

「Education in India The war on private schools」 The Economist, 2018年10月13日-19日刊を読む

The war on private schools

— Indian states are reacting to the popularity of private education in different ways —

1. (1) THE 80 or so pupils in Class 9 of YDVP Inter College, a private school in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, chorus “good morning” to the visitor, and then turn their attention back to the maths teacher.
(2) Smartly dressed in blue-and-white uniforms, the children are seated at desks in brick classrooms in a compound surrounded by fields.
(3) Fees are Rs170-250 (\$2.29-3.37) a month, depending on the grade. That is a stretch for the area's subsistence farmers and labourers, but the school, which has 1,000 pupils, is full. The 11 teachers are paid Rs2,000-5,000 a month, depending on their age, experience and quality.
2. (1) At the government-run Upper Primary School, Khujehta, a few miles away, 63 children are enrolled, of whom 50 are present on the day of your correspondent's visit.
(2) They sit on the floor in three classrooms, dressed in grubby pinkish government uniforms, looking at textbooks.
(3) Nobody is teaching them; the school's two teachers are sitting on the veranda. They are paid Rs50,000 and Rs40,000 a month apiece.
(4) The average income in Uttar Pradesh is Rs4,600 a month.
3. (1) Enrolment in the government school has been falling, say the teachers.
(2) They blame it on the fact that the head of the village panchayat (council) has opened a private school nearby (not YDVP) and people are sending their children there to curry favour with the big man.
(3) Bharat Lal, a labourer in the nearby village, has another explanation:
(4) “My children will not go to the government school because they say there is no education, so I have to pay for private school.” His children attend YDVP.
4. (1) India has long had elite private schools, but over the past decade low-cost private schools have also boomed.
(2) Their rolls increased from 44m in 2010-11 to 61m in 2016-17, while those in government schools fell from 126m to 108m in the 21 of India's 29 states for which there is any data.
(3) Geeta Kingdon, a professor at University College London who also runs a private school in Lucknow, suspects that the private-school numbers are an underestimate because many of them are not registered with the government.

<コメント>

インドの **Low Cost Private School**(低価格私立学校)の活動は、公立学校の動きとともに注目に値する。なぜ人々が **LCPS** に子どもを通わせるのか。なぜ **LCPS** の先生方は、公立の先生方より1ケタも低い給与にもかかわらず、子どもたちを教え続けるのか興味深い。インドは奥深い。