

Happiness based Education for Sustainable Development: An Indian Perspective

Mr. Soumyajyoti Banerjee

Assistant Professor, Haldia Institute of Technology, Haldia, West Bengal

Abstract

While some have a high opinion of India's growth story since its independence, some others think the country's performance in the six decades has been abysmal. It's arguably true that the Five-Year Plans did target specific sectors in order to quicken the pace of development, yet the outcome hasn't been on expected lines. And, the country is taking its own sweet time to catch up with the developed world. The economic reforms came to India's rescue with the launching of a policy of liberalisation and privatisation. A flexible industrial licensing policy and a relaxed FDI policy started getting positive responses from international investors. Among the major factors that drove India's economic growth following the economic reforms of 1991 were increased FDI, adoption of information technology and an increased domestic consumption. In such scenario the happiness based education seems to be the only solution for the Sustainable Development.

Introduction

A major development in the nation's services sector has been the tele services and information technology. A trend that started some two decades back is now well in its prime. Several multinational firms continue to outsource their tele services and IT services to India. The acquisition of expertise in information technology has led to the generation of thousands of new jobs, which in turn increased domestic consumption and naturally, more foreign direct investments happened to meet the demands.

According to the Central Statistical Organization, the services sector accounted for 63% of Indian GDP in 2008 and the figure continues to grow.

Growth of Agriculture Sector

Consistent investment in research, land reforms, expansion of scope for credit facilities, and improvement in rural infrastructure were some other determining factors that brought about an agricultural revolution in the country. The country has also grown strong in the agri-biotech sector. The Rabobank report reveals that the agri-biotech sector has been growing at 30 percent since the last few years. The country is also likely to become a

major producer of genetically modified / engineered crops.

Infrastructure Development

The Indian road network has become one of the largest in the world with the total road length increasing from 0.399 million km in 1951 to 4.24 million km as of July 2014. Governmental efforts have led to the expansion of the network of State highways and major district roads, which in turn has directly contributed to industrial growth.

As India needs power to drive its growth engine, it has triggered a noteworthy improvement in the availability of energy by adopting a multi-pronged approach. After almost seven decades of Independence, India has emerged as the third largest producer of electricity in Asia. It has increased its electricity generation capacity from 1,362 MW in 1947 to 1,13,506 MW as of 2004. Overall, power generation in India has increased from 301 billion units (BUs) during 1992- 93 to 558.1 BUs in 2003- 04. When it comes to rural electrification, the Indian government has managed to bring lights to 5,93,732 (2013 figures) villages as compared to 3061 in 1950.