


Chapter 15


Public–Private Partnerships in the Education Sector: Best Practices and Challenges

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ABSTRACT

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have emerged as a strategic tool for addressing the infrastructural and operational challenges faced by various sectors, including education. With its vast population and growing demand for quality education, PPPs have gained significant traction in India. Over the past two decades, the Indian education system has undergone significant transformations, largely propelled by economic growth and reforms. Education in India has long suffered from infrastructural gaps, quality issues, and inequitable access, particularly in rural and underserved areas. This chapter explores the best practices and challenges of Public-Private Partnership in Indian education sector and aims to analyze suc-

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cessful models, identify key challenges, and highlight recommendations to improve such collaborations. Given the focus on secondary data, the study will review a wide range of existing literature, reports, government policies, and case studies to provide insights into the functioning of PPPs with focus on Indian education sector.

INTRODUCTION

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) has become the latest catchphrase in development. Over the past few decades, PPP has emerged as a trendy catchphrase in development planning. This phenomenon is not new but PPP has gained popularity in the new era. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have emerged as a strategic tool to address the infrastructural and operational challenges faced by various sectors, including education. With its vast population and growing demand for quality education, PPPs have gained significant traction in India. Education in India has long been plagued by infrastructure gaps, quality issues, and unequal access, especially in rural and underserved areas. The government has made concerted efforts through various policy measures to address these challenges. However, the sheer scale of the problem requires the involvement of private actors.

In the fields of education, infrastructure and health, the public-private partnership model has become the preferred approach to address the operational issues they face. PPPs have made it possible to effectively combine knowledge, resources and efficiency to meet their needs. PPPs have gained popularity due to the increasing demand for higher education in the country as a way to improve the effectiveness, accessibility and quality of education. While the government plays a significant role in introducing new policies and programmes, the scale of these programmes has necessitated the cooperation of private entities.

The Indian education system has undergone significant changes over the past 20 years, largely as a result of reforms and economic expansion. The large and diverse population has made it difficult for the government to meet the educational needs of all social segments. Government schools in India serve as the primary providers of education, which is a crucial factor in the country's continued development. Yet, providing high-quality education that meets the needs of society and individuals is difficult due to a lack of government funding. As a result, the private sector—which includes communities, businesses, and non-governmental organizations—is now more actively involved in funding and maintaining educational services. This pattern is similar to the trend of large-scale privatization in industries such as infrastructure and transportation.

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