

### **Explanation on Investment in Education and Health and Government's Endeavour in Education and Health**

The economic development of any country is directly dependent on the growth and development of its three sectors of economy that is, the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. Apart from growth of agriculture and increase in the productivity of goods, the services sector also plays a major role in providing good quality life. By providing better services in the field of education and health, banking and insurance as well as communication and transportation, the service sector has helped in increasing the quality of life in the country and thus helping in raising the country's Human Development Index (HDI).

There are a large number of activities which are the primary responsibility of the government. The government must spend on these. Providing health and education facilities for all is a good example. Running proper schools and providing quality education is the duty of the government. India's illiterate population is one of the largest in the world. Investment in education and health is the most important investment of all. Unless we have an educated and healthy population our development goals can not be accomplished. Let's take the example of Japan and China or Kerala in our own country. Japan and China are reaping huge dividends by investing in education and health. Unhealthy and uneducated population is a liability for the family, society and the nation. No individual can achieve anything without proper education and good health. They cannot contribute to development of the nation.

India's development is linked directly with its investments in health and education. Achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) is possible only with inclusive growth of its human capital. The government is committed towards providing better facilities in education and healthcare for a holistic development of the country. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused disruption in health, education and economy of the country. But a supportive environment, cross-sectoral coordination and finances can undo the damage caused by the pandemic and ensure proper education and healthcare for the citizen. The National Education Policy 2020 looks at transforming early childhood education. Today, India ranks 116 among 174 countries on the Human Capital Index 2020. Literacy is one of the most essential indicators of the quality of a country's human capital and India has made significant progress in improving literacy over the years. The pandemic has created further challenges to the education system with closure of schools and use of digital technology in education. It has deepened the digital education divide due to regional and household disparity in access to smart phones and internet. The Government of India has been announcing various schemes/initiatives to strengthen human capital—Ayushman Bharat Yojana, National Education Policy, Fundamental Right to Education, Atmanirbhar Bharat Yojana, Samagra Shiksha, and the Urban Learning Internship Programme. Protecting and investing in people's health, education, and skilling is vital for reducing income inequality, and sustained inclusive economic growth and the key for achieving sustainable development goals.

