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INNOVATIVE EDUCATION: A BLEND OF CONVENTIONAL EDUCATION, VALUE EDUCATION AND TECHNO-BASED EDUCATION: RETHINKING

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Abstract

Swami Vivekananda opines "Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man"¹. Education is the course of action through which people acquire knowledge, skills, habits, values or attitudes. Education also helps people to get adjusted with changing environment. This form of education is more important because social changes today take place with increasing speed and affect the lives masses. The schools and Colleges should impart the quality of honesty, fair play, consideration for others, compassion, kindness, truthfulness and help to discriminate between right and wrong. The term education is derived from the Latin word "educere" which literally means to "bring up" and the idea of education is not merely to impart knowledge or give information to the child in some subjects but try to develop those habits and attitudes with which he/she may successfully face the challenges that occur in future life. The Latin author Varror says, "The midwife brings forth, the nurse brings up, the tutor trains and the master teaches"². The value education focuses on building moral values, imbibing cultural knowledge it helps in developing an understanding of social norms, functionality of society. It also helps in building peace, love, harmony and caring for others among the young generation. So we should make philosophy and ethics a compulsory subject in schools and colleges for the betterment of young minds and there by structuring to develop morally healthy society. This paper tries to evaluate a new pedagogy that is to be centered on learning to learn, learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together, and learning to be for value base insight.

¹ Swami Vivekananda, *My Idea of Education*, Advaita Ashram. ISBN 978-81-7505-832-3 (e-book). Kolkata.

² Gisbert, P. S. J., *Fundamental of Sociology*, 3rd edition, Orient Longman pvt.ltd., ISBN: 81 250 0515 3, Kolkata.

Keywords: *Conventional education, value education, techno-based education, chalk and talk system, online learning, learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together*

Introduction

According to Swami Vivekananda, "Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man"³. Education is the course of action through which people acquire knowledge, skills, habits, values or attitudes. Education also helps people to get adjusted with changing environment. This form of education is more important because social changes today take place with increasing speed and affect the lives masses. The schools and Colleges should impart the quality of honesty, fair play, consideration for others, compassion, kindness, truthfulness and help to discriminate between right and wrong.

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tutor trains and the master teaches"⁴. The value education focuses on building moral values, imbibing cultural knowledge it helps in developing an understanding of social norms, functionality of society. It also helps in building peace, love, harmony and caring for others among the young generation. So we should make philosophy and ethics a compulsory subject in schools and colleges for the betterment of young minds and there by structuring to develop morally healthy society.

If "the child is the father (mother) of the man (woman)" then the process of transformation starts with at childhood. In 'chalk-and-talk' system of education model the teacher talks endlessly and dictatorially and the student listens passively and submissively has discouraged questioning, discovery, experimentation and application, innovation and creativity in the school and college classrooms. The monotony, lack of involvement, low confidence and no self-belief, and an compulsive fear of failure are the unfortunate results of this unimaginative factory-based model of education. Today's education is a 100-metre race where there is lot of

³ Swami Vivekananda, *My Idea of Education*, Advaita Ashram, ISBN 978-81-7505-832-3 (e-book). Kolkata.

⁴ Gisbert, P. S. J., *Fundamental of Sociology*, 3rd edition, Orient Longman pvt.ltd., ISBN: 81 250 0515 3, Kolkata.

competition for marks. If child gets highest marks then he is intelligent and can run this race effectively and be successful. Is education means getting highest marks and be successful or education is something else. This reminds me Albert Einstein who said, "Try not to become a man of success, but rather a man of value"⁵. In cut throat competitive education system is ruining the creativity, curiosity and insight among the children. Children are joining school as a question mark and most of the cases they leave school as a full stop. Do we really want such next generation or we want a child with full of values, insight, scientific temper which will help our nation to tread the path of progress and development?

Promoting creativity and innovations with values in our educational institutions should be a first step towards broadening and deepening the impact of innovations based on values in our society. Innovation is important to bring qualitative changes in education. These changes are needed to instill efficiency and improve the quality and equity of learning opportunities for teachers and students. Skills like critical thinking, creativity and imagination, can be fostered through appropriate teaching practices.

Technology-based innovations in education system help to reshape the environments in

schools, colleges and university. Privatization of education is not a remedy for techno based school or colleges. Which will extract money from parents? We need to set up public schools which are techno based and provide quality education to all the strata of society irrespective of the financial conditions. In fact we need to stop private education institutions and encourage public schools for better future. In fact, in today's pandemic situation which has affected countries economy, private schools are asking for the school fees payments from parents and making them compulsory to pay off the school fees, government has given clear instruction that educational institutions will not force for the school fees and they can pay monthly or whatever is convenient to them. Can we say that these institutions are behaving morally? If they are not then what morality they will imbibe among students. Government need to think twice before giving permission for privatization of schools and colleges. If we compare children from similar backgrounds, private schools in many states are not better than government schools. So we need to bring changes in public school. Because child is not a customer if he/ she has a capacity to pay then only will get education. This will abolish the main intention of article 21 which states that right to free education to all children irrespective of caste, gender and economic condition and will not fulfill to meet the

⁵ Pereira P. Arthur, *Achieve Success and Happiness*, Orient paperback, New Delhi.

millennium goal of free education for sustainable development.

The conventional teaching along with digital Change in India will provide alternative ways of learning for students with special needs students. New teaching-learning methodology need to be introduced and instilled to generate important shifts in thinking and behavior of student. This system needs to bring a change among a children to learn to ask "why?" and not just to say "yes". Children must be encouraged to be curious and ask innumerable whys and why not. Can we recognize a child not only for the answers she or he gives in an exam but for the quality of questions that he or she asks? Teaching children to observe and explore new things: Children must be taught and encouraged to observe to look beyond the obvious. Shifting from passive learning to hands-on experiential learning and exploration is important. This will engage the child's senses of touch, feel, smell, sight and sound and will be effective in helping them to grasp, explain and retain difficult concepts. Shifting students from textbook-bound to hands-on is required.

In this era of easily accessible data, children are not given the chance or time to use their own minds and reason out but to passively accept what teacher is teaching. We need to introduce in school creative thinking based syllabus which will include model-making workshops, audio-visual presentations, role-playing activities,

quizzes and exploring the physical world with new innovative educational apps like Google Street View, H5P etc. which will help to deliver the message of classroom lessons in a more interesting and effective manner. Shifting students from fear to confidence is another requirement. Education should not be exam bound but child friendly where child want to come and learn with fun. By encouraging curiosity and creativity among children we can train them to become independent, thinking individuals who can discover and solve problems on their own. We should nurture their confidence and self-belief which is really essential part of education system in today's world. Peer teaching is a powerful tool to ignite and cultivate confidence among children. The good thing is that none of the above requirements are expensive and require huge investment in infrastructure of school and colleges. Much of the above mentioned desired shifts in thinking and behaviour can be achieved only through low-cost everyday materials. We can start value labs in school and college; where we will nurture and imbibe values in very playful and innovative manner. We are creative not because we have everything at our disposal but because we don't want to be monotonous. Indian education system needs to understand the importance of value education along with hands-on, experiential learning as a powerful method to encourage thinking and

creative expression. To bring about a new national education consciousness such ideas, values and methods, which are rooted in curiosity and creativity, need to scale, spread and infuse their magic across millions of classrooms and online classrooms. 'Education is not the learning of facts but the training of minds to think about things that cannot be learned from the text-book'⁶- Albert Einstein

Education must aim at the integral development of personality and that we need to have complete education for the complete human being. The concept of the integral development of personality demands for the harmonization of the rational, intellectual ethical, aesthetic and spiritual. The personality develops best when the educational atmosphere provides to every children a good deal of freedom; freedom in pursuing inner inclinations, freedom in regulating pace of progress, and freedom in determining directions of education. Therefore the education should be child centre which will put the child in the centre of the classroom but also in the centre of the society itself. This paper had tried to focus on the challenges present in front of India in education system. The greatest educationalists, who have played important roles in

⁶ Calaprice Alice and Lipscombe Trevor, 'Albert Einstein: A Biography', Green Wood Biographies Press, Westport Connecticut, London, 2005, ISSN 1540-4900.

fashioning education systems like Swami Vivekanada, Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Rousseau, Montessori, Pestalozzi, Bertrand Russell, Paulo Freire, and Piaget, says that education must be based on the psychology of the child-nature. The role of both parent and teacher lies in enabling the child to educate him/ her, to develop his/her own intellectual, moral, aesthetic and practical capacities while trading the path of education. A new pedagogy that is to be centered on learning to learn, learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together, and learning to be.

Conclusion

The 21st Century is accepted as the Digital era of the post-modern age, besides the age of cataclysmic change and creativity then we require a paradigm shift in the education system which will be based on six C's i.e. choice, collaboration, communication, critical thinking, creativity, care. The ICT technology needs to play an important role in conventional education models and need to join in hands with it; which will emphasis on developing human beings ethically, intellectually, creatively, aesthetically and spiritually. This will enable to create and innovate in the face of rapid change and complexity in educational platforms and we will nurture values among the children along with new techno based learning activity. Hence it is to be admitted the fact and admire the truth that, education should


encompass the overall development and not just mental base because "educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."- Aristotle⁷

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