ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

THE CONSTRAINTS IN THE SECONDARY EDUCATION OF KERALA

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Title of the Study

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Need and Significance of the study

The increase in population and the general awareness about the significance of education have resulted in an enormous increase in the school going population at the secondary level. But unfortunately this has given rise to manifold problems which have to be tackled wisely and urgently. These problems may be due to different constraints existing in the field of secondary education. In this connection many questions automatically spring up in the minds of every one concerned with secondary education. What are the infrastructural constraints in the area of the secondary education in Kerala? What are the academic constraints in this field? What are the constraints faced due to inadequate teacher training programmes? What are the financial constraints regarding secondary education in Kerala? What are the constraints due to poor evaluation system prevalent in secondary education in Kerala? These and many such questions will find reliable answer only through serious, sincere, scientific and systematic research. This study is a humble attempt in this direction.

Objectives of the study

General objective

The general objective of the study was to identify the constraints in the secondary education in Kerala.

Specific objectives

The following were the specific objectives of the study.

1. To identify the infrastructural constraints in the field of secondary education in Kerala.
2. To identify the academic constraints in the field of secondary education in Kerala.
3. To identify the constraints related to instructional strategies in the secondary education of Kerala.
4. To identify the administrative constraints in the field of secondary education in Kerala.
5. To identify the financial constraints in the field of secondary education in Kerala.
6. To offer suggestions for the improvement of secondary education on the basis of the conclusions of the study.

Methodology in brief

The present study was mainly intended to identify the educational constraints at the secondary level in Kerala. The normative survey method was found to be the most suitable method for the study. The data for the study was collected from the selected schools belonging to rural and urban areas of all the 14 districts of Kerala. Different tools and techniques were made use of for the collection of data. The information available in the published materials of the Department of Public Instruction in the form of Hand Books, Guide Books, Palmlets, Brochures etc. were made use of. The Survey Reports of Government of India, Travancore Administration Report, Educational Expenditure Committee Report, Travancore Census Report and local reports were also scrutinized.
Separate questionnaires were administered to teachers and students to collect the information regarding the constraints in schools. Information was also collected from parents, social workers and educational experts by interviewing them using separate structured interview schedules. Direct observation of the school situation was also made by the investigator using an observation schedule. The data thus collected from different sources were consolidated and interpreted to arrive at solid and meaningful conclusions.

**Major Conclusions**

1. In many cases infrastructural facilities are less than enough.
2. At least a small number of schools do not have real library facilities. Separate reading room and library facilities were non-existent in all the schools selected for the study.
3. The laboratories in the schools lack many of the minimum facilities. A few of the important facilities are totally lacking.
4. Imperfect building conditions in many of the schools. Lack of space and poor maintenance is a common complaint.
5. Financial difficulties especially non-receipt of Government grants in line is a major reason for having poor school building facilities.
6. Teachers, social workers and education experts consider the prevailing administrative system as rigid.
7. Delay occurring in releasing development funds in time creates financial problems.

**Major Recommendations**

1. Agencies like Government Management, PTA, Panchayath etc should take initiative for the improvement of the infrastructural facilities of the secondary schools.
2. The Department of education and Management of schools should take initiative to perfect the laboratory and library facilities of the schools.
3. Steps are to be taken by every one concerned to provide the schools with educational technology laboratory with modern amenities and facilities.
4. Enough encouragement should be given to ensure the participation of all students in co-curricular activities.
5. Through multimedia approach and by showing demonstration lessons confidence should be developed in teachers for adopting new instructional strategies.
6. The administrative system at the secondary level should be made more democratic.
7. The prevailing administrative procedures and formalities to be observed in teacher appointment has to be simplified so that substitute appointment for teachers entering on long leave can be made without delay.
8. Organise inservice programme for educational administrators to familiarise them with modern educational administrative practices.
9. Steps may be taken to supply free of cost or at subsidized rates learning equipments and clothes to needed students at the secondary level.
10. Funds may be made available for the practice of innovative methods of teaching.