

Reforming School Practices: A Critical Study on Profit-driven Models, Lack of Technological Adoption, and the Need for Accountability Frameworks in India

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Abstract: In India, a disturbing trend is emerging in reputed schools affiliated with national boards like CBSE. Schools are increasingly prioritizing profits over purpose, enforcing expensive uniform and textbook purchases, frequently changing curricula, and avoiding the integration of future-ready technologies such as AI, blockchain, metaverse, and digital education platforms. This study critically examines the ethical breaches in school management practices, investigates their economic motives, and discusses the negative impact on students' educational growth. Further, it proposes a robust Accountability Framework to monitor and regulate such institutions, ensuring schools fulfill their true role as enablers of innovation, critical thinking, and holistic development.

Keywords

CBSE, Indian Education System, Profit-driven Schools, Educational Technology, Accountability Framework, Curriculum Manipulation, Uniform Monopoly, Future of Education.

1. Introduction

Schools are meant to be institutions that nurture talent, inspire creativity, and prepare students for the demands of an evolving world. However, commercialization of education is leading many reputed Indian schools to prioritize profits, undermining their fundamental purpose. This paper highlights these concerns and the urgent need for systemic reforms.

2. Problem Statement

- **Monopoly Practices:** Schools force students to purchase uniforms, books, and stationery exclusively through approved vendors, often at inflated prices.
- **Curriculum Changes:** Frequent, unnecessary changes in textbooks to force annual purchases.
- **Lack of Technology Adoption:** Excuses of "lack of advanced faculty" are used to delay the adoption of AI, blockchain, metaverse, and modern learning platforms.
- **Hidden Profit Models:** Schools benefit financially from kickbacks, commissions, and vendor contracts.

3. Impact on Students and Parents



- **Increased Financial Burden:** Parents face yearly hikes in costs beyond tuition fees.
- **Outdated Skills:** Students are ill-prepared for a technology-driven world.
- **Decreased Educational Value:** Focus on rote learning over critical thinking and problem-solving.
- **Loss of Trust:** Schools' credibility as impartial institutions is eroded.

4. The Need for Modernization

| Traditional Practice | Needed Transformation |
|------------------------------|---|
| Paper-based textbooks | Smart digital libraries, blockchain-secured credentialing |
| Uniform monopolies | Freedom for students to buy from open markets |
| Outdated teaching | AI-driven personalized learning |
| No exposure to emerging tech | Practical modules in blockchain, metaverse, coding |

5. Proposed Accountability Framework for Schools

5.1 Policy Requirements

- **Transparent Procurement Policies:** Schools must disclose contracts related to books, uniforms, and supplies.
- **Technology Integration Audits:** Annual independent audits on technological adoption and faculty upskilling.
- **Curriculum Stability Guidelines:** Curriculum updates only allowed once every 3–5 years unless critically required.
- **Public Grievance Portals:** Government-mandated online portals for parents and students to report misconduct.
- **Penalty Structures:** Fines, de-affiliation, or funding cuts for malpractice.

5.2 Monitoring Mechanism

| Category | Monitoring Activity | Responsible Body |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Book and Uniform Monopoly | Pricing and Vendor Contracts Audit | Education Board + RTI Watchdogs |
| Technological Advancement | Annual Tech-readiness Certification | NITI Aayog/Education Tech Panel |
| Faculty Competency | Compulsory Teacher Upskilling Programs | CBSE/State Education Authority |
| Parent and Student Feedback | Mandatory Independent Surveys | Third-party agencies |
| Grievance Redressal | Online Portal linked to UDISE+ | Ministry of Education |

5.3 Scoring and Accreditation Model

- **Compliance Index (0–100 Score)**
 - 85: ★ Excellent (Innovation Friendly)
 - 70–85: ☑ Good (Needs Minor Improvements)
 - 50–70: ⚠ Warning (High risk of malpractice)



- < 50: **✗** Critical (Immediate Action Required)

6. Expected Benefits of the Framework

- Promotes **equity and transparency** in education.
- Encourages **schools to adopt futuristic technologies**.
- Reduces **financial exploitation** of parents.
- Prepares **students with 21st-century skills**.
- Restores **trust in the education system**.

7. Conclusion

Schools are **pillars of a nation's future**, not profit-driven enterprises. If India's schools continue to prioritize short-term gains over student growth, the country risks creating a generation of learners ill-prepared for the global digital economy. **Strict frameworks, transparent monitoring, and mandatory modernization** are essential to realign Indian education with its true mission: empowerment, innovation, and inclusivity.

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