

HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY INDIA

MODULE IV-DEMOCRATIC CULTURE IN INDIA



**TOPIC-RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT-THE RIGHT OF
CHILDREN TO FREE AND COMPULSORY
EDUCATION(RTE),2009**

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RIGHT TO EDUCATION-2009



- The Act is completely titled “**the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act**”.
- It was passed by the Parliament in August 2009.
- When the Act came into force in 2010, India became one among 135 countries where education is a fundamental right of every child.
- The 86th Constitutional Amendment (2002) inserted Article 21A in the Indian Constitution which states: “The State shall provide **free and compulsory education to all children of 6 to 14** years in such manner as the State, may by law determine.”

PROVISIONS



- The right of free and compulsory education to children until they complete their elementary education in a school in the neighbourhood.
- The Act makes it clear that ‘compulsory education’ implies that it is an obligation on the part of the government to ensure the admission, attendance and completion of elementary education of children between the ages of six and fourteen. The word ‘free’ indicates that no charge is payable by the child which may prevent him/her from completing such education.
- The Act provides for the admission of a non-admitted child to a class of his/her appropriate age.
- It mentions the duties of the respective governments, the local authorities and parents in ensuring the education of a child. It also specifies the sharing of the financial burden between the central



- It also says there should be no urban-rural imbalance in teacher postings. The Act also provides for the prohibition of the employment of teachers for non-educational work, other than census, elections and disaster relief work.
- The Act provides that the teachers appointed should be appropriately trained and qualified.
- The Act prohibits:
 - Mental harassment and physical punishment.
 - Screening procedures for the admission of children.
 - Capitation fees.
 - Private tuition by the teachers.
 - Running schools with no recognition.



- The Act envisages that the curriculum should be developed in coherence with the values enshrined in the Indian Constitution, and that which would take care of the all-round development of the child.
- The curriculum should build on the knowledge of the child, on his/her potentiality and talents, help make the child free of trauma, fear and anxiety via a system that is both child-centric and child-friendly.