

Directions:

1. Read the following article about education in India—mark up the large margin to the right with your thoughts. If you are confused by some sections, mark that as well. Consider how education in India is similar to and different from education in America.

The Right to Education: Fact Sheet**Created by : UNICEF****INTRODUCTION:**

The landmark passing of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009 marks a historic moment for the children of India.

For the first time in India's history, children will be guaranteed their right to quality elementary education by the state with the help of families and communities.

Few countries in the world have such a national support to be sure child-centered, child-friendly education will help all children develop to their fullest potential. There were an estimated eight million six to 14-year-olds in India out-of-school in 2009.

The world cannot reach its goal to have every child complete elementary school by 2015 without India.

India's education system over the past few decades has made a lot of progress. According to India's Education For All Mid Decade Assessment, in just five years between 2000 and 2005, India increased primary school enrollment overall by 13.7 per cent and by 19.8 per cent for girls, and has almost every student in school in Grade 1.

Even with these praiseworthy efforts, one in four children left school before reaching Grade 5 and almost half before reaching Grade 8 in 2005.

Tests show the children who do stay in school are not learning basic reading or math skills or the additional skills necessary to help them succeed.

FAST FACTS:

Out-of-School Children: The number of out-of-school children has gone down from 25 million in 2003 to 8.1 million in mid-2009. The most significant improvements have been in the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Manipur and Chhattisgarh.

The percentage of out-of-school children in highly populated states like Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar remains a cause of concern.

Access: There has been quite a bit of progress in improving access with 99 per cent of homes having a primary school within one kilometer, and 92 per cent with an

upper elementary school within 3 kilometers. Although many children can attend nearby elementary schools because they live close to them, upper elementary access and participation is still a problem.

Social Inclusion: There have been a lot of improvements in the number of children from socially disadvantaged groups enrolled in school. For Scheduled Caste (SC) students, 19.7 per cent, were enrolled in 2008-2009, with 11 per cent enrolled for Scheduled Tribe (ST) students.

This is greater than their share of the population as a whole (16.2 percent for SCs and 8.2 percent for STs). The proportion of ST children at upper primary level is much lower, indicating that ST children are more vulnerable to dropping out from the school system. As many as 23.4 per cent of Muslim school children are out-of-school.

Sanitation: Clean water and toilets for students are not available for everyone. 84 out of 100 schools have drinking water facilities overall in India. But nearly half the schools in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya do not. Sixty-five out of 100 schools have public toilets in India; however only one out of four schools in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chandigarh, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Orissa and Rajasthan have this facility, which means there are no regular toilets.

Fifty-four out of 100 schools have separate toilets for girls. On average, only one in nine schools in Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur have separate toilets and one in four schools in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand and Orissa.

RDW #1—After you have thoroughly marked up the margins of your AoW, on a separate sheet of lined paper, discuss:

Don't forget to begin with TAG! ☺

- How is education similar to and different from education in the United States?
- What surprised you in this article?
- What was confusing? Why did it confuse you?

Include and highlight three compound sentences.