

## ABSTRACT

### AN EXPOSITION ON THE RAWLSIAN IDEA OF EQUALIZING OPPORTUNITY IN PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM

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The focus of this paper would revolve around the understanding of the idea of equalizing opportunity of the American Political Philosopher, John Rawls, in contrast with the beliefs of Robert Nozick. John Rawls' theory, *Justice as Fairness* deals with the question of distribution, what is just and what is unjust, and to what extent can 'unjust' distribution be justified. The core of his theory lies in the belief that individuals cannot and should not be penalized for 'accidents of birth'. Robert Nozick, on the other hand, states that individuals must be allowed to enjoy the benefits to the greatest extent possible in accordance with the resources that they possess.

These ideas when applied to public education system, would lead to two contrasting results. One, where each individual would be endowed with the opportunity of receiving education, another, where such opportunity would exist or cease to exist on the basis of financial conditions.

At the time where the Millennium Development Goals highlighted the need and importance of education, the adoption of the belief and theory of Rawls' would be crucial. This paper highlights the implementation of the idea of John Rawls to the existing education system; the boon and the bane, thereof.