

Role of Alternative Education in the Current Educational Development - An Integrated Review

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ABSTRACT: Education can be broadly defined as the perfection of an individual in the mental, physical and socio-economic skills apart from the intellectual development. The objective of this study is to analyse the role of alternative education in current educational development. For this study, 10 studies were categorised under 4 subheadings such as learning environment, education for CWSN, comparison with mainstream education and quality improvement. This study has put forward suggestions like appointing qualifying teachers and raising awareness about alternative education.

Key terms: Role, Alternative education, current, educational development

INTRODUCTION

Education can be broadly defined as the perfection of an individual in the mental, physical and socio-economic skills apart from the intellectual development. As Gandhiji said, education is the physical, mental and spiritual growth of a human being. In this way the role of a person plays in their society and the duties they perform depends on the education available to them. In short, a person is the reflection of the education available to them. Therefore, we can see many limitations to the unified form of education that exist here today to understand each child and provide education according to their wishes. Here, we see the importance of alternative education. Features like individualized instruction, flexible curriculum, unscheduled schooling etc. help a child to develop fully at all levels and become a complete individual. In order to understand the role of alternative education in the current educational system it is essential to have a deep understanding of the concept alternative education.

METHOD

Investigators reviewed 10 studies related to alternative education in journal, articles and PhD thesis available online from 2015 to 2022 and grouped into four subheadings based on their essence. These are:

1. Learning environment
2. Education for CWSN (Children With Special Needs)
3. Comparison with mainstream education
4. Quality improvement

FINDINGS

Learning environment

Two studies were reviewed to understand the learning environment of alternative education. Alternative education ensures different kinds of learning experiences for each student's according to their need, ability, interest and aspirations (Ellerbe, 2017). Another study stated that individualised instruction, flexible learning environment positive relation between students and teachers improve success of students (Andrew, Neufeld, 2015).

Education for CWSN

Investigators reviewed three studies to understand how alternate education benefits CWSN. A study Resisting education: a capital Idea stated that students who cannot adjust to mainstream education can achieve great educational success if alternative education is provided as an option. (Newton, 2019). Alternative education effectively helps at risk students to achieve academic success and attain social and emotional balance (Reynolds, 2015). Upreti & Neha. (2018), In their studies stated that alternative programs provide a learning space for the children who had not found prior success behaviourally or academically.

Comparison with mainstream education

A comparison between alternative education and mainstream education is essential in this study. Three studies were reviewed for that. international journal of health sciences published an article on alternative and mainstream education in Kerala a comparative study based on life skills of students stated that the students in alternative schools have more life skill than those in mainstream education (R Praveen, 2022). K Gireesan (2017) in his project stated that by combining alternative education with mainstream education, children can complete high school in unconventional ways. Alternative education needs in Oman accommodating learning diversity and meeting market demand conducted by Al-ani (2017) concluded that alternative education is a good companion for mainstream education at all levels. Alternative education plays a vital role to develop skills and entrepreneurship of diverse population.

Quality Improvement

The evaluation phase is essential in the overall review of alternative education. For that the investigators gone through two studies. It is possible to improve teacher quality by appointing teachers who have completed teacher qualification courses like D.Ed and B.Ed in alternative educational institutions. (Deepika Kohli, 2016). The support and active involvement of state legislation enhance the quality of programs (Nelson, 2019).

SUGGESTIONS

- Appoint qualified teachers

- Develop infrastructure facility of alternative schools.
- Bring active participation of local government for effective functioning of alternative educational institutions.
- Create awareness about alternative education among people.

CONCLUSION

Education has an irreplaceable place in the basic human needs. Education is not passive memorization of letters in a book, it should be a means for a person to achieve their needs. Everyone is unique and this uniqueness is reflected in their needs also. Therefore, education should consider the interest, need and ability of individuals. More in-depth studies of alternative education are needed to know the contribution of alternative education in the educational development. Alternative education is an educational system that caters to these individual differences. However, more in-depth studies of alternative education are needed to know the role and contribution of alternative education in the educational development.

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