

Teaching Multidimensional Poverty for Inclusive Classrooms: Evidence from Marginalized Regions of India

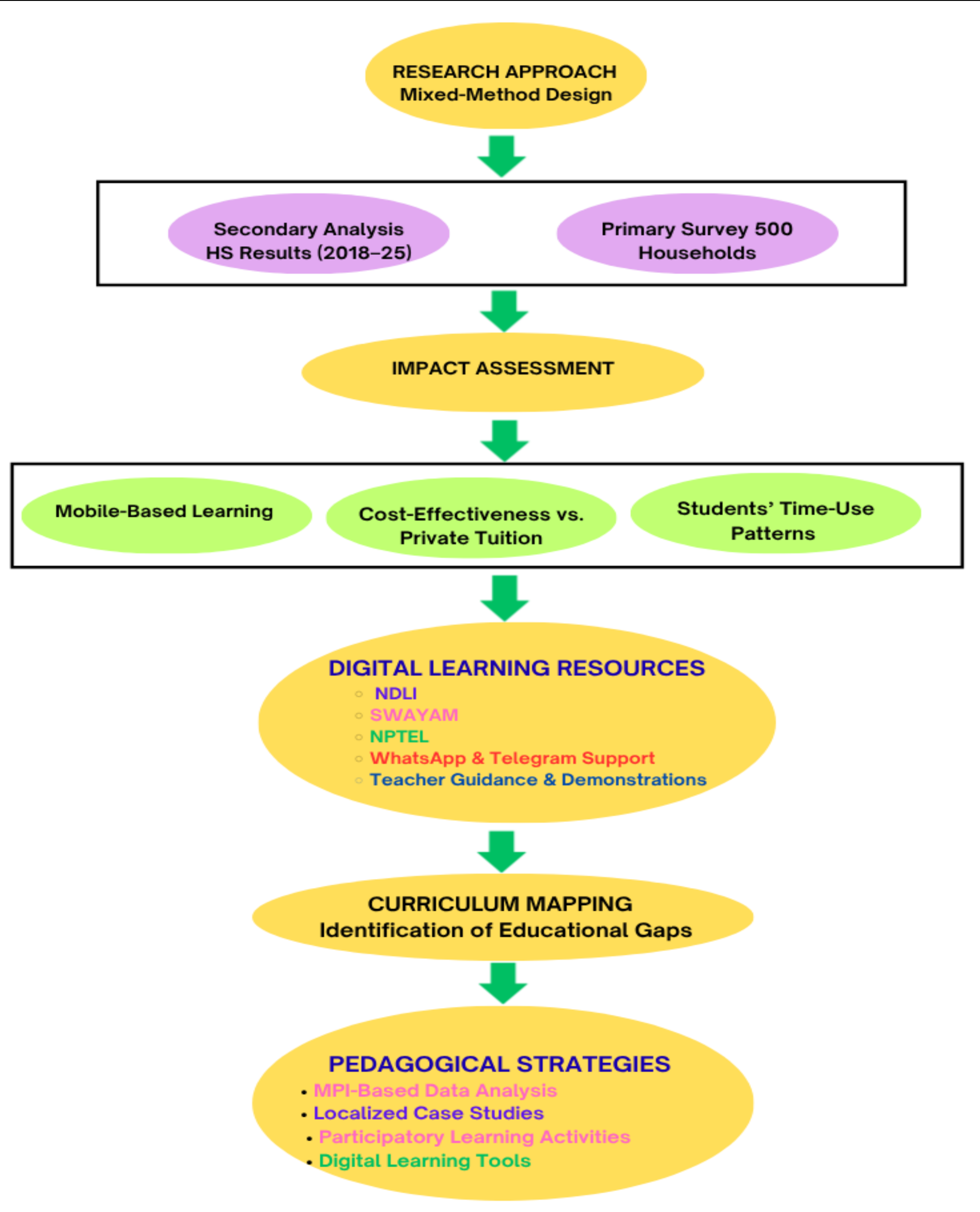
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INTRODUCTION & AIM

- Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon that includes deprivations in education, health, and living standards, not just income.
- The capabilities approach (Sen, 1999) emphasizes enhancing human freedoms as the core of development.
- Alkire and Foster (2011) developed the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), widely used in global assessments.
- As Multidimensional Poverty Index (MDP)[1,2] becomes central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, education must equip learners to critically understand its concepts, measurement, and policy implications.

METHOD



FUTURE WORK / REFERENCES

- Expand digital learning initiatives in marginalized and remote regions through improved internet connectivity and affordable access to educational resources.
- Assess the long-term impact of mobile-based and experiential learning on academic achievement, skill development, and socio-economic mobility.
- Explore emerging technologies, such as AI-powered learning tools and interactive digital platforms, to strengthen inclusive and equity-oriented education.

[1] United Nations Development Programme (2023). Human Development Report 2023/2024.

[2] Garzón, J., Burgos, D., & Tlili, A. (2025). Mobile learning and student achievement: A meta-analysis. Educational Technology Research and Development.

[3] <https://forumias.com/blog/smartphone-impact-on-education-in-india-how-smartphones-can-make-education-inclusive/>

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Educational Outcomes:

Key Findings

- Improved Higher Secondary (HS) pass rates** increased from **83.75% in 2018** to a projected **90.79% in 2025**.
- Benefits for Low-Income Households:** Among households with annual incomes of **₹36,000 or less**, **54%** reported that mobile-based learning significantly improved their children's educational performance.

- Cost-Effectiveness:** Mobile learning incurred an average annual cost of approximately ₹2,400, compared to about ₹6,000 for private tuition, making it a more affordable educational alternative.
- Time Savings and Productivity:** Reduced travel requirements enabled students to allocate more time to studying and income-generating activities, with potential earnings of approximately ₹350 per day.

- Enhanced Nutritional Stability:** Additional household income and reduced educational expenses contributed to improved nutritional security among participating families.

- Better Understanding of Multidimensional Poverty (MDP):** Contextualized and experiential learning approaches strengthened students' comprehension of multidimensional poverty concepts.

- Development of Critical Thinking:** Data-driven pedagogical methods improved analytical skills, problem-solving abilities, and critical thinking.

- Increased Policy Awareness:** Engagement with real-world poverty data and case studies enhanced students' understanding of development policies and social issues.

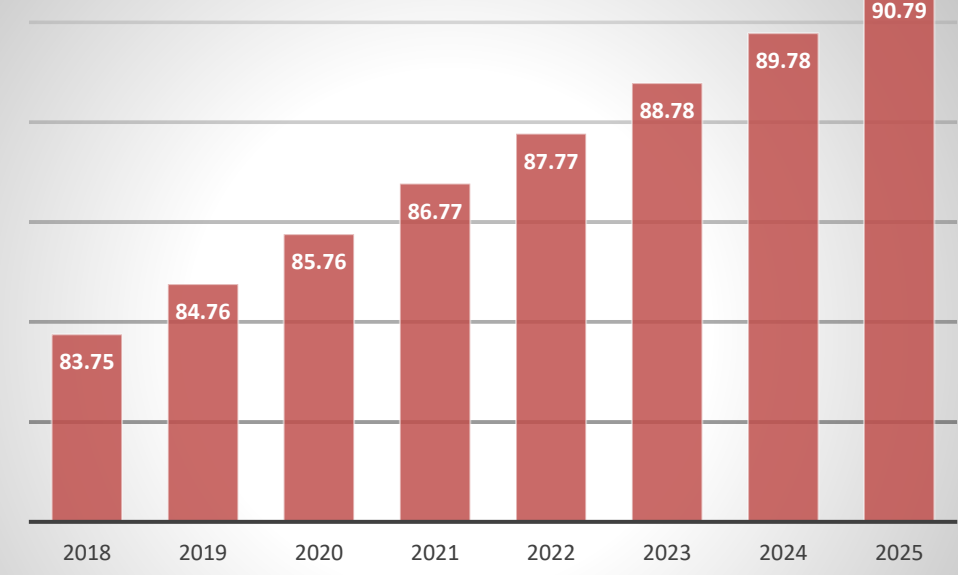
- Improved Educational Access:** Digital learning tools expanded educational opportunities for geographically marginalized and underserved learners.

- Promotion of Equity-Oriented Teaching:** The integration of digital resources, localized case studies, and participatory activities fostered inclusive and equity-focused teaching competencies.

IMPACT ON LEARNERS

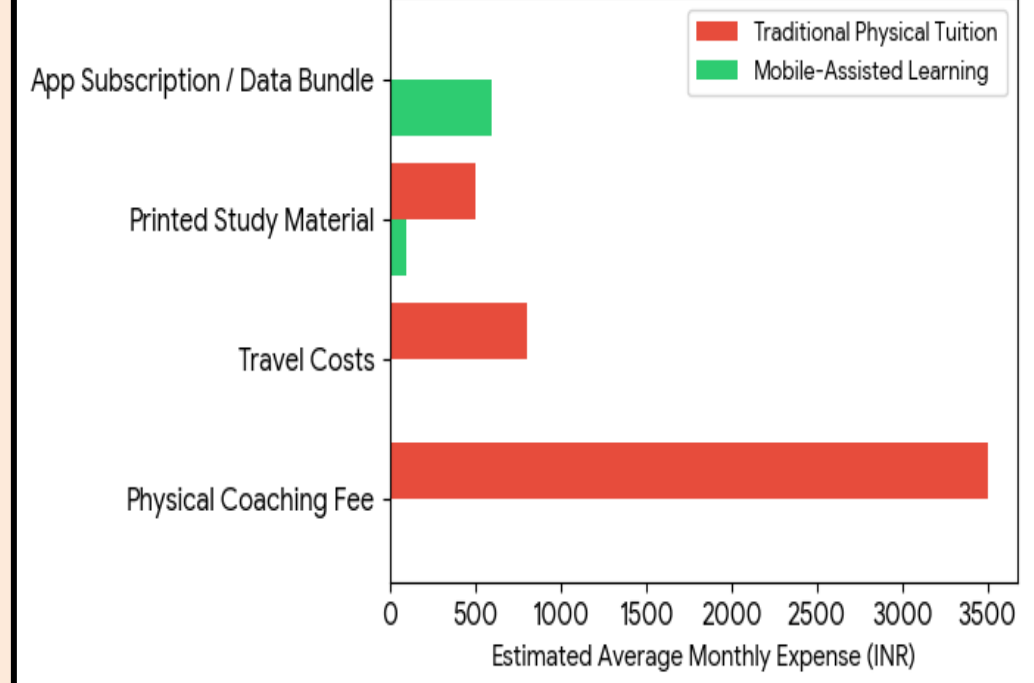


Higher Secondary Pass Rate (%)



(2018-2023) West Bengal, India

Tuition and Related Cost Shift per Student in India



CONCLUSION

- Teaching multidimensional poverty requires moving beyond theory to applied, multidisciplinary, and participatory approaches.
- Integrating theoretical foundations with data analysis, case studies, and practical learning builds both analytical capacity and social consciousness.
- Poverty-sensitive and inclusive approaches in teacher education make classrooms more relevant and equity-oriented.
- Effective instructional design transforms multidimensional poverty from a theoretical concept into a practical tool for understanding inequality and promoting inclusive development.