

Centre for Educational and Social Studies

Analysing the Manifestos of the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) and Indian National Congress (INC): Key Manifestations in Education and Health 2019

A 'political manifesto' is a promise by a political party, ensuring priority areas aligned to their vision and ideology, for a said period of time. This is an attempt analyze the Manifesto's of the two major parties Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Indian National Congress (INC) on Education and Health Sectors.

Comparison of 2019 Election Manifestos of BJP and INC relating to Education

Dimension	BJP	INC	Remarks
VISION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping the education system in pace with modern trends and knowledge • Ensuring a global, scientific, outcome-focused, knowledge-oriented, accessible, inclusive and student-friendly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education must be available to all children as a public good. • Providing educational opportunities to all children. • Schools, colleges and universities shall be public institutions • Private institutions to supplement 	<p>BJPs vision is all-encompassed covering multiple dimension of Education</p> <p>INC vision is to provide education access to all</p>
Allocation		6 per cent of GDP	INC has promised to double the allocation on Education
School Education			
Constitutional Amendment		School Education be transferred to the State List	INC proposes a major change of bringing school education to the state list which is currently in the concurrent list
Right to Education		To be extended upto class XII	INC suggests RTE mandate to include

			higher secondary education
Quality Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on quality of learning • Teachers Training and capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest importance to learning outcomes • Teacher training and the continuing education of teachers 	<p>BJP's Manifesto is focusing on Quality Education at school level as according to them accessibility and equity in school education are already achieved to a considerable extent.</p> <p>Both the parties considers quality should be the priority and teacher development is the key factor to achieve the same.</p>
Nurturing Innovation	“Prime Minister Innovative Learning Program” for talented children		BJP proposes bringing a culture of lateral thinking and innovation among children
Infrastructure		Provide basic and adequate infrastructure in every school from Class I to Class XII	INC focuses on Infrastructure in schools both primary and secondary
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of technology in classrooms and in imparting education. • Providing smart classes to children in schools 	Technology-enabled teaching methods and technology-driven personalized and adaptive learning tools in all schools	Technology focus is on both parties agenda. BJP is more specific with a program called operation digital board

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover all the secondary schools under Operation Digital Board 		
Improving the Accessibility to quality education	Aim to open another 200 Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas by 2024	Increase the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas	BJP proposes increase in specific numbers INC also proposes increase
Inclusiveness	Every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons will have an “Eklavya Model Residential School”	Establishment of special schools for children with special needs	As an Inclusion agenda BJP proposes increase in EMRS for backward and tribal localities; INC proposes schools for CWSN
Vocational training		Vocational training for Classes IX to XII	INC proposes Vocationalization in Higher Secondary schools
Higher Education			
Regulations	Relooking regulatory institutions’ and make necessary changes in the legislation to ensure a regulatory overhaul	Entrust the Regulation, Grading and Funding of colleges and universities to separate organizations Dispense with the NEET examination and substitute it with a State-level examination	BJP Proposes overhauling of HE regulation INC promises university and college regulation to a separate entity which is yet unclear INC promises doing away with NEET and move back to older system of state level entrance tests
Funding	Investment of ₹ 1 lakh crore in higher education through Revitalizing of Infrastructure and systems in Education (RISE)	Increase the amount earmarked for grants to colleges and universities	BJP promises huge investments through RISE INC is not specific but only says that the grants would

			be increased
Gross Enrolment Ratio		Increase Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) to 40 % in 5 years	INC proposes increase in GER which is a result of its overall access policy
Increase the accessibility to professional courses	Increase the number of seats in Central Law, Engineering, Science and Management institutions by at least 50%	Establishment of more Institutes of Higher Learning in subjects such as medicine, engineering, commerce, management and pure sciences	BJP proposes increase in seats INC proposes increase in Institutes
Promoting Autonomy	New regulatory mechanism to provide autonomy to quality institutions	Restore the autonomy of colleges and universities	BJP proposes new mechanism of Autonomy; INC mentions to save autonomy
Increase accessibility and Diversity	On-line courses as major resource for imparting higher education Establishment of Hospitality and Tourism University and a Police University Arts, Culture and Music University Programme for 'Study in India' to bring foreign students to study in Indian higher educational institutions	Establishment of more public universities	BJP categorically mentions establishment of several university to meet various culture and diversity needs, also strengthening Online courses and bringing foreign students to study in India INC is generic in stating establishment of more universities
Affordability		On education loan no interest will be charged during the period of study and until the student finds a job or earns through self-employment Outstanding interest dues on old education loans as on 31 March 2019 will be waived	INC targets affordability angle and proposes loans and interest waivers and new scholarships

		Increase the number of scholarships offered to students	
Achieving Global Standards	Creation of 50 Institutions of Eminence by 2024 Encourage academic institutions to rank among the top 500 institutions of the world		BJP proposes creation of institutions of eminence and enhance global presence
Inclusivity	Financial support to girls for education and subsidized education loans for higher education	Reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs in private higher education institutions Colleges and Universities will be encouraged to award Deprivation Points to students seeking admission based on gender, permanent residence in rural districts, first generation learner, etc. and to admit such students to ensure diversity in the classroom	While BJP addresses Gender; INC addresses socially disadvantaged by providing higher reservations. INC also brings in gender, rural and first generation learners agenda
Student Resources and Rights	Access to leading journals free of cost to the students	Students Rights Bill to codify the rights and obligations of students in colleges and universities	BJP promises enhancing resources to students INC promises Students Rights Bill
Faculty appointments		Measures to include Guest, Temporary and Contract Teachers in the regular establishment of Universities Restore the 200-point roster system for appointments to central universities and other central institutes of higher learning	INC has touched the faculty recruitments and 200 point roster in appointments

Industry Academy Interaction	Incentivize the industry to collaborate with scientific labs and technological institutions		BJP promises to bring industry collaboration with institutions
Sports Education			
	In order to promote sports, practical sports courses will be introduced as part of the educational curriculum and also establish a National Sports Education Board for the development of sports persons		BJP focuses on Sports Education and establishment of NSEB
Teacher Education			
Quality & Accessibility	National Institutes of Teachers' training - Four-year integrated courses that sets the standards for quality teachers in schools	Increase the capacity, number and quality of Teacher Training Institutes set up by the government	BJP clarifies its agenda of four year integrated course for teachers INC is generic on increasing the number of institutions
Regulation & Funding		Regulation of Teacher Training Institutes will be the responsibility of the National Council for Teacher Education and their funding will be the responsibility of the University Grants Commission or its successor	INC proposes the current system and continuation of NCTE and funding by UGC
Medical Education			
Accessibility	One Medical College or Post Graduate Medical College in every district, through public or private participation, by 2024	Establishment of more Institutes in medicine	Both Parties suggest increase in Medical institutions, however BJP is more specific

	Double the number of MBBS and Specialist doctors in the country by 2024		regarding PG Institutions and increase in seats
Technical Education			
Accessibility	Increase the number of seats in Central Engineering institutions by at least 50% in next 5 years	Establishment of more engineering Institutes	While BJP is specific on increasing seats in Central institutions, INC proposes more engineering institutions

In the context of the 2019 General Elections, analyzing the manifesto relating to Education sector, the BJP party has promised through its manifesto to take the Indian education to the next level. With regard to the primary and secondary education the emphasis is on improving accessibility to quality education, enhancing learning outcomes with the aid of innovation and focusing on technological infrastructure and to provide inclusive school education through Ekalavya Model Residential Schools covering ST population. The prime minister's program for the talented children, a stand-out initiative, aims to promote innovation amongst the school children.

On the other hand, the INC has promised to uplift education from the current situation. The party has expressed that school education will be included as part of the state list, currently education is in the concurrent list. In its manifesto for primary and secondary education the party has prioritised on regulations, right to education, quality of learning and learning outcomes, infrastructure, inclusion of physically handicaps, aspires to make vocational training as a compulsory component in classes IX to XII and special school for children with special needs. Vocational education may act as a paradigm shift which could make students more skill and competency based if executed properly.

In a broad sense, one can say BJPs manifesto is more futuristic and INC manifesto addresses the current situation and concerns. On many dimensions, the BJPs manifesto is more specific with specific programs and targets and INC manifesto appears to be more generic. However,

BJP's manifesto is on the premise that "having achieved access and equity in school education" which is still questionable. Preschool education or early childhood education and care has not been the focus of parties' manifesto. Nonstandard preschool education and nutrition are major concern areas at the preschool level. School education in the country is grappling with many grass root level problems and challenges like accessibility, basic infrastructure, shortage of teachers, out dated curriculum, improper pedagogy, poor quality of public education and so on. All of which are in way presented but not very specifically addressed in the manifesto.

Comparison of Election manifestoes 2019 of Bharathiya Janatha Party (BJP) & Indian National Congress (INC) on Health

Sl No	Item	BJP	INC	Remarks
I	Primary Health care	Quality primary medical care to the poor at his doorstep.	Enacting the Right to Healthcare And include free diagnostics, out-patient care, medicines and hospitalization	Access to quality health care BJP goes with an accessibility and quality approach Congress takes it with a Rights and coverage approach
	Infrastructure	Set up 1,32,850 new Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) by 2022 adding to the existing HWCs including all facilities	PHCs will provide all services, including preventive measures and wellness services. PHCs become referral centers for serious medical cases.	Both have the objective to provide comprehensive services. BJP is target specific. INC focuses on making PHCs referral centers
	Equipment	Create an essential devices list and a separate pricing policy for medical devices	Not mentioned	BJP promise enables rationalization of resources INC has not addressed this issue
	Human Resource	Improve doctor: population ratio Accelerate the reforms in paramedical education sector Increase the availability of nurses, pharmacists and other paramedical personnel.	Licensing public and private sector to teach and certify medical professionals such as nurses, paramedics and medical technicians. Appointment of a second ASHA worker in villages with a population	Both aims at providing workforce, BJP intends to bring in reforms INC aims at licensing the sector to develop human resources.

			exceeding 2500 persons.	
	Medicines	Controlling prices of medicines	Free Medicines	
	Protective program	Indradhanush (Universal Immunisation) will ensure full immunization coverage for all the children and pregnant women by 2022.	Vacancies at all levels in PHCs and in public hospitals are filled within a period of 1 year	BJP assures coverage through vaccination program, INC ensuring providing vaccination for PHCs
	Nutrition program	National Nutrition Mission a mass movement and strengthen infrastructure and capacity in all Anganwadis.	Not mentioned	BJP looks for a Mission mode Nutrition Program; INC has not added it in its Manifesto
	Communicable Disease Preventive program linked to Sustainable development Goal (SDG)	A Special Mission to eliminate TB from India by 2025	Not mentioned	BJP proposes Mission mode TB elimination INC has not Addressed this issue
	Non Communicable disease (NCD)Health program		To implement National Mental Health Policy, 2014 and the Mental Health Care Act, 2017 in letter and spirit. Mental healthcare professionals to be appointed in all public district hospitals to provide services	INC proposes implementation of already established Policy and reach of such services in Public Hospitals BJP has not mentioned
II	Secondary/Tertiary Health care			
	Infrastructure	Targets providing of telemedicine	Formulate a National Telemedicine Policy based on international best practices	Both have mentioned about Telemedicine and INC proposes a policy
	Equipment	Creation of an essential devices list and a separate pricing policy for medical devices	Not mentioned	BJP promise enables rationalization of resources INC has not addressed this issue
	Diagnostics	Diagnostic laboratory facilities at these Health centers by 2022	Free Diagnostics	Both have similar agenda
	Human Resource	Increasing the number of MBBS seats by 18,000 and that of Postgraduate	Increase the number of doctors, including specialist	BJP suggests increase in seats and colleges INC suggests increase in

		Medical seats by 12,000 to double the number of MBBS and Specialist doctors by 2024. Set up one Medical College or Post Graduate Medical College in every district by 2024.	doctors significantly by establishing more medical colleges	colleges The Objective being same increase in the No. of Health professionals
	Financial Insurance/Assurance	Providing annual health cover of Rs. 5 lakh to 10.74 crore poor families under the PradhanMantri Jan ArogyaYojana under Ayushman Bharat	Promote and implement the free public hospitals-model to provide universal healthcare. (Does not believe the Health Coverage model)	BJP more specific with health Coverage INC rejects the health cover model, puts forth free health care
	Ambulance and Trauma	Not Mentioned	Expanding free Dial-an-Ambulance service and put on the road more ambulances in all the districts of India. Trauma and Emergency Centers will be established on all National and State Highways	INC mentions about Ambulance, Trauma and Emergency Centers
	IT in Health	Not Mentioned	Digitisation of medical records on the foundation of a robust ICT infrastructure with suitable provisions for privacy, mobility and inter-operability.	INC emphasizes on digitization; BJP has no specific mention as digitization is in progress
	AYUSH	Nothing mentioned	Promote AYUSH, the Indian systems of medicine, in the provision of healthcare services and especially in preventive healthcare.	INC adds Ayush in mandate ; Added by BJP in the previous term

The expectations of common man from the Government are to provide a health system which caters to his/her health need and aspiration. In this regard, we have looked in to the promises

made by two major national parties, namely BharathiyaJanatha (BJP) Party & Indian National Congress (INC) Party, in their election manifestoes of 2019.

The theme of this year international doctor's day, April 7, 2019," Universal Health Coverage: everyone, everywhere".

As per various studies, reports and data analysis the health system in our country needs comprehensive all-round inputs for development i.e Infrastructure, Human resource, equipment, diagnostics, vaccines & medicines. To this end lots needs to be done by the government to bring a paradigm shift. The Government has to create a scenario in which more and more people approach government health care institutions for quality health services. This will mitigate the out of pocket expenditure for health needs.

A close look at the manifestos of both BJP and INC shows that the BJPs approach is more towards broader with a quality approach whereas INC has a coverage approach.

The BJPs manifesto focuses on strengthening and setting up of HWCs &Diagnostic laboratories whereas INC manifesto focuses on strengthening the PHCs. Ayushman Bharath the flagship program of the BJP is the premise on which BJP tries to achieve its commitment of Universal Health Care. INC works on the model of right to health care and free public hospitals to provide universal health care. As BJP has taken several steps in the health sector, its manifesto moves from the current point to the future. However, INC has attempted to provide these as ground zero measures like the Ambulance services, IT infrastructure, strengthening AYUSH, Trauma Care. However, INC has explicitly rejected the idea of health cover and believes in providing free health care to all.