

Date :- 21/04/2025.

Que.1.

The Right of children to free & compulsory Education Act 2009, remains inadequate in promoting incentives based system for children's education without generating awareness about the importance of schooling. Analyse. [200w]

Ans.

The scope of Article 21 i.e. Protection of life and personal liberty was extended because of the Supreme Court's decision in Unnikrishnan vs Andhra Pradesh case and by the Constitutional Amendment Act (86 CAA). The Right to Free and Compulsory Education was added to Fundamental Right under article 21A.

According to Article 21A :-

- Compulsory Education to the children between 6-14 years.
- Requires every private school to reserve 25% of the seats for poor children.

Limitations of RTE

- Focuses on access, but not on quality.
- Lack of Direct incentives.
- No linkage with Skill or employability, which fails to create tangible future for students.
- There is a dilemma between Quality and Quantity, in which quality always remains poor.
- There is no accountability for learning outcomes.
- Schemes like Mid Day Meals, which focuses on providing ~~or~~ incentives like food, clothes

Overall, The RTE Act 2009 is progressive in intent but falls short in execution and motivation-building. It must integrate holistic, incentive-driven and community-centric strategies to truly empower children.