

# Asian Resonance

## An Exploratory Study of Teachers and Parents' Awareness and Attitude of Elementary School Students towards the Right to Education, Act 2009 (RTE)

### Abstract

Right to Education Act, 2009 has its history in the drafting of the Indian Constitution at the time of Independence but is more specifically to the Constitutional Amendment that included the Article 21A in the Indian Constitution making Education a fundamental Right. This amendment, however, specified the need for a legislation to describe the mode of implementation of the same which necessitated the drafting of a separate Education Bill.

**Keywords:** Independence, Fundamental, Education, Government

### Introduction

The quality of education provided by the government system remains in question. While it remains the largest provider of elementary education in the country forming 80% of all recognized schools, it suffers from shortages of teachers, infrastructural gaps and several habitations continue to lack schools altogether. There are also frequent allegations of government schools being riddled with absenteeism and mismanagement and appointments are based on political convenience. Despite the allure of free lunch-food in the government schools, many parents send their children to private schools.

### Objectives of the Study

The researcher of the present study has laid down the following objectives:-

1. To find out the level of Awareness of the Male Elementary school teachers towards Right to Education Act.
2. To find out the level of Awareness of the Female Elementary school teachers towards Right to Education Act.
3. To find out the level of the Awareness of the Parents (father) of Elementary school students towards Right to Education Act.
4. To find out the level of the Awareness of the Parents (mother) of Elementary school students towards Right to Education Act.

### Hypotheses of the Study

In correspondence to the above-mentioned objectives, the following directional hypotheses have been formulated:-

- **H<sub>01</sub>** Male Elementary school teachers have moderate/average level of Awareness towards Right to Education Act.
- **H<sub>02</sub>** Female Elementary school teachers have moderate/average level of Awareness towards Right to Education Act.
- **H<sub>03</sub>** Parents (father) of Elementary school students will have moderate/average level of Awareness towards Right to Education Act.
- **H<sub>04</sub>** Parents (mother) of Elementary school students will have moderate/average level of Awareness towards Right to Education Act.

### Population

The sample of the study is taken from the following population:-

- The Teachers of Elementary schools only.
- The Parents of Elementary school students only.

### Area of the Study

Area of the study is delimited to:-

- Agra city only.

### VARIABLES OF THE STUDY

The variables are as follows:

Independent variable: Right to Education Act-2009.

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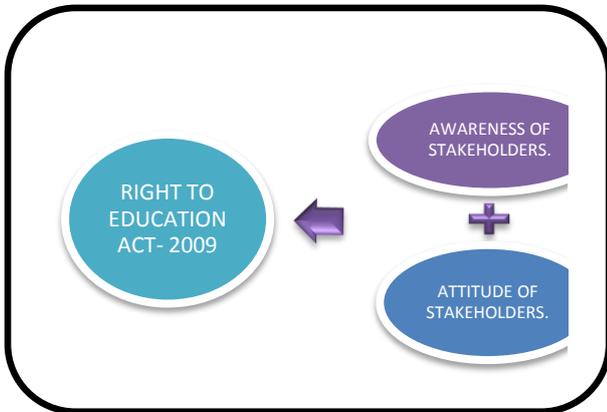
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Dependent Variables:

1. Awareness of Stakeholders.
2. Attitude of Stakeholders.



### Method

For the accomplishment of the objectives of the present study, Descriptive survey method is employed, which is concerned with investigation of the phenomena in the natural settings.

### Population & Sample

The population of the study is comprised of Elementary School Teachers and Parents of Agra City only. The schools were selected through purposive sampling. To make a sample of 120, the division of sample was as follows: 60 Elementary School Teachers and 60 Parents of Elementary School Students.

### Findings of the Study

The findings on the basis of calculation of data are systematically arranged in accordance with the objectives as given below;

#### Findings related to objective 1

*To find out the level of Awareness of the Male Elementary school teachers towards Right to Education Act*

To find out the awareness level of the male teachers towards the RTE Act-2009 the researcher applied the self made tool of Awareness named as *Scale of Awareness towards Right to Education Act (SATRTEA)*. The results were as follows:

- Male teachers are well aware about the Act because of daily updates through news papers and through Government Orders.
- The maximum strength of male teachers scored between a limit of 4 to 8 which shows an average score.

#### Findings related to objective 2

*To find out the level of Awareness of the Female Elementary school teachers towards Right to Education Act*

- Female teachers are well aware about the Act because of daily updates through news papers and through Government Orders.
- The maximum strength of male teachers scored between a limit of 4 to 8 which shows an average score.

#### Findings related to objective 3

*To find out the level of the Awareness of the Parents (father) of Elementary school students towards Right to Education Act*

To find out the awareness level of the Parents of Elementary School Students towards the RTE Act-2009 the researcher applied the self made tool of awareness named as *Scale of Awareness towards Right to Education Act (SATRTEA)*. The results were as follows:

- The awareness level of father is more than the awareness level of mother.
- Parents have low level of awareness because they scored less than '6' which is an average level of awareness.

The awareness score of father lies between the score limit of 2 to 8 level of awareness.

#### Findings related to Null Hypothesis

*H<sub>01</sub> Male Elementary school teachers have moderate/average level of Awareness towards Right to Education Act.*

The Awareness level of Male Elementary School Teachers was found to be higher than the average level of '6' because they are well aware about the RTE Act-2009 so the Null hypothesis is rejected in this case. We can say that the elementary school teachers are well aware about the norms of RTE Act-2009.

#### Findings related to Hypothesis 02

*H<sub>02</sub> Female Elementary school teachers have moderate/average level of Awareness towards Right to Education Act.*

The Awareness level of Female Elementary School Teachers was found to be higher than the average level of '6' because they are well aware about the RTE Act-2009. So the hypothesis is rejected in this case. We can say that the Elementary School Teachers are well aware about the norms of RTE Act-2009.

#### Findings related to Hypothesis 03

*H<sub>03</sub> Parents (father) of Elementary school students will have moderate/average level of Awareness towards Right to Education Act.*

The Parents (father) are found to be less aware than the average level of Awareness '6' so the hypothesis is accepted in this case and we can say that level of Awareness of Parents is below Average.

#### Findings related to Hypothesis 04

*H<sub>04</sub> Parents (mother) of Elementary school students will have moderate/average level of Awareness towards Right to Education Act.*

Mothers have also scored less than the Average level of Awareness so here the hypothesis is accepted. Generally parents are not aware about the RTE Act because they belong to the rural background.

#### Tools

For the purpose of the fulfillment of the research work, the researcher has constructed a tool on different parameters of the Right to Education Act, 2009 whereby to test the Awareness and Attitude

level of various stakeholders.

#### Significance of the Study

The findings of the study will be helpful in the fulfillment of goals of the government to educate each and every child of India. It will also help in the proper implementation of the Right to Education Act, 2009. New suggestions can be made for the increment in the literacy level of India from 74.04% to 100%. Reformative work can be done in the implementation of the Act to this mission successful.

The study will help in the improvement of the quality of primary education, reducing teacher-people ratios, switching to continuous evaluation and ensuring greater diversity in schools are in the public interest. It will also help in the working of NGOs like Akanksha in the field of education. The study will find new ways to develop bridge between the Government and the local bodies to work hand in hand for the betterment of education in India and for the effective implementation of the RTE Act, 2009.

Education is the most effective instrument for ensuring equality of opportunity but the SC/ST women are lagging far behind due to many reasons. The problems associated with education of SC/ST women are manifold, complex, and inter-related, RTE will play an important role in the eradication of the illiteracy.

Factors like poverty, apathy of parents and students, superstitions and prejudices, lack of suitable teachers, alien language, inadequate facilities in schools and wastage and stagnation etc causes major hindrances in the education of SC/ST women. So to overcome such problems there is a need of special focus of the Central Government with State Government, dedication and sincerity of teachers, awareness of SC/ST people towards education in which NGOs (non- governmental organizations) can play a good role.

The study will allocate the barriers in the fulfillment of the Goals of Education which can be removed by Department of Education responsible for the implementation of the RTE Act in India.

The study will be able to give details of the opinion of various stakeholders which are directly or indirectly related to RTE Act, this will help to modify the direction of implementation process so that maximum number of stakeholders including common men could participate in the fulfillment of the Goals of Education.

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