



EDUCATE TO EMPOWER

Founded in 1966

CBCI OFFICE FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE **NEWS AND VIEWS**

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15 January 2023

His Eminences,

His Beatitudes

His Excellencies,

Your Graces,

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters

Greetings to you from the CBCI Office for Education and Culture!

We are wishing you all a grace-filled year ahead!

May I present to you first, The International Day of Education to be commemorated on 24th January every year! The theme of this year is **“To Invest in People, Prioritize Education”** You will find a poster, a write-up and also the concept note on this year’s theme. Please celebrate the day in your Institutions! Second, there is a presentation on **“Why is Digital India imperative?”** Our institutions need to move rapidly in inducting education technology through online and mobile portals and apps relevant to the students. We have also given you a few examples of how this will be important in the future. Artificial Intelligence will become inevitable in society. There is also an important article on **“Non-State Actors in Education”** It is mainly about private schools and how we need to be more responsible.

Happy reading and please share your news and views with us at cbcieducation@gmail.com

With best regards,

Fr. Maria Charles SDB

National Secretary

CBCI Office for Education and Culture

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INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR EDUCATION



24TH JANUARY 2023

The International Day of Education is observed annually to re-evaluate the role of education in our lives, as well as to identify and address educational issues in our society. On a larger scale, the role of education in bridging cultural and national boundaries, as well as maintaining peace and equality, is observed.

International Day for Education

Why do we celebrate International Education Day?

On 3 December 2018, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution (resolution 73/25) proclaiming 24 January as International Day of Education, in celebration of the role of education for peace and development. The right to education is enshrined in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The theme: To invest in people, prioritize education
The year 2023 marks the mid-point since the UN adopted the 2030 Agenda for people, planet and prosperity, with a set of 17 interlocked goals that will come up for review at the SDG Summit in September on the theme of investing in people.

Building on the global momentum generated by the UN Transforming Education Summit in September 2022, this year's Day calls for maintaining strong political mobilization around education and charting the way to translate commitments and global initiatives into action. Education must be prioritized to accelerate progress towards all the Sustainable Development Goals against the backdrop of a global recession, growing inequalities and the climate crisis.

The cost of under-investment in education imperils our common future. Education remains in a situation of crisis: six out of 10 children cannot read and understand a simple story at age 10. The International Day of Education is observed annually to re-evaluate the role of education in our lives, as well as to identify and address educational issues in our society. On a larger scale, the role of education in bridging cultural and national boundaries, as well as maintaining peace and equality, is observed.

In recognition of the role of education in promoting peace and development, the United Nations General Assembly declared January 24 as International Day of Education.

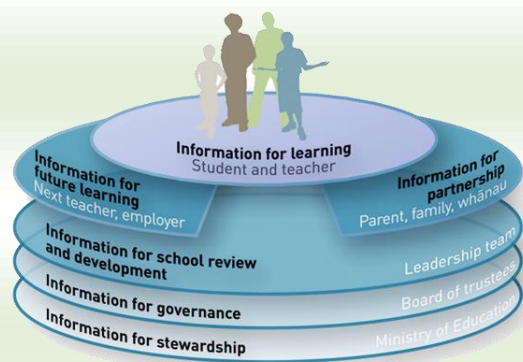
Countries will fail to achieve gender equality and break the cycle of poverty that is leaving millions of children, youth, and adults behind unless they provide inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong opportunities for all.

There are currently 244 million children and youth out of school, and 771 million adults are illiterate. It is unacceptable that their right to an education is being violated. It is time to change education.

International Day for Education 2023:

The 5th International Day of Education will be celebrated on 24 January 2023 under the theme "to invest in people, prioritise education". Building on the global momentum generated by the UN Transforming Education Summit in September 2022, this year's Day will call for continued strong political mobilisation around education, as well as a roadmap for putting commitments and global initiatives into action. To accelerate progress toward all of the Sustainable Development Goals in the face of a global recession, growing inequalities, and the climate crisis, education must be prioritised.

The year 2023 marks the midway point since the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for People, Planet, and Prosperity, which includes a set of 17 interconnected goals that will be reviewed at the September SDG Summit on the theme of investing in people. This year's International Day is dedicated to Afghan girls and women who have been denied the right to an education. It demands that the ban on their access to education be lifted immediately.



Aims of the International Day for Education 2023:

- Promote and showcase national statements of commitment at the country level and mobilise political and financial support for translating them into action.
- Building on the outcomes of the TES, create visibility from the local to the global level on prioritising education to achieve the SDGs ahead of the SDG Summit.
- Encourage widespread adoption of global initiatives launched by the TES to accelerate foundational learning, prepare every learner for climate change through greening education, promote public digital learning, advance gender equality in and through education, and ensure learning continuity in emergency and long-term crisis situations.
- Advocate for increased domestic and international funding, including from novel sources, building on TES commitments.
- Raise awareness about the national SDG 4 benchmarking process and how the benchmarks provide an accountability framework for Transforming Education Summit commitments.
- Provide a platform for young people to build on the TES youth declaration, relay their demands, and showcase their initiatives and innovations to advance the right to education.
- Rally influencers to advance the global education movement, urging world leaders to keep their promises and prioritise investment in education and educational transformation.



International Day of Education
To invest in people, prioritize education

24 January 2023



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<https://www.unesco.org/en/days/education>

https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/education_day_2023-cn-en.pdf

<https://www.peace-ed-campaign.org/event/international-day-of-education/2023-01-24/>

Non-State Actors in Education: Who Chooses? Who Loses?

Governments bear the high cost of education because of its public-good qualities, or the broader benefits to societies and economies. A well-educated workforce aids economic development, while public schools foster and strengthen a sense of national identity by superseding and absorbing traditional education structures managed by local communities and religious institutions.

Non-state providers vary by country, with distinct characteristics, enrolment shares, and modes of operation. In India, private unaided and aided schools enrolled nearly as many students as government schools and local bodies in 2019-20.



2022

SOUTH ASIA

Non-state actors in education

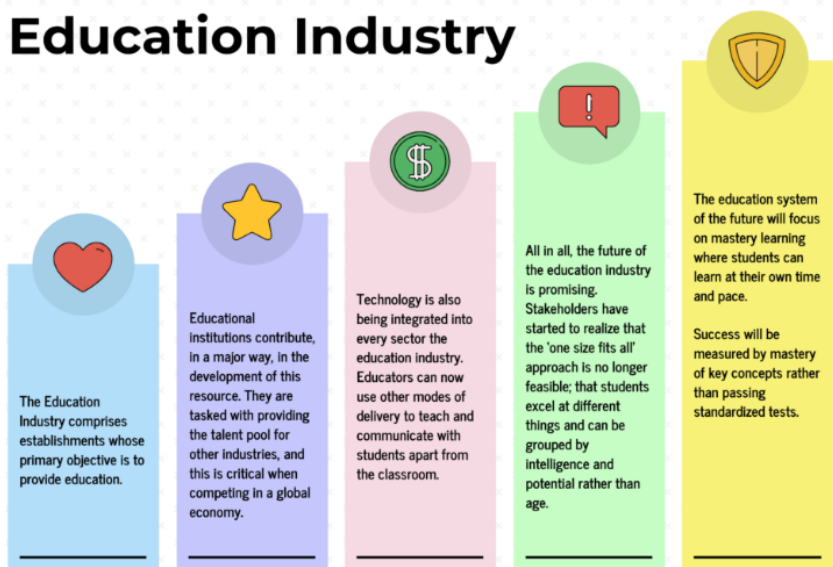
WHO CHOOSES? WHO LOSES?

Key Messages:

- Non-state actors are significantly involved in every aspect of education systems in South Asia.
- A highly competitive education system and labour market in the region have led to a major boom in private tutoring and the growth of education technology companies.
- Expansion of access, primarily through fee-based non-state activity, has not been equitable.
- Innovation is often led by non-state actors, but no type of institution has a monopoly on it.
- Lack of adequate government capacity and mutual mistrust between government and non-state providers hamper regulation enforcement.
- Households are burdened by expenditure due to inadequate government financing.
- The desired scope of non-state activity in education and views of their value are debated.
- Inadequate supply and quality of public education, combined with parental aspirations, have driven private education expansion from early childhood to tertiary education.
- Non-profit actors and civil society institutions have played a major role in improving access for girls and the marginalized and in holding governments and the private sector accountable.
- COVID-19 has exposed the fragility of the fragmented education systems in the region.
- Quality education is not the exclusive preserve of any one type of actor.
- Existing regulations focus more on entry and input requirements than equity and quality.
- Public–private partnerships in technical and vocational education attempt to catalyse private sector support for skills training.
- Teachers do not enjoy the same benefits and working conditions in public and private schools.

<file:///C:/Users/Administrator/Downloads/Non%20State%20Actors%20in%20Education%20UNESCO.pdf>

Education Industry



Why Is Digital India Imperative?:

The Government of India launched Digital India to provide high-speed internet networks to rural areas. PM Narendra Modi launched the Digital India Mission on July 1, 2015, as a beneficiary of other government schemes such as Bharatmala, Startup India, Make in India, Standup India, Sagarmala, and BharatNet.

What is the significance of Digital India?

One of the nine pillars of digital India is the Public Internet Access Programme. India ranks among the top two countries in the world in terms of digital adoption, and its digital economy is expected to surpass \$1 trillion by the end of 2023.

The advantages of Digital India are:

1. Electronic transactions related to e-governance are increasing.
2. Under the Bharat Net programme, an optical fibre network of 2,74,246 km has connected over 1.15 lakh Gram Panchayats.
3. A Common Service Center (CSC) is established as part of the Indian government's National e-Governance Project to provide access to information and communication technology (ICT). CSCs provide multimedia content related to health, e-governance, telemedicine, entertainment, education, and other government and private services via computer and Internet access.
4. Construction of digital villages with well-equipped facilities such as LED assembly units, Wi-Fi choupal, solar lighting, and sanitary napkin production units.
5. Internet data is used extensively in service delivery, with urban internet penetration reaching 64%.

Initiatives taken for Digital India:

There are five main precepts of the national curriculum framework, which are as follows:

1. **E-Hospitals**- An E-Hospital is a Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) that connects patients, hospitals, and clinicians through a single digital service. As of February 2021, the Digital India initiative has resulted in the establishment of 420 e-Hospitals.
2. **BHIM**- Bharat Interface for Money is a programme that allows the Unified Payments Interface to make payment systems simple, accessible, and quick (UPI).
3. **DigiLockers**- This flagship initiative aims to empower citizens by giving them access to authenticated digital records in their digital document wallet.
4. **E-Pathshala (Electronic Pathshala)**- NCERT's e-Pathshala website and mobile app displays and disseminates all educational e-resources, including textbooks, audio, video, periodicals, and a plethora of other print and non-print materials.

The Effect of Digital India Campaign:

1. The Digital India initiative has had an impact on several areas since its inception in 2015.
2. Some 12000 postal service branches in rural areas have been electronically linked.
3. The Make in India initiative has benefited India's electronic manufacturing industry.
4. The Digital India strategy could boost GDP by \$1 trillion by 2025.
5. Inactivity has also increased in the healthcare and education sectors.
6. Improved web infrastructure will benefit economic growth.

<https://www.fisd.com/what-is-digital-india-mission-objectives-benefits/>
<https://byjus.com/free-ias-prep/digital-india/#:~:text=Advantages%20of%20Digital%20India%20Mission&text=Public%20Internet%20Access%20Programme%20is,trillion%20by%20the%20year%202023>

News on Digital India:

BigTech raises questions over proposed Digital Competition Act, says it may hit innovation in India:

Ajay Kumar Shukla, ET Government, January 10, 2023.

The Asia Internet Coalition, that caters to global technology companies including Meta, Amazon, Twitter and Google has raised questions on the recommendation by the Parliamentary Committee claiming that “it may dampen digital innovation in India.”

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, in a set of recommendations on December 22 said that the government should consider and introduce a digital competition act to ensure a fair, transparent and contestable digital ecosystem, “which will be a boon not only for our country and its nascent start-up economy but also for the entire world,” the panel said in its report.

Transplanting legislative reforms designed for a foreign jurisdiction with high digital penetration into India, could lead to disproportionate costs to consumers in India and an impact on innovation and investment by businesses in India -- especially at a time when the government is rightly focusing on bringing connectivity to all under the Digital India initiative,” Asia Internet Coalition said.

https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/governance/bigtech-raises-questions-over-proposed-digital-competition-act-says-it-may-hit-innovation-in-india/96868454?action=profile_completion&utm_source=Mailer&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=etgovernment_news_2023-01-15&dt=2023-01-15&em=Y2JjaWVkdWNhdGlvbkBnbWFpY20=

India's transformation into knowledge economy possible only by bridging digital divide: President Murmu:

ET Government, January 08, 2023.

The President of India Droupadi Murmu presented the seventh edition of the Digital India Awards on Saturday in New Delhi. Congratulating the award winners, she said it is heartening to see the diverse range of innovations made to benefit the people - from citizen empowerment and data sharing platform to the ease of doing business. India would develop into a knowledge economy only when the digital divide is substantially bridged through use of technology.

She expressed confidence that India is setting the right example of ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised sections of society, strengthening economic, social, and cultural rights in our journey towards Digital Antyodaya. Murmu emphasized the need to create collaborative platforms to find innovative solutions to make the world a more accessible and equitable place.

"Data is the cornerstone of creating new knowledge, insights and thus solutions and leads to whole new fields of application. We should focus on democratising the use of government data so that young technology enthusiasts can use it to build localised digital solutions," she observed. The President said "we have to keep challenging ourselves to deliver innovative solutions to improve the ease of living for all citizens, be it in the judiciary, land registration, fertilizers or public distribution system."

https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/governance/indias-transformation-into-knowledge-economy-possible-only-by-bridging-digital-divide-president-murmu/96825339?action=profile_completion&utm_source=Mailer&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=etgovernment_news_2023-01-15&dt=2023-01-15&em=Y2JjaWVkdWNhdGlvbkBnbWFpC5jb20=

Digital Smart Cities:

ET Government, January 14, 2023.

RailTel Chairman and Managing Director Sanjai Kumar said, "The Smart Cities Mission (SCM) launched by the Government of India is a very ambitious programme with the objective to ensure that people gain access to core infrastructure, a clean and sustainable environment, and a decent quality of life through the application of smart solutions."

In Pondicherry, Besides the ICCC, the project includes data centre disaster recovery (DC-DR), on-street parking management, an intelligent traffic management system, the creation of an online or mobile phone-based platform to facilitate tourists and visitors, city-level application and a smart dashboard, smart kiosks, smart poles with CCTV, Wi-Fi, air quality monitoring and digital billboards.

"It has been noted that several cities where the ICCC is implemented are becoming cleaner due to the monitoring of the cleaning work through CCTV cameras, leading to a reduction in instances of garbage throwing, littering, urination in public and night-time burning of garbage." The statement said. Smart city centres are also providing technological support to ensure better safety for women on the streets, environment sensitivity of people, faster response and better preparedness for emergencies and disasters.

CBCI Education and Culture Core Team Meeting

03 January 2023

An online meeting was held on 3rd January 2023 at 10 pm chaired by the new Chairperson of CBCI Office for Education and Culture (CBCI OEC), Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, Archbishop of Nagpur and Apostolic Administrator of Amaravati. Both Member Bishops Rt. Rev. Vincent Aind of Bagdogra and Rt. Rev. Eugene Joseph of Varanasi participated in this core team meeting. The meeting began with a prayer and the Chairperson welcomed the members. Fr. Maria Charles, National Secretary explained the working of the CBCI OEC and presented the structure of the National Office and how it coordinates with 14 regional offices, and 174 Dioceses in the country.

The main work of the National Office is to animate the Church in Education Ministry through regular newsletters and visits to the regions and the dioceses. It also formulates policies for Catholic Education and protection of Minors and Vulnerable persons in our Institutions. The national office insists on holistic education of the children. The office also pays attention to the protection of minority rights of the Catholic educational institutions in the country. The national office also collects data of all the Catholic Educational Institutions in the country through a web portal named 'CBCI EDUBASE'. The office also conducts as and when needed surveys and consultations with educators all over the country. There was a discussion on a host of issues.

It was affirmed that Educational Institutions are the foundations of the Church in India and as such it is one of the most important ministries of the Church. We need to approach the NEP 2020 from a broader perspective-not only about how it affects the Church but how it affects the country at large especially the rural poor. We must speak for the nation and not for the Church only. We need to align with other like-minded stakeholders who are interested in the welfare and the rights of the children. The Church in India needs to have one voice. We also need short-term and long-term plans. The Culture of Catholic Education has always been a concern in the Church but we need to insist and animate about our identity and culture through seminars and writings. CBCI OEC should be concerned about the culture of Catholic Education. It was also discussed that to bring about Catholic Educational Culture in the country four factors are important:

- **Work Ethics in the Catholic Educational Institutions**
- **Policy for Financial Credibility in our institutions**
- **Safeguarding of the minors and the vulnerable in our institutions**
- **To take initiatives and adequate measures to create awareness on ecological issues in the country.**

Other issues which were discussed were about a Catholic Board of Education for the country. It was also suggested that the Church in India can take up the cause of 'Primary Education for all' and promote it in every way possible. There was a discussion on what Catholic Education Ministry stands for in today's context. It was also affirmed that we need to promote Catholic Leadership in our educational institutions. We need to promote pastoral, human and missionary leadership.

Archbishop Elias gave his concluding remarks to the meeting and thanked the members for participating in the meeting. He also informed the member bishops about the meeting to be held with educationists on 5th January 2023 at 10 am online. He welcomed them to join the meeting. The meeting was then ended with a short prayer.