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A Study of Legal Framework of Right to Education in National and International Perspective

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ABSTRACT

The legal framework of the Right to Education, both nationally and internationally, highlights the universal recognition of education as a basic human right and a tool for empowerment. At the international level, key instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Article 26, affirm education as a right for all. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) in Article 13 further obligates states to provide free and compulsory primary education and to make secondary and higher education accessible to all. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) also mandates education that promotes the fullest development of children's potential. In addition, global initiatives like UNESCO's Education for All (EFA) and Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG-4) emphasize inclusive and quality education. From a national perspective, India recognized education as a constitutional right through the 86th Amendment Act, 2002, which inserted Article 21-A, guaranteeing free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years. This was given effect through the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, which sets norms for schools, teachers, infrastructure, and equitable access. Together, these frameworks underline the collective responsibility of nations to ensure education as a means of achieving equality and social justice.

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