

3. Worldwide Educating for the Future Index 2019

Prelims Syllabus: Governance - Policies

Mains Level: GS-II Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Why in News?

- In the recently released “Worldwide Educating for the Future Index (WEFFI) 2019” **published by The Economist Intelligence Unit**, India has been ranked 35th.

About Worldwide Educating for the Future Index:

- The index and report are commissioned by the **Yidan Prize Foundation**.
- It was developed to assess the effectiveness of education systems in preparing students for the demands of work and life in a rapidly changing landscape.
- It is the first comprehensive global index to evaluate inputs to education systems rather than outputs such as test scores and concentrates on the 15-24 age band in 35 economies. The index and report are commissioned by the Yidan Prize Foundation.

Key Highlights of the Report:

- Finland topped the index followed by Sweden.
- This year, **India scored 53 and has jumped five ranks from the 40th rank** with an overall score of 41.2 across categories in 2018.
- WEFFI ranks countries based on their abilities to equip students with skill-based education.
- The rankings are based on **Three Categories:**
 1. Policy environment.
 2. Teaching environment.
 3. Overall socio-economic environment.
- The report analyses the education system from the perspective of skill-based education in areas such as critical thinking, problem-solving, leadership, collaboration, creativity and entrepreneurship as well as digital and technical skills.

Reasons behind the rise in rank of India:

- The report attributes India’s growth to the new national education policy introduced and published in 2019.
- The new policy also mentions about future-oriented skills such as critical thinking, communication and entrepreneurship.

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- The education policy was highlighted in the Union Budget 2020 and it will come under ‘Aspirational India’ which will focus on skill-based education, a greater inflow of finance to attract talented teachers and innovate and build better labs.

Challenges encountered as per the Report:

- Lack of decentralised education system in India.
- The inability of the Indian education system to utilise the opportunity of internationalising the higher education system.
- Well-intentioned policy goals relating to future skills development often do not get filtered downward which is a problem in economies like the US and India.

Way Ahead:

- India should develop its education system so that it becomes a preferred destination for higher education.
- Study in India Programme, Ind-SAT exams held for Asian and African students for scholarships can boost the Government’s Efforts.

