

# QUALITY EDUCATION: A GATEWAY TO ECONOMIC GROWTH, EMPOWERMENT AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

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## *Abstract:*

Presently, the world is carrying the pressure of 775.28 crore people with meager growth in industry (2.8%), economy (2.84% excluding USA) and the rate of employment being 55.9 as per survey in 2021 and 74% men and 46% women are in work for income. Drop-out is noticed among people in the target of higher education. This is because the graph of primary, secondary and tertiary education in the world is in the descending order i.e., 90%, 74% and 46% respectively. The mortality rate is 7.7 against 1000. This scenario of the world might change and improve if quality education is ensured and provided to all without least discrimination. Education leads to development in all domains of individual, social and human life. The growth and development of human world is the direct fruit of human endeavours through education. The human civilization we are proud of now is the priceless gift of education. It is a tested fact that development wakes pace by pace with education. The more people will have education in different fields, the more developed and enriched will be the world civilization. Hence, education is the foundation of individual, social, national and global development. What the world demands in the competitive situation for sustainable economic growth and development is the quality education. It is quality education, visibly contributing to economic growth that creates a good prospect of industrial growth and development and employment opportunity. Quality education trains and educates people to become able and worthy citizens of nations and members of the world society. It paves the way for universal tolerance, peace and peaceful co-existence, reduces tension in the world, directs people's attention towards progress and development and implants and strengthens universal brotherhood in human mind and tightens unity and amity among people. Quality education will lead to empowerment and development of skills that will remove inequalities and make the world a place of peace, joy, equality and prosperity. India has reached the threshold of the attainment of global recognition of the developed nation though the country stands far below the height of industrial and economic growth. India needs to provide for quality education in order to accelerate the growth rate in industry and economy to ensure the sustenance of development in all fields because without quality education sustainable development is not possible.. Quality education and world class skills development to generate skilled hands constitute the basis of sustainable development for exploitation-inequality-injustice free society.

*Key words: quality education, economic growth, industrial development, empowerment, skills development, equality, social justice, global development*

*Introduction:* The world we live in is the one of economic growth and human development in comparison with the world of a century back. The veil of backwardness that had characterized most of the countries of the world has gradually receded or is fast receding. The world has now assumed a new socio-economic shape and acquired a new dimension of human development. This has been possible because of rapid growth of education and dissemination of its light. Much more development of education is required to push the world into a new stage of global peace, progress, human development and prosperity. Education is instrumental of growth and development. It prepares the ground of development and quality education shapes it. The world needs quality education to make progress in all fields of development and all domains of human life. Quality education is conducive to innovative skills development which is indispensable for growth and development in industry and economy which will by turns raise people's purchasing capacity. The economic growth and development as spoken of here will protect people against poverty, inequality, and consequent miseries. Quality education is needed not only for social, industrial, economic development but for human development in the form of quality life status and life style in the world as well. Quality education leads to equitable distribution of global wealth and actualization of the principle of justice for all

## *The World at Present:*

The world has already been overpopulated. It is a place of 7.9 billion people with men and women being roughly equal. World population is rapidly increasing. In this era of world population explosion various social and economic crises like poverty, ill-health, high mortality rate in some countries, rising rate of unemployment, terrorism and extremism, exploitation, deprivation and inequality and others have infected the world. The dreaded fangs of bad days are threatening the world. The rate of employment in the world is only 55.9%. The rate of growth in global economy and industry is estimated at 2.34% as per 2019 world statistics. Only 74% men 46.9% women are calculated as work force. The average growth rate for 2020 based on 177 countries was – 4.83%

with the highest growth rate in Guyana being 43.83% and the lowest one in Macao being – 56.3%. Lybia tops the list of countries of the highest industrial production. The United States of America tops the list of 10 largest manufacturing countries in the world in 2020 because the country tops the nations providing quality education to the students. China is the country of highest GDP growth, while India has been calculated as the highest growing large economy in the world. The growth and development in the domains of economy and industry as well as in the domain of human life is determined by quality education. (The only data used in this part have been generated from the website)

#### *Education and Economic Growth:*

Education is the requirement for economic growth. Growth and development in the field is the automatic result of successful provision of education to the students. Human efforts are the pre-condition of growth and development. Mere physical efforts are not enough to bring about socio-economic transformation of the world. It needs intellectual exercise in the achievement of development in agricultural as well as in manufacturing sector. Education precedes our intellectual exercise in the achievement of the goal. The higher is the quality of education the sharper will be our intellectual exercise in implementing the plans and programmes for development. Skills development through quality education has remarkably reduced the rate of unemployment in the world. World statistics in 2021 reveal that the global unemployment rate is estimated to be between 6.3 and 6.5 depending upon the source. Switzerland tops the rate of employment in 2020 among the Organization for Economic Cooperation (OEC) countries and has the employment rate being estimated at 79.9%. Quality of education enhances intellectual ability and accordingly develops skills to perform effectively and successfully the functions in all developmental sectors. The world has already made unprecedented development in the fields of science and technology and has been able to digitalize the world but has not been able to bring and ensure equal status to the people of the world. Poverty has not yet been eradicated from the world. In the third world countries mainly in the underdeveloped countries hundreds of people die from starvation. 20 million people die each year from hunger related causes. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimates that at least 435 million people are seriously undernourished in the world in the present time. Education is the best weapon to fight against poverty and at the same time to attain self-reliance. Education develops skills in individuals and helps empower them socially and economically. Education can thus transform the world through sustainable economic development.

#### *Education, Women Empowerment and Sustainable Development:*

Education, empowerment and sustainable development constitute the goal of the world in the present time. It has been concluded that education is the only way of human empowerment and the mantra of global sustainable development. The number of men and women is almost equal in the world. Out of 1000 people men are 504 and women are 496 i.e., 50.4% and 49.6% respectively. Women need to be empowered through education and development of skills among them so that 50% of world population might be utilized as the source of work force to contribute to the growth and development of the world. Women are still neglected in some parts of the world. They are denied equality with men; they are victims of male-domination; they are deprived of equality and gender parity. They are considered inferior to men. This attitude of men towards women hampers economic growth and human development of the world. Empowerment of women is a very positive step towards justice to them. It is the instrument of women's protection against deprivation, exploitation, oppression, violence and denial of basic natural right and freedom to them and attainment of self-reliance in life to get rid of humiliating subordination to men. Women education and development of skills are the yardsticks to measure the growth and development of the world in all domains of global life. The world has not been yet able to provide education fully to women. Around 129 million girls are out of schools and 49% of the countries have so far achieved gender parity in primary education. Only 42% girls are in lower secondary education and 24% girls are in upper primary education. According to global statistics 39% of rural girls attend secondary school and 59% urban girls are enrolled for secondary education. The statistics generated from the website and used in this part reveal that the world is yet to ensure education to girls on a par with boys. Equality of women with men in the field of education is an exercising problem for the world. Some countries impose restrictions on women's education. Chad imposes many social and economic barriers on girls and women getting education. In Mali only 38% of girls complete primary education. The rate of women's education in Guinea is less than 25% and only 01% of the girls complete secondary education in Burkina Faso. Nearly two thirds of the world's 781 million illiterate adults are women. Top priority needs to be given to the improvement the existing status of women education in the world to sustain and stabilize the process of global development. Prevention of women from active and spontaneous participation in global reconstruction programmes is a big challenge for global development. On the other hand women are not protected enough to participate fearlessly in the drive for development. Society has not been able to provide security and protection to them. They become often victims of violence. Violence against girls and women is a problem of pandemic proportions. One out of three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her life time. They are subjected to intimate partner violence. One third of women worldwide have experienced physical and / or sexual violence by an intimate partner during the Covid-19 pandemic situation. It has been estimated that 137 women are killed by their intimate partners or family members everyday in the world. It has been estimated that 200 million girls and women alive today have been subjected to violence of genital mutilation across Africa and the Middle East. Ethiopia is at the top of the list of 71 countries in which girls and women are the victims of domestic violence. Women need education to be empowered in the society and to become self-reliant for their livelihood in order to be well-protected against inhuman violence to which they are globally subjected. Adequate protection against domestic as well as social violence against women is one of the basic necessities for global human development and women empowerment will boost global human and economic growth and development.

### *Women's Political Empowerment:*

Women are passing through a state of utter discrimination and deprivation in the world. They are exposed to exploitation and violence everywhere. They are denied equal status and equal remuneration against equal work with men. On average, women are paid less than men for comparable work across all regions and sectors. They carry the stigma of inferiority to men in all walks of life. They are victims of discrimination across the world. 153 countries have laws which allow discrimination against women economically, where husbands can legally prevent their wives from working in any sectors. The skills and expertise of women in contributing to global development are thus wasted. Women need empowerment in all domains of life. Male-domination in the world is opposed to women's right and freedom and equality with men in politics, power and decision-making.

In many cases women are considered 'not fit' for managerial posts in any sectors although they are qualified and efficient enough to perform their managerial functions effectively and shoulder their responsibilities. More than 30% diplomats around the world are women and the permanent members of the UN's Security Council (England, America, Russia, China and France) are women. Despite gender discrimination prevails in the world. This gender discrimination has adversely affected the growth and development in management sectors. World statistics bring it to light that only 28% managerial positions are held by women in different sectors in the world. Women representation in power and decision making is globally very poor. Women form less than 24% of the world's parliamentarians and about 5% of the world's mayors.

### *Laws for Women's Protection :*

Laws are required to protect women against gender discrimination, deprivation and violence against women in the world. Laws in some countries that proscribe women's freedom and natural right to participation in developmental activities need to be withdrawn. Global consideration in favour of women's right and freedom is necessary to inspire and encourage them to join the movement for global development. Laws to address domestic violence are not yet available in all the countries in the world. Only 153 countries have such laws to provide for protection to women against domestic violence. Women's representation in law-making bodies and administration is essentially required for women's protection of right and safety as well as protection against various forms of violence. But the prevailing situation of the world reveals that women are exposed to violence. Women continue to be underrepresented in politics and administration and other professional domains. Women will continue to be deprived of justice if there is no global consensus on the legislation of stringent laws against gender discrimination, women's deprivation, domestic and social violence against women. To provide for justice to women through ensuring all human rights to them is to help improve human status and the improvement of human status is indicative of global development.

### *Conclusion:*

The growth and development of world economy and industry and the amelioration of human conditions especially the conditions of women form the basis of global development in all domains of human life. The world has already made considerable development in various economic sectors to protect people against poverty and malnutrition. Many positive programmes have globally been launched to improve health and life. Science and technology has heralded a new era of the digital world. A lot of programmes have been launched for time-bound implementation to protect women against deprivation, discrimination and violence and to improve women's life. Stress has been placed on quality education to enhance skills required for economic development because education is the foundation of individual, social, national and global development. Quality education is the pre-condition sustainable global development. Quality education not only empowers an individual or a nation better but also makes the nation fit to join the competitive world. It cannot be denied that global growth and development will be boosted and sustained if human rights are protected, quality education is provided to all, human skills are properly developed, women are protected against discrimination, inequality, deprivation, exploitation and violence and empowered and children are properly cared.

*(All the numerical data used in the paper have been generated from the website).*

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