



RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Retrospect and Prospects

Edited by
Noushad Husain

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A Study of the Awareness of Elementary Teachers towards the RTE Act, 2009

Shabana Ashraf

The purpose of any educational system is to provide good standard of living for learners. In this regard, our preamble also reflects that every human being is entitled to enjoy every right, irrespective of religion, race, caste, sex, nationality, etc. Human rights are necessary for human survival, well being, dignity, respect for humanity and equality and liberty of human beings. Human rights are broadly classified into eight types of rights: they are civil rights, cultural rights, economic rights, educational rights, legal rights, political rights, social rights and international rights. Educational rights have been specified as one of the fundamental human rights in Article 26 of the universal declaration of human rights. The right to education has been universally recognised since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 (though referred to by the ILO as early as the 1920s) and has since been enshrined in various international conventions, national constitutions and development plans. In the constitution of India, Article 21-A was inserted in eighty-sixth Amendment Act 2002 to provide free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right in such a manner as the State may, by law, determine. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which represents the consequential legislation envisaged under Article 21-A, means that every child has a right to take full time elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality in a formal school, which satisfies certain essential norms and standards.

In the RTE Act, 'Free education' means that no child, other than a child, who has been admitted by his or her parents to a school, which is not supported by the appropriate Government, shall be liable to pay any kind of fee or charges or expenses, which may prevent him or her from pursuing and completing elementary education. 'Compulsory education' casts an obligation on the