State of Education in Rural India

What is the issue?

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Despite the improvements in the educational condition, there are problems that still persist, especially in rural India.

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What is the current scenario?

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- As late as 2001, only a little over 25% of all rural 18-year-olds were attending schools.
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- The rest dropped out earlier.
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- By 2016, the share of 18-year-olds in schools and colleges had gone up to 70%.
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- Girls have closed the gap with boys in rural areas.
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- At age 14, 94% of girls and 95% of boys are enrolled in school.
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- By age 18, 68% of girls and 72% of boys are still in school.
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What are the downsides?

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- The quality of education in rural schools is dismal.
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- Among 14-18-year-olds, only 43% could solve a class IV mathematics problem.
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- This proportion was roughly the same among 14-year-olds as among 18-year-

olds.
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- This shows that the problem of low learning outcomes was not resolved by remaining in school.
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- Only 40% of 18-year-olds could take 10% off a given number.
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- Most could not locate their state on a map of India.
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- 27% of 14-year-olds, and 21% of 18-year-olds could not read a class II textbook in the regional language, and more than 40% in each age group could not read a simple sentence in English.
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How will this affect the society?

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- The belief has gained ground in rural India that education will be the road out their livelihood.
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- Most of the students are first-generation learners.
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- Soon this younger generation will be graduating from high schools and colleges and then they will find that there are very few good jobs.
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- This might kindle reaction against education.
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What should be done?

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- Raising the quality of education in rural schools is essential.
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- Privatizing the government system is not a viable solution.
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- The market for education performs poorly in situations where information flows are sparse and competition is limited or non-existent.
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- The essential problem is one of a broken governance system.
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- There are few rewards for being a good teacher and few punishments for being a careless one.
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- A system should be put in place, where teachers are innovative in the classroom and parents are involved as co-decision-makers.
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Source: Livemint

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