**COUNTRY:** INDIA

**DELEGATE:** NASEEHA. T

**COMMITTEE:** UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

**AGENDA:** HARNESSING EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) 4

The path to developing the economy, is linked to an individual’s life, his country and to the world, and is intercepted by a great blockage of uneducation. Being uneducated not only affects a person but also the ones around them. The feeling of doing better always haunts them. Literacy serves as the foundation of basic education for all. Some of the developed countries like Andorra, Finland, Greenland, Vatican (Holy see) and Liechtenstein have managed to get a 100% literacy rate while many other underdeveloped countries like South Sudan, Afghanistan, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali are still struggling [1]. In many nations, education often determines employability leaving the uneducated unemployable or employed with meagre wages. Getting to the root of it, poverty remains the main factor for uneducation to prevail in India and many parts of the world. This leads to devastating outcomes such as promoting exploitation and more people falling into poverty traps. Low literacy and education along with their low productivity results in low incomes and their low investments in education[2]. Just like Wilson said, “It’s a vicious cycle and it perpetuates itself”[3]. The progress regarding this matter is something that needs to be taken seriously as, each year of education provides an average 10 percent increase in wages[4]. The impact of education on people’s lives does not just last for a few days, but for a lifetime, so it’s high time for them to realize that.

India, a rich-cultured and diverse country, home to innumerable skilled, talented and brilliant citizens, faces a major setback: Uneducation. The National Statistical Commission surveyed literacy to be 77.7% in 2017–18. Literacy rate in urban areas with 87.7% was higher than the rural areas with 73.5%. A wide gender disparity can be seen in the literacy rate of our country as according to NSO 2018, effective literacy rates (age 7 and above) was 84.7% for men and 70.3% for women. Attending to this issue, our government launched schemes and programmes including the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (1995), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (2000-01) and Samagra Shiksha Programme (2018). It also passed the Right to Education (RTE) Act in 2009. This Act has been quite successful as it gives free and compulsory education till the completion of elementary education but makes it harder for students who wish to continue learning thus putting them in a critical situation. Despite all the efforts made and actions taken, uneducation is still an ongoing global issue that needs a lot of work before it can be solved.

Focusing on literating the illiterate adults, teaching them the importance of education, showing them the impact of it in their lives, helping them explore a new world and coaching them to continue living in it will surely encourage them to invest in their children’s education. Some of the ways this can be achieved is: Firstly, instead of enhancing present day technology, we should make sure that the modern tech that is already available should be made use of efficiently. Secondly, educational centres can be set up in rural areas, by bringing in educators who will help guide the uneducated adults thus creating a new set of job opportunities. They are to be equipped with a minimum of 5 to 10 computers for the usage of local residents to improve their learning skills and also to familiarise them with the present day tech. Thirdly, it is important to note that anything left unchecked is liable of becoming futile. So it is at utmost importance that these centres are regularly checked by asking them to submit a monthly record about the improvement status. Lastly, just like the Rotary Club of Detroit did, educators could also identify their pupils skills that can be fruitful if developed, help them develop it, and contact agents who know other people giving employment based on that particular pupil’s skill. Educating a person causes a ripple effect. “And It ripples through the community one by one”[5]. As adults become educated, they would start encouraging the youth which would in turn increase the pace of the economy’s development incredibly.

**REFERENCE**

[1] – UNESCO.

[2] – The Problem, Teach The World Foundation.

[3] – Illiteracy traps adults, and their families, in poverty, Rotary, para 8.

[4] – Brookings Institute study.

[5] – Illiteracy traps adults, and their families, in poverty, Rotary, para 15.