

MANAGEMENT OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION: STATE VS PRIVATE CONTROL

About 46 million students are currently enrolled in the Nation's public schools in kindergarten through grade 12, and another 6 million are enrolled in private schools. Because private schools are often perceived to be more successful in teaching students, with at least some empirical basis. School choice, small schools, and decentralized decision making, for example, are among the features commonly associated with private education that many have suggested might benefit public schools.

The idea of school choice has traditionally been associated with private schools, but many advocate offering at least some choice within the public sector. Having public schools compete for students, the thinking goes, will provide them with a strong incentive to improve and be more responsive to the needs and concerns of students and their parents.

Private schools are attended by choice, but choice is not limited to the private sector. Private schools provide an alternative for parents who are dissatisfied with public schools or have other reasons for wanting their children to attend a private school.

Within the private sector, parents can choose among a range of religiously affiliated and nonsectarian schools (as long as they can afford the tuition charged or receive financial aid). Some private schools are very selective in their admissions, while others are not. In 1993, 9 percent of all students in grades 3–12 attended a private school.

Higher family income facilitates both public and private school choice. Because most private schools charge tuition, only parents with the personal financial resources or financial aid to afford the tuition truly have the option of selecting a private school.

Thus, the rate of private school attendance in 1993 increased with family income. Similarly, because the housing options that realistically can be considered are related to a family's income, the percentage of parents who reported that their choice of residence was influenced by where their children would go to school also generally increased with family income. Children from the lowest income families (less than \$15,000) were more likely than those from families with incomes over \$30,000 to attend a chosen public school.

State schools (also known as **public schools**) are generally primary or secondary schools mandated for or offered to all children without charge, funded in whole or in part by taxation. These schools are generally inclusive (non-selective) in admitting all students within the geographical area that they serve.

While state schools are to be found in virtually every country, there are significant variations in their structure and educational programs. State education generally encompasses primary and secondary education (kindergarten to twelfth grade, or equivalent), as well as post-secondary educational institutions such as universities, colleges, and technical schools that are funded and overseen by government rather than private entities. The education system, or lack thereof, prior to the establishment of government-funded schools impacts their role in each society. In many instances there was an established educational system which served a significant, albeit often elite, sector of the population; these systems were often funded by religious institutions. The introduction of state schools in some cases was able to build upon this established system, while in others both systems have continued to exist, sometimes in a parallel and complementary relationship and other times less harmoniously.

State education is inclusive, both in its treatment of students and in that enfranchisement for the government of public education is as broad as for government generally. It is often organised and operated to be a deliberate model of the civil community in which it functions. Although typically provided to groups of students in classrooms in a central school, it may be provided in-home, employing visiting teachers, and/or supervising teachers. It can also be provided in non-school, non-home settings, such as shopping mall space.

State education is generally available to all. In most countries, it is compulsory for children to attend school up to a certain age, but the option of attending private school is open to many. In the case of private schooling, schools operate independently of the state and generally defray their costs (or even make a profit) by charging parents tuition fees. The funding for state schools, on the other hand, is provided by tax revenues, so that even individuals who do not attend school (or whose dependents do not attend school) help to ensure that society is educated. In poverty stricken societies, authorities are often lax on compulsory school attendance because child labour is exploited. It is these same children whose income-securing labour cannot be forfeited to allow for school attendance.

The term "public education" when applied to state schools is not synonymous with the term "publicly funded education". Government may make a public policy decision that it wants to have some financial resources distributed in support of, and it may want to have some control over, the provision of private education. Grants-in-aid of private schools and vouchers systems provide examples of publicly funded private education. Conversely, a state school (including one run by a school district) may rely heavily on private funding such as high fees or private donations and still be considered state by virtue of governmental ownership and control.

Public schools are far from perfect, but they still offer significant benefits to the students that attend their classrooms every day. We'll list a few of those advantages here.

Public education has gotten a bit of a bad rap in recent decades, as many families are exploring other education options, like homeschooling, private schools and charter schools. However, public schools still serve a significant role in preparing the next generation of world leaders.

10 potential advantages a public school education can provide.

Cost

The cost of a public education can't be beat. Although some parents might complain about the recently added expenses of supplies and participation in sports teams, these schools are still much more budget-friendly than their private counterparts. According to GreatSchools.org, the average tuition for private schools in the United States during the 2008-2009 school years was \$10,841. The average cost for a boarding school during that same year was \$23,448. Schools affiliated with the National Association of Independent Schools charged even more.

Availability

Public schools provide access to an education for every child in a community. The Huffington Post notes that by law, public schools cannot turn students away based on academic performance, income level or disability. This ensures that every student in a neighborhood has the same educational opportunities as the neighbors down the street,

regardless of their current personal or financial situation. Since education is frequently seen as the great equalizer for a society, the availability of education for all is a key benefit these institutions offer.

Diversity

Because public schools admit all children in the community, those that attend the schools are more likely to be in classrooms with other children that don't think, act or look exactly like them. Students are more apt to be exposed to students from different cultures or income levels. They may learn to work with other students with mental and physical disabilities. The diversity of the student body can be an important learning experience in itself for all of the children that attend a particular school.

Class Sizes

According to the website for New York Schools, funding for schools is often dependent on the number of students in a school, with consideration for smaller, more manageable classroom sizes. Typically, class sizes in public schools tend to remain smaller in the early years, from kindergarten through about third grade. At that point, classes may gradually grow in accordance to the students' age and ability to work independently.

Academic Opportunities

Public schools often have the resources to offer more academic opportunities like advanced classes and courses in specialized subjects like technology and the arts, according to Education Bug. Options might include gifted and talented programs, International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement classes. Students that want to excel will find various chances to do so, while those not inclined to academic acceleration find choices at their ability level as well.

Extracurricular Opportunities

In addition to the choices in the classroom, students in public school often have more options in activities after the last bell rings for the day. From athletics to music and theatre, most schools offer a variety of extracurricular activities to keep students learning and excelling in the areas they are most interested in.

Services

By law, public schools are also required to provide certain services to students. Some, such as transportation to and from school, are offered to all the students. Others, such as reduced-price lunches and academic assistance, are provided to students who qualify. Because the services are required, public schools have a staff of special education teachers and learning specialists at the parents' and students' disposal. Private schools may not offer such services because they are not required to admit students that meet these needs.

Teacher Qualifications

According to PublicSchools.org, teachers in public schools are required to be certified by the state. Certification also requires ongoing education and periodic renewal of

credentials. Charter schools and private schools do not have this requirement, which means parents don't always know the level of training attained by the teacher in their child's classroom. In some cases, these schools might not even require teachers to have a four-year degree to work in the classroom.

Accountability

By the same token, public schools are held accountable by the state for their academic performance. While some have complained this has led to an overabundance of standardized testing, the schools do at least have a higher authority they must answer to. This prevents abuse and leads to management of failing schools much more quickly than if the school did not have such accountability.

Results

According to the Huffington Post report, students in public schools score comparably on standardized tests to students in private schools. In some cases, they outscore students in charter schools. While some public schools turn up relatively poor results, those results are often found in areas with high poverty rates. When comparing apples to apples in terms of student demographics, public schools are right up there with other types of schools.

While many are complaining about the state of public schools today – and some with good reason – these schools are still working effectively for the majority of students in the system. With many benefits from public schools, it is no wonder the majority of students and their parents are still choosing the public school in their neighborhood as their first choice for an education.

Disadvantages:

1. Larger Class Sizes

The average class size in a California elementary school is 29.7 students, and the number is higher for secondary schools. If an average elementary school's day runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and an hour is spent for recess and lunch, then the teacher splits six hours of instructional time between 30 students. That works out to just 12 minutes for each student. This may be a simplistic way of calculating the math, but it does illuminate just how little opportunity is available for individualized instruction within public schools.

2. Disproportionate Resources

Although some school funding comes from the federal government, much of it also comes from local taxes, giving students in affluent areas a distinct advantage over their low-income peers. Some affluent school districts, like the Seattle Public School District, are able to fund music teachers and other supplemental programs by soliciting parent donations. This is not an option for lower-income districts, where many schools cut supplemental services like transportation and class trips due to budget constraints. Additionally, a Department of Education study shows that districts spend less money on teacher salaries at schools that serve low-income communities than they do on salaries for teachers at schools in affluent areas because schools in affluent communities recruit teachers with more experience.

Private schools, also known to many as independent schools, non-governmental, privately funded, or non-state schools, are not administered by local, state or national governments. Children who attend private schools may be there because of wealth of their parents, and may be selected for their academic prowess, or prowess in other fields, or sometimes their religious background. Private schools retain the right to select their students and are funded in whole or in part by charging their students for tuition, rather than relying on mandatory taxation through public (government) funding; at some private schools students may be able to get a scholarship, lowering this tuition fee, dependent on a student's talents or abilities (e.g. sport scholarship, art scholarship, academic scholarship), need for financial aid, or tax credit scholarship that might be available. Some private schools are associated with a particular religion, such as Judaism or Roman Catholicism. For the past century, roughly one in 10 U.S families has chosen to enroll their children in private school.

Private schools have an edge over the government schools because they work hard and their concerted efforts help the student to get good grades and students also learn basic etiquettes and ways of socialization as well. Every child gets proper attention of teachers and can ask for help from the teachers. People also prefer their children to attend private schools; different advantages of private schools are:

1. The teachers in private schools are dedicated and professional

This is the main advantage of private schools. All the teachers are well educated and hold teaching certifications and diplomas. They treat all the students equally and pay attention to all the students of the class. The teachers of private schools communicate with all the students in a polite way and students also learn in a relaxed environment.

2. Private schools have improved academic opportunities

There are different educational courses and programs are being offered to students in private schools which help them grown and learn in a nice way. There are extracurricular activities, internal diploma programs and gifted programs which train students for their professional life. The students of private schools are good at general knowledge and lead a memorable student life.

3. The students of private schools are confident

Every student gets equal representation in private schools which boost their confidence and self-esteem. These students take an active part in debate competitions and other activities. Their communication skills are highly developed and they are quite expressive because of the nice environment of private schools. Students of private schools are always encouraged by their teachers whenever they come up with innovative ideas or participate in classroom activities, therefore; they have high self-esteem and are quite confident.

4. Smaller classes of private schools are easy to handle

There are smaller class of private schools and that's why teachers can easily handle their students. Teachers make portfolios of each student that contain their scores of education and other extracurricular activities. These portfolios help students to work hard to improve their grades and students compete for their class mates in a positive manner.

5. Frequent parents teacher meetings keep parents aware of their children

There are frequent parents teachers meetings in the private schools which keep parents aware of their children's educational record and they also get to know the behavior of their kids in schools. The parental involvements also help teachers to formulate policies and plans for each student independently.

6. Private schools have no security issues

Parents feel safe by sending their children to private schools. They have the latest security system which ensures the safe environment of the school. People are screened properly before entering the schools.

These are some of the benefits of private schools. The teachers are professional and encourage the student to learn and grow. Each student is being monitored independently and records are maintained. The students of private schools are confident with well-groomed and cultured personalities. These students also get better professional chances in future.

there are various demerits associated with private schools. Here is a discussion of such disadvantages that many people encounter.

Cost:

Private schools have a high fee rate than the public schools. Many people believe that they are not funded by the government since it is individual based. All the expenses for paying teachers and buying books is the cost of the founder. This makes them to have a high set fee so as to meet the basic of all the teaching and non-teaching staff. Also, the fees charged helps in buying of the buses, building of library and other resourceful centers. However, having services for picking and dropping of the children at own premises adds to high cost for these learning institutions.

Most private schools are religious based:

Many founder of private school base them on the particular denomination that one attends. Some of these schools may therefore discourage the participating of other people who are not of the same religion. This denies some people opportunity to be such learning centers. Also, requirement of other school to observe certain religious belief which is not the desire of the individual lead to discouragements of people from joining the schools.

Entrance exam should be passed for one to qualify to be in the school:

Unlike in public schools, private school have entrance test that all learner school carry before an admission. This may demand extra charges that one had not planned. It is also discourage students seeking transfer since they can demand the repeat of the student. Such instance may bring an extra budget that was not calculated before by the family. However, some private schools do not have the privilege of the children with disabilities. They aim at enrolling student who are physically fit to carry out learning process. This is to minimize the quantity of work to be executed.

Teacher are not required to have training but general knowledge in given subjects:

Many private school chose to have teacher who are not fully trained. They at time accept several teachers just because they are capable of delivering the required knowledge of books. Hence, they deny student other extra curriculum activities required to build their skills. Having limited to specific subjects cannot give access for other assistance in other subject

when the teacher concerned is not present. Also, having untrained teacher will encourage teaching of the basic content without tackling of other outside issues that may have a better meaning for the learners to understand. This makes student to waste their day while having achieved nothing in such sections. It is thus important to have qualified workers who can ensure learners are busy throughout the day.

The twelve major challenges are:

(1) Wastage and Stagnation:

Of all the problems mentioned so far the greatest and the most menacing is the problem of wastage and stagnation. Vigorous efforts are needed towards reducing the rate of wastage and stagnation. The measures already taken in this regard should be intensified particularly to children from lower socio-economic groups.

(2) Part-Time Education:

Part-time education should be introduced so that children can work as well as learn. **“To offset wastage is to provide part-time education to children who have completed the lower primary stage, and who desire to study further”**. The content of part-time education should be elastic and should be determined according to the needs and aptitudes of the children receiving it.

(3) Literacy:

Literacy Classes may be introduced to prevent ever-increasing rate of non-literacy”. A number of children do not get enrolled in schools. To attain permanent functional literacy and to check the incidence of relapse into literacy all children in the age-group 11-14, who are not attending schools and who have not completed the primary stage of education and have become functionally literate, should be required to attend literacy classes for a period of one year at least”.

(4) Finance:

Finance is regarded as the question of all questions which deserves careful consideration. Paucity of funds or financial lag constitutes the greatest stumbling block in the way of introducing universal, free and compulsory education in the country. Because of financial difficulties compulsion could not be enforced strictly in the past to avoid huge wastage.

(5) Administration and Supervision:

Administration and supervision is no less a hurdle in the way of universalisation of elementary education. From the administration point of view the progress of elementary education was retarded due to the mis-implementation of the policy of grant-in-aid to schools imparting elementary education.

Departmental checks and red-tapism are the order of the day Inspection is far from satisfactory. Number of inspectors is inadequate and they are more engaged in official work than visiting schools. Education in India is a state subject (now it is in the concurrent list due to the 42 Amendment of the constitution).

State should have a Board of Elementary Education, consisting of educational experts both official and non-official. There should be strong and effective state machinery to enforce compulsion. .

6) Education of Girls:

Education of girls needs special attention because wastage is heavy in this section of the community due to various reasons. The education of girls is far behind that of boys at the elementary stage particularly in rural areas. The enrolment of boys is about 90% of the population in the corresponding age-group. But the enrolment of girls is much lower.

The number of girls enrolled for every 100 boys is only 50. At the higher primary stage, the gap between the education of boys and that of girls is wider still. The problem of fulfilling the Constitutional Directive is essentially the problem of educating girls.

The problem can effectively be tackled if the following measures are taken:

- i) Educating public opinion to overcome traditional prejudices against girls education opposition to sending grown-up girls to mixed schools or schools without women teachers; and to overcome the difficulty of early marriage.
- ii) Appointing women teachers;

- iii) Popularising mixed primary schools;
- iv) Opening separate schools for girls at the higher primary stage;
- v) Providing free books and writing materials;
- vi) Providing part-time education for girls in the age-group 11 – 14.
- vii) Providing separate curricula for girls, and
- viii) Providing suitable amenities for girls in schools.

7) Enrichment of the Curricula and Improvement of Quality:

“Expansion of facilities at the primary stage and the universal enrolment of children and their retention in school till the end of the compulsory period is only one aspect of fulfilling the Constitutional Directive. An equally important aspect is qualitative improvement so that the instruction imparted becomes good education and helps children to grow into useful and responsible citizens. The entire curriculum has to be overhauled and improved, and modern methods of teaching and evaluation have to be adopted” (Kothari Com).

8) Teacher:

Teachers should be recruited from the same area, in which they would like to serve. Hence the recruitment policy should be changed as regards appointment of teachers.

To attract men of quality, lucrative and enhanced pay-scales should be given to teachers. An attempt should be made to reduce the number of pupils per teacher. It should be 25 = 1. For this purpose shift system may be introduced in primary schools. Payment should be made regularly.

9) Provision of Schools:

The existing school facilities should be extended so that every child can get the existence of a primary school within one km. from his abode. Universal enrolment depends on universal provision. To make provision universal shift system can be introduced. A large number of

primary and upper primary schools should be set up in six lakhs villages in India. The task is heavy no doubt but no stone should be left unturned to achieve it.

10) Accommodation:

The material conditions of most of the primary schools are unsatisfactory. About 50% school buildings are rented and unsuitable for school purposes. These are ill-ventilated and unhygienic. The school situation is dull and non-attractive. It should be changed materially because it has demoralizing effect on the pupils who are discouraged to stay in the school for a longer period. The dull character of most of the schools and their poor capacity to attract students and retain them lead to wastage.

11) Equipment's and Ancillary Services:

Most of the primary schools are ill-equipped. Text books and other educational equipment's should be supplied free of cost in the beginning of the academic session. Delay defeats the purpose. A separate distribution cell should be set up. Research for the qualitative production of text books and other reading materials is highly needed.

12) Parental Education:

The average parents in India are indifferent or apathetic to the education of their children. This is discouraging to the idea of universality of elementary education. Even today many parents nourish the traditional belief in the uselessness of education of girls. This conservative attitude should be changed through popular or parental education. It is needed to remove the age-long apathy and conservative outlook of the parents.

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