

CHALLENGES FACED BY SCHOOLS STUDENTS: SOME CONCERNS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF ASIA (INDIA, AFGHANISTAN, IRAN ETC.)

Amir Khan Amiri

Educational Planning and Administration.MA (EPA)

Faculty of Education, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India

E-mail: mobariz.amiri@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to point out the key challenges faced by school students. In line with this aim the researcher has done a thematic research methodology, through personal experiences from childhood, working as a school advisor and reviewing literatures to collect detailed information concerning school student's challenges. After finding the valid sources the researcher has found that the most worrying challenges are sexual abuses by elder students and gangsters, conflict on the way of school, long distance to get to the school, gender discrimination between boys and girls in the families, bombing and attacks on schools, poverty, bullying and teasing, Case of (Afghanistan). Furthermore, overcrowded classrooms, poor equipment's and lack of experienced teachers regarding recognition of the specific talents of different students and failing them in exams are another challenges on the way of school students. Moreover, illiteracy of parents and lack of help regarding their homework's, family conflicts and it is effects on the child are part of difficulties faced by school students. Also, climate change, cultural differences, loneliness and communication problems are another uphill's for migrant students in international schools in a foreign country, case of foregone students in (India). Likewise, lack of school opportunity, misguidance some of students with encouraging them to join to insurgent groups, and discrimination against illegal migrant families, case of 300 million Afghanistanian illegal migrants in Iran and Pakistan with no educational opportunities. In addition, physical punishment, religious discrimination and lack of free of thought against students of minorities are some big barriers on the way of studying in schools, case of (Iran). Finding also showed that smart phones and computers cause some of the students to waste their study time on playing games and face time management problem. Finally, carrying on offensive guns and using drags by some students which effects other students

psychologically and increase the possibility of violence are the most serious challenges faced by school students. However, as it is such an international problem, for solution, the five multilateral institutions which are the key international stakeholders in the EFA movement: UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Bank, should take action against the above mentioned challenges. In the Indian context too similar challenges are daunting the Indian education sector. This paper attempts to highlight such challenges and ways of managing them from the perspective of the above mentioned key international stakeholders.

Keywords: Challenges, School, Students, Developing Countries, Solutions

INTRODUCTION

Education has been a desirable issue in the history of human beings and nowadays it becomes an indispensable ingredient of all people especially for new generation in all around the world. In the current age of innovation, development of sophisticated and complicated technology which requires knowledge for a better living, it is tough to survive or move forward without formal education. So, millions of students in all around the world are seeking for education which is not free of problems.

Nowadays, School students globally face a number of challenges which dishearten them. It cause to sheer discouragement among disciples community giving rise to learners unrest. Getting a proper education has probably become more challenging than any time before. There are enormous issues schools students have deal with like, under age marriage during school time, poverty, lack of family support, migration during studying etc.

Based on the valid and updated references which the relevant information is analyzed and collected, this paper is an attempt to find out the main Challenges faced by schools students concerns in developing countries of Asia(India, Afghanistan, Iran etc.). The result will help the educationist and national and international concerned organizations to seek some proper solutions for those challenges which this research has found out. Challenges are always around school students. Whether the struggle is submitting homework on time or staying focus in class, problems can cause our students to fail.

The challenges are basically divided into following parts:

ACADEMIC CHALLENGES

In different societies and countries schools has different meaning for different students. Most of the parents which are illiterate and have no understanding about the effects of their behaviors on their kids, they give a horrible image of school for their children. For example, in Afghanistan some families then they struggle disciplining their kids they say to their children ‘ As you are not listening to us we have to send you to the school or I will tell you to your teachers to discipline you by hitting you with stick, slapping and some other serious punishments. So, these kinds of sentences make an image of prison from school and a prison officer from the teacher which scare kids even avoiding to the school ever. Even it effects future interactions of the students with their teachers in schools which cause some poor communication and misunderstanding among them.

Some students struggle with completing Math and English assignments, submitting homework on time, and staying focus in class. Moreover, Load curriculum poor school or academic support, especially in relation to heavy workloads, not getting along with teachers or other students at school are some big concerns on the way of school students. And skipping and banking classes, being drop-out of school, either through wrong judgment of the teachers or because of poor performance are also a big challenge for many school students even in all around the world.

Also, getting stuck with social media computer and smart phones games cause school students trouble with managing the time for things like accomplishing homework, extracurricular activities and other educational group works. Even in the context of India, especially, in private schools discriminatory practices exist where children under economically weaker section (EWS) are admitted as part of Right to Education Act, 2009.

Lack of parental support

Moreover, in the cities as most of the parents are stuck with their full time jobs and in the rural areas either parents are working on the fields or are illiterate they do not supports their kids regarding their homework and extra learning. This cause most of the primary and secondary students to get lower marks or being drop-out of school which causes students a lot problems such as physical punishments, emotionally harassments stress, depression, anxiety and other psychologically problems so on. Parents are typically the most influential people in every aspect of a child’s life. This is especially true when it comes to education.

There are exceptions to the rule, but typically if the parent's value education, their children will be academically successful. Parental involvement is essential to educational success. Parents who provide their children with a solid foundation before school begins and stay involved throughout the school year will reap the benefits as their children will likely be successful.

Based on the experiences and researchers, most of the school students suffer lack of vision about the future. They don't have a clear understanding of meaning of studying in school, most of them think it is just mandatory order from their parents just to go to school or do not be called unschooled. They need to be taught how joining school is tight to their future, they need to realize school is not only about reading some textbooks and filling the exams paper it is about innovation and changing the different aspects of our lives.

In the most of the schools there are passive methods of teaching by teachers and harmful class competitions among students which lead to a having closed minds and competitive point of view in the social life. Some of the students have been labeled by their classmates especially by teachers with wrong assessment criteria's which cause students being discouraged and demotivated regarding his school studies.

Bad Teachers

The vast majority of teachers are effective at their job, sandwiched in between the great teachers and the bad teachers. We know there are bad teachers, and while they represent a small sample size of teachers, they are often the ones who sadly generate the most publicity. For the majority of teachers, this is frustrating because most work hard every day to ensure that their students receive a quality education with little fanfare.

A bad teacher can set a student or group of students back considerably. They can create significant learning gaps making the next teacher's job that much harder. A bad teacher can foster an atmosphere full of discipline issues and chaos establishing a pattern that is extremely difficult to break. Finally and perhaps most devastatingly, they can shatter a student's confidence and overall morale. The effects can be disastrous and nearly impossible to reverse. This is the reason that administrators must ensure that they make smart hiring decisions.

Lack of Student Motivation

There are many students who are discouraged and simply do not care about attending school or putting in the effort necessary to maintain their grades. An unmotivated student may initially be on grade level, but they will fall behind only to wake up one day and realize it is too late to catch up. A teacher or administrator can only do so much to motivate a student -- ultimately it is up to the student as to whether or not they decide to change.

Problems of migrated students and Transition Issues

Ongoing war, political instability and poverty hundreds of families from Afghanistan migrated to the neighbor countries like: India, Pakistan etc. The kids of these migrated families do not get the opportunity of education in the host countries. For example, lack of school opportunity, misguidance some of students with encouraging them to join to insurgent groups, and discrimination against illegal migrant families, case of 300 million Afghanistationian illegal migrants in Iran and Pakistan with no educational opportunities. Iran has made the law of not letting especially illegal migrants to go to school or colleges. Even if they get that opportunity, the new language, new style of schooling and curriculum is some big challenges for these students to study in a new method of learning.

Some students become homesick, missing their family, friends, and pets. They will miss old routines and structures. This happens even for those students in their home which they join to the school for the first time. Students may be ambivalent about dependence and independence. Some will openly ask for parent support and others won't tell parents important details. Parents need to ask their adolescent how they are doing without paying too much – while also being accessible and open. The school may not live up to the expectations set by the brochures and admissions counselors. Rarely does an admissions pamphlet tell all about the ins and outs, and the limits and shortcomings of a place. Even in India, migrant children do not attend mobile schools provided in vans etc.

Financial challenges

Poverty is a big challenge in the countries like India, Iran and Afghanistan. The distribution of wealth is skewed in these countries the gap is widening between the upper class and the lower class sectors in these countries. The financial status of students and their families has a deep effect on children's education, even in societies which pride and claim on equal opportunity and fair treatment of all. There are more many students from poor families

which are impoverished and cannot a good living and have to send their kids for labor than sending them to school.

Contrary to what many people believe, though there are huge amount of money allocated for education but still formal education has not eliminated poverty. Educational organizations especially schools have not been designed to properly serve poor children. They reflect and promote a middleclass way of life. What other challenges do impoverished children experience? They often come from homes that are not adequate in terms of shelter, and live in dangerous societies. In their neighborhood, they are exposed to drugs, violent crime, and become involve with mean behaviors.

Families of students living in poverty often struggle to provide them with enough quality food and medical coverage. Kids living in poverty often come to school without having had enough sleep and without having had breakfast. They often experience family violence, abuse, secondhand smoke, neglect, and inadequate clothing. They may not be able to pay for field trips or other extracurricular activities that might expand their experience base. This is the frightening reality for millions of children. As a teacher, you will likely have impoverished students in your class.

Homelessness is another step down on the ladder of poverty. It is a very real problem faced by millions of children. Many homeless families live in shelters in rural or urban areas. With one income and high rent and living expenses, many families are just one emergency away from disaster.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Overcrowded classrooms

Many areas of the countries are facing classrooms that are literally busting out at the seams. When money gets tight, classroom numbers are often impacted. Yet, most teachers agree that they cannot effectively teach every student in a classroom, if the class size exceeds about 30. Their statements are backed up by research. Class Size Matters.

In India, The RTE Act says the teacher –pupil ratio is to be 1:30/ 35 but in the classrooms it goes way beyond 90 in some schools.

Bullying

Bullying is a common problem in schools. Most children have either been bullied or have known someone who has been bullied. Bullying behavior was once considered normal for kids and was not treated seriously. Now, however, teasing and bullying are seen as serious issues that can cause psychological damage in those on the receiving end.

Moreover, many cases of bullying are not reported. Even the same applies in Indian context too as children are psychologically scared to report any form of bullying.

In addition, Child abuse and child neglect are issues that we would rather avoid. Unfortunately, they are all too real and so prevalent that, as teachers, we must rise to the challenge. Chances are that you will encounter abused and neglected children in your classes. When we think of child abuse, physical abuse is the first image that comes to mind. There are many other forms of abuse, including sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse, neglect, and maltreatment. Sadly, much of the abuse experienced by children is still hidden. Children who are abused often do not speak of it because they feel guilty, may feel they did something to bring the abuse on themselves, or have been told not to tell by the abuser.

SOCIAL CHALLENGES

Gender discrimination

In many societies, due to poverty, security or cultural factors, male students will be educated while their female siblings will not. Girls are four times more likely to be out of school education than boys from the same background. The poorest girls are the least likely to complete primary school.

Terrorist Attacks on schools

Schools are often hit hard by conflicts - with schools bombed, damaged, looted and destroyed. Many educational organizations are permanently closed and children lose out on an education. Each year about 75 million children and youth living in conflict zones have their education disrupted, receive poor-quality education or drop out of school altogether.

Disabilities

A lot of social and cultural segregations remains around disabilities of children. Students with disabilities are more likely to miss out on school than other kids.

Child marriage

Under age marriages and pregnancy often lead to dropouts and girls being banned from going to school. An average of 40,000 children and young women under the age of 18 are married every day. More than 60% of child brides in developing countries have no formal education.

Child labor

Many school students are forced to work instead of attending school. Families living in poverty often rely on teens to supply extra income. The International Labor Organization said in 2017 that about 152 million children aged from five to 17 are engaged in child labor. Many of them never go to school or drop out of school to work.

Danger on the way of school

Way to school can be extremely insecure or intimidating for some children. Many parents refuse to send their children - particularly girls - to school in case they are harassed, exploited or sexually abused.

School can be a hard-won luxury in some parts of the world. Many children in remote communities have to make the most unimaginable and dangerous journeys every day to access education.

Gang violence

Conflicts on the way to school or even inside the educational organizations can make students vulnerable. Asian countries in particular, fear of violence means families often keep their teens home.

SUGGESTIONS OF OVERCOMING/ MANAGING CHALLENGES

The following tips are for students to help themselves avoid some of the negative effects of these problems. While these issues are certainly not exhaustive, many college students will be affected by a number of them during their college experience. Encouraging Students to

Embrace Academic Challenges which include the followings:

1- Thinking bigger:

Parents and teachers supposed to encourage their kids and students to think big. Understanding how school students value their own capacity for learning plays a key role in academic success. Using their knowledge of what they think they already bring to the classroom is important to creating a rigorous lesson that challenges them academically. Poor environment causes students of these countries to have limited mental schemes and bounded paradigms which are the main reasons for them to do not be able to think big and have innovations. Therefore, educationists have to change students' mental paradigms to help them improve.

Even when what a student knows about a topic does not exactly match the declaration of "We know everything about that," such a statement shows a sense of confidence.

1. Decreasing feelings of homesickness may be difficult for some but may be accomplished by remaining on campus during the week and on weekends.
2. Properly eating and staying healthy will help you accomplish your academic goals and make the school experience much more fun.
3. Poor sleep habits will leave you ineffective in your work and play as a college student.
4. Unresolved relationship challenges commonly cause bitterness, resentment and anger among school student.
5. While the temptation to skip classes may be high at times, you are spending your money to gather information given during class times.
6. Finally, it is necessary to say that academic challenges such as environment problems, poverty, lack of equipment not only cause school students to have poor educational performance or be drop-out of school, it also lead these types of students to make and have the same mental or psychological paradigm. Learning is about building on prior knowledge, but, these kinds of students rarely can dream and think big. They become weaker, both emotionally and mentally and get stuck with poor experiences and cannot think beyond that.

CONCLUSION

Education is about making the world a better place for living but, this can be fulfilled if

school will be a better place for learning itself. Based on the findings various challenges are on the way of school education in mentioned Asian countries.

Overcrowded classrooms, poor equipment's and lack of experienced teachers regarding recognition of the specific talents of different students and failing them in exams are main challenges for school students. Moreover, low quality of education, lack of parents help regarding their homework's, family conflicts and its effects on the child are part of difficulties faced by school students. Also, climate change, cultural differences, loneliness and communication problems are another uphill for migrant students in international schools in a foreign country.

Some probable suggestions on managing the challenges like taking some good school modeling, making changes in the methods of teaching, equipping classrooms with technological advancements and creating safe learning environments will help school holders to manage mentioned challenges.

REFERENCES

- Ardis, Y. (2014). *Math challenge problems for elementary and middle schools* . New York : Asin Booikzu534.
- Australian Government Department of Education, E. a. (2017). *School-problems: school-problems-9-15-years*. Sydney : Canberra.
- Greene, R. w. (2014). *Lost at shool*. united states of America : scribner.
- Hatton, N. (2015). *Inquiry Into The Provision Of Public Education*. New York : Nsw Teachers Federation & Federation Of P&C Associations Of Nsw .
- Lynch, M. (2016). *9 Challenges Our Students Face In School Today*. the edvocate.
- Meador, D. (2019). *School Issues That Negatively Impact Student Learning*. productmanualsguide.com.
- Wahid, R. (2018). Why Don't Learners Learn What Teachers Teach? *Language in India*, 5.
- Wayne, J. (2019). *Students and stress* . <https://www.pfw.edu/offices/family-outreach/for-parents-from-sap/studentsandstress.html>: Purdue university .