has brought its own set of challenges. Students now face an overwhelming amount of information, making it difficult to discern quality content from the noise.

Education has the power to transform lives. It opens doors, creates opportunities, and fuels innovation. Yet, the gap between access and quality remains a significant issue. In many parts of the world, students sit in overcrowded classrooms with limited resources. Teachers, the unsung heroes, strive to impart knowledge and inspire curiosity, often without adequate support or recognition.

Moreover, the rise of digital education has highlighted the digital divide. While some students benefit from high-speed internet and modern devices, others struggle with basic connectivity. This disparity threatens to widen the educational gap, leaving behind those who need it the most.

So, how did we get here? Just as one would study a map before embarking on a journey, it's crucial for society to navigate the complexities of modern education thoughtfully. Parents, educators, and policymakers must collaborate to create an inclusive and equitable education system. This means investing in infrastructure, supporting teachers, and embracing technology without forgetting the human element of learning.

However, the journey doesn't end here. Education, though fraught with challenges, is also the key to solving many of the world's problems. By fostering critical thinking, promoting lifelong learning, and encouraging empathy, we can cultivate a generation equipped to tackle global issues. As the world evolves, so must our approach to education. Integrating real-world skills, emphasising emotional intelligence, and ensuring mental well-being are essential steps forward.



## *Learning Descriptive*

In conclusion, the future of education is a collective responsibility. It is not just about imparting knowledge but also about shaping character and instilling values. As we embrace the opportunities and confront the challenges, let us remember that education is not a destination but a journey. A journey that, when navigated wisely, can lead to a brighter, more equitable future for all.

thelearners.co.in