



The Aims and Significance of Indian Education During the Modern Period in the Emerging Society

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<p>Received 07/06/2025</p> <p>Accepted 10/06/2025</p> <p>Published 09/07/2025</p>	<p>Abstract</p> <p><i>The emergence of a global society characterized by interconnectedness, rapid technological advancements, and the infusion of new values necessitates a transformation in the traditional aims and functions of Indian education. Education, in the contemporary context, must transcend national boundaries and evolve into a tool for promoting world citizenship, peace, tolerance, and scientific temper. In the Indian context, the 21st-century educational paradigm requires a deliberate shift to foster values of cooperation, internationalism, secularism, and intellectual autonomy. This paper explores the transformation of Indian education during the modern period by reviewing philosophical and sociological perspectives and aligning them with the demands of an emerging global society. With the advent of ICT and the rise of global universities, Indian education must be remodeled to meet the explosion in population, expectations, and knowledge. Formal educational institutions need to redefine their roles by integrating mass media and technology to deliver lifelong, inclusive, and skill-oriented learning experiences. By highlighting three core objectives—cultivating global citizenship, inculcating scientific temper, and enhancing educational inclusivity through technology—this paper discusses the necessary educational reforms to meet modern societal demands. It concludes with recommendations for building a world-class educational system that supports both national and global development. This paper emphasizes the need for a philosophical shift in India's education system that is both rooted in national culture and receptive to global trends.</i></p> <p>Keywords: Foster, Global Citizenship, ICT in Education, Remodelled, Scientific Temper</p>
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Introduction

The world today is evolving rapidly into a closely interconnected society, where the notion of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*—"the world is one family"—resonates more profoundly than ever.

In this context, Indian education must be transformed to serve the goals of global unity, peaceful coexistence, and mutual cooperation. The modern educational framework must be remodeled to match the dynamic nature of emerging Indian society, addressing both national priorities and global trends.

Traditional educational goals are no longer adequate to quench the intellectual thirst of modern learners. Education today must incorporate scientific temper, technological proficiency, critical thinking, and global consciousness. These ideals demand a reimagining of educational aims, contents, and delivery mechanisms. This research explores how Indian education has adapted—and must continue to adapt—to this modern, emerging context.

Review of Literature

Scholars like Brubacher (1965) and Chaube (1993) have emphasized the philosophical and sociological foundations of education in response to societal change. B.K. Nayak (1999) argued that education in the emerging Indian society must be both integrative and dynamic. Rawat (1996) analyzed historical perspectives, indicating the need to shift from rote learning to critical engagement.

Recent additions to the curriculum, such as CBSE's coding, AI, and data science courses, indicate a growing recognition of the relevance of 21st-century skills. International organizations like ISTE have also set global standards for educational technologies, which have begun to influence Indian policy and practice.

While past studies have addressed educational reforms individually, this paper combines philosophical, technological, and sociological aspects to offer a holistic understanding of Indian education in the modern period.

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine how Indian education can promote global citizenship and unity in a rapidly changing world.
2. To analyze the importance of inculcating scientific temper and critical thinking through educational processes.
3. To evaluate the role of technology and media in reshaping educational delivery and enhancing inclusivity.

Result & Discussion

Objective 1: Promoting Global Citizenship and Unity

In the 21st century, fostering a global identity among learners is crucial. Indian education must move beyond nationalistic curricula and embrace pluralism, tolerance, and intercultural understanding. Concepts such as “peace, not war; cooperation, not confrontation” are not merely moral slogans but critical components of modern education. Education should instill in students the values of international cooperation, respect for religious and cultural diversity, and a deep sense of shared humanity.

The infusion of values like secularism and inclusiveness is vital. However, it must be based on genuine secular ethics rather than sectarian interpretations. Educational reforms should also align with the philosophy of unity in diversity—an integral part of India's cultural heritage.

Objective 2: Inculcating Scientific Temper and Critical Thinking

Scientific temper implies a rational and evidence-based approach to knowledge. It equips students with the ability to differentiate between reliable and unreliable information—a crucial skill in today's era of information explosion.

Receptivity to new ideas, skepticism of unfounded traditions, and open-minded inquiry must be central to the educational process. Learners should neither accept new ideas merely because they are fashionable nor reject traditional wisdom without critical assessment.

Modern Indian education should encourage autonomy of thought, promote innovation, and build an environment where scientific inquiry thrives. As the curriculum diversifies, subjects like coding, data science, and artificial intelligence have become instrumental in preparing learners for future careers and problem-solving tasks.

Objective 3: Role of Technology and Media in Educational Delivery

In the age of digital globalization, technology is a transformative force in education. The development of ICT has extended the jurisdiction of educational institutions beyond their physical locations. Cross-border academic collaborations, online courses, and virtual classrooms have made education more accessible and democratic.

Media—both traditional and digital—play an instrumental role in supplementing formal education. They offer audio-visual content, news analysis, educational programs, and platforms for interaction, which enhance the learning process.

Furthermore, institutions must be granted autonomy to innovate, adapt to emerging needs, and experiment with pedagogical models. A balance between public and private sector involvement will encourage healthy competition and foster better educational outcomes.

Technology has reshaped how we teach, learn, and assess. Today's learners are digital natives who must be taught not only how to use technology but also how to think critically about it. Integration of digital tools is not optional—it is essential for survival in the 21st-century knowledge economy.

Conclusion

Indian education during the modern period is at a pivotal crossroads. To serve the needs of an emerging global society, it must shed outdated frameworks and embrace innovation, inclusivity, and internationalism. The aim of education should not be confined to nation-building alone but expanded to humanity-building. Students must emerge as global citizens rooted in scientific reasoning, ethical values, and digital literacy.

Formal institutions are no longer sufficient to address the educational needs of a growing, diverse population. Education must become lifelong, inclusive, and technologically integrated. With ICT, educational boundaries are dissolving, and knowledge is becoming universally accessible.

Educational reforms should promote autonomy, competition, and secularism while staying true to India's heritage of unity in diversity. If India aims to achieve a world-class educational system, stakeholders must be willing to rethink, redesign, and reinvest in every aspect of education.

By aligning the aims of education with global realities and national priorities, India can build an empowered, tolerant, and intellectually vibrant society ready to face the challenges of the

21st century.

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