

Education Reforms required in India

Suggested by Amal Sharma

- **Increase budget allocation of education** announced by Finance minister. Reduce all other spending if the need be but must increase education budget to at least 8 to 10% of GDP. Education has to be the core area we must focus on in our financial budget.
- **Make all education totally FREE and COMPULSORY** till 10th grade for all children. Especially for all socially backward and weaker sections of society.
- **Provide Vocational course options after 10th grade.** Students interested in employability, with less interest in academics and getting a job early should be able to move to vocational courses after 10th grade.
- **All Government schools must provide free education till 12th grade.** Books & Uniforms must be provided by government free of cost.
- **Appoint teachers on massive scale in all schools especially in villages and towns.** Must ensure that the quality of teachers is very good and they are actually interested in teaching rather than just finding a job.
- **Build massive facilities for training teachers.**
- **Provide teachers good salaries, growth opportunities** and freedom to try innovative methods for teaching.
- **Provide high quality midday meals** in all schools for primary children.
- **We have to bring in major changes to our education system. The primary difference in education in India and developed countries is "tackling real life issues".** Our higher education still focuses on rote and memory based learning. We have to move out of that. All technical learning has to be linked to industry. We have to ask Universities to collaborate with the industry, get projects from them and generate their own funds. These projects have to be done by students. All aspects of learning in colleges and universities have to be practically oriented. We must make the students study issues, analyze them and give presentations on what analysis they have done, conclusions drawn and suggest solutions. All non-technical learning has to be linked to real life issues. Make students go on the street, find social issues, study them and suggest solutions.
- **All students must be made to give presentations in their class** or larger groups from 8th grade onwards. The topics should be real life issues confronting the society and they should study those topics and present all aspects of the issue together with solutions.
- **Teach students computers using all Open Source and Free softwares.** We will save cost by not using paid tools in our schools and offices and teach them tools which are world standard. When these children grow up using these tools we will have manpower in this country with expertise in tools which can be used for free all over the government.
- **Make Moral Education compulsory since primary school** - teach honesty, giving, sharing, tolerance, non-violence to all students including children from second-third grade onwards.
- **Monitor teacher performance and link it to student results.** Check their attendance, check how many classes they actually conducted and take feedback from students about each teacher.