

INDIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM-A NEED FOR REFORM

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INTRODUCTION

Let's analyze the impact of Indian educational system in our society. Indian Educational system is competitive enough but not qualitative enough. Once we finish reading this entire journal we shall agree on it. The difficulty and agony that lies within this act is being experienced by the teachers. It is experienced in both the government and private institutions. In private institutions, it is very much visible because they are accountable to the parents and more to the money that the parents have paid as fees. In Government institutions it is lesser visible. We need to transform our educational system into a system which is more applicable to the present society and life.

This journal has been elaborated based on the following Points.

- Destruction of quality in education.
- Advantageous young minds.
- No representation of Teachers in making a Law.
- Encouragement to students and restriction to teachers.
- Education has become service oriented.
- Education is limited to the four boundary walls.
- Teacher Education.
- Ineffective evaluation process.

DESTRUCTION OF QUALITY IN EDUCATION

Our educational system has bound the hands and freedom of every Educator. All the educated persons in the society who are above thirty years would agree with this statement "Not a single day would pass without getting beaten up by a teacher when you were in school". What was the result of those punishments? We realized our mistakes and corrected ourselves so that we feel proud to be a good human being and Indian. Similarly there was something called fear within us to commit a mistake. That fear has led us to greater achievement in our life. Even today we remember and grateful to the teachers who had punished us, more than the teacher who did not. If you observe the teachers today, they have the fear (because of various laws) to correct a student, thus they ignore the wrong doings of the students. This is leading to a fearless society. Thus we find it difficult to identify or find people who are accountable for their actions and deeds. This fearless situation is leading our society to commit a crime without any hesitation.

In the past very few got educated but still the crimes were very less especially among youngsters. In the past we never heard or experienced situations such as a seven year boy killing another student for the sake of money.

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In another case a six year boy raped a girl and a ten year boy killing his father. These types of crimes are on a fast rise. What do you think the reason could be? The reason is our educational system. Through our Laws and systems we have successfully removed the fear in every child which is leading him to commit such crimes. Thus it is very clear, due to our unrealistic educational system the crime rates are on a rise. Our system has created an environment where a child does not fear for anything, including killing. If you observe our past, there were two elements that used to create an awareness and fear in every child when they commit a mistake.

They were

- Parents
- Guru (Teachers)

PARENTS

In the olden days every family had three to five children. Thus they were not ignoring the mistakes of their children.

They used to react and make aware of their wrong doings. This created in the minds of every child an accountability of our actions as well as difference between right and wrong. There is a vast change in the present society/family. Today it is very difficult to identify a family with three children. In the present society we have only one son/daughter and that too after five years he/she was born thus whatever he/she does is perfectly alright. As a parent they have the fear to punish him/her when he/she does something wrong. In the present days no parent punishes his child. Thus the parents who acted as Guru (Teacher) in the olden days, does not exist anymore. The parenting in the present day has changed drastically. A parent does not even know his son/daughter behavior or need. They don't find time to know about it.

GURU (TEACHERS)

Now let us look at the second element that we have:

In the past every student used to have fear for their teachers. In present, the teachers have fear of students. They are restricted even to say anything to students. There are thousands of norms to safeguard a student in the name of RTE (Right To Education). How about the educators? Since childhood he is brought up without fear. This is the factor which is leading all the youngsters to commit a crime without fear. A child is free to do anything. This needs a change with immediate effect. The educators need to be given free hand in order develop an innovative/ responsible human being. This does not occur in the present educational system. They are bound by the Professional norms, Civil norms etc.

ADVANTAGEOUS STUDENTS

This situation has made the students to take advantage of the laws. The young minds always think in a unique way. We need to give proper guidance at this age or else they will be misguided or misled. The exposure a child has today can't be compared to the olden days. Everyone believes that the future of a country is in the hands of students. To fulfill this saying we really need to focus on the wellbeing of the students. They need to be monitored as per their emotional/ physical/ mental growth. If we don't guide them properly at that age we will end up like another African country.

NO REPRESENTATION OF TEACHERS IN MAKING THIS LAW

Let's try to understand our educational law making process. They play with the life of our children. A discontinued graduate decides an educational norm. How He/ She can do justice to their role? Our system of law making needs a

change. Law regarding agriculture is made by a person who has never stepped in to the agricultural field. Law regarding education is made by person who is an Advocate. A person who is involved in that profession will know the pros and cons. We need to bring in more and more people from educational profession in the decision making body. This will help in making our policies and norms more of practical and avoid all the implementation tussles. Let us realize a fact that education is not related to an individual. One needs to understand that it is the path way to a countries growth and wellbeing. The lawmakers need to be extra cautious while making a law or decision. Thus people who are involved in that respective profession should make laws.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO STUDENTS AND RESTRICTIONS TO TEACHERS

There should be an absolute freedom to both the educators as well as students. Only then we will have prosperous society. The educators should have the liberty to conduct and guide a classroom. This will bring a change in the society. The root cause of all our troubles and issues are lying with the educational system. In order to overcome such issues, we need to provide a quality education to all the students. All may agree with this statement, unless the educators are given equal freedom like students this situation will keep deteriorating.

EDUCATION HAS BECOME 'SERVICE' ORIENTED

We need to understand the meaning of 'service' in a societies view. It is no more a free service. Education has become like a paid service. A parent is paying for his child's education and the institutions should provide the educational service. I would like to mention an example:

Telecom companies are the best example. To

use their network one needs to pay. One has the freedom to change or to discontinue the service. Our educational system is functioning in a similar way. The educational institutions provide the service of education. As a parent one has the liberty to continue or to discontinue. It is no more considered as a place of learning. Thus the respect and fear of Guru has vanished in the present society. The Guru is considered as like any others. Thus the view of service need to transform into a real selfless service. In the olden days students from different country would come to India for education. In the present, we Indians travel to different country for education. What has transformed this situation? It's purely we have destroyed the quality of education through our norms and laws. I would like to mention a saying "Acharyadevo bhava"

It means "be one for whom the Teacher is God". In the ancient days the Guru was compared to God. At present we don't find such devotion and commitment towards our teachers. Once we start respecting and give the due respect the Guru deserves we will find a change in our educational system

EDUCATION IS LIMITED TO THE FOUR BOUNDARY WALLS

Indian education has become limited to the four walls of the classroom. The history of Indian education has its roots to the ancient ages where they followed the Gurukul system – a system where the students resided in the house of their teacher until the teacher felt that he has imparted all that he could. The subjects taught varied from Sanskrit to Scriptures to Mathematics to Metaphysics and the knowledge attained would be passed on to the future generations. However, this system was changed during the Colonial era when the British set up schools that followed a curriculum confined to subjects such as Mathematics, Science etc. While the ancient

system included more interaction with the nature, the modern system was more classroom oriented.

We need understand and accept the fact that our classroom learning and social life does not relate. I would like to mention a lesson in the graduation course in B.Tech is the technology about Doordarshan. Now everyone will agree that Doordarshan has become outdated technology. In the present context a student after learning about the Doordarshan technology, what will he do? Our education should reflect the change in the society. Our learning should connect with the people in their life. The biggest drawback of our educational practice is that our learning does not connect with our life. There is a huge disconnect between our learning and the life in the society. Education should bridge this, and bring the education closer to the society.

TEACHER EDUCATION

Teacher education will not work without turning around our DIETs. Distance courses are not a silver bullet. We need proper staff and more capacity at the block and district level. We need to find a new balance between discretion and rules. We need to fight corruption but allow innovation. We need a clear career path for teachers, and salaries on time. They must teach and be capable of teaching—and in return, their workplaces must be well-equipped, and they must be supported. Teacher's education should help and enable the teachers to face and guide the students at any stage of their life. The present teacher's education mode is another reason for bringing down the quality of education in India.

INEFFECTIVE EVALUATION PROCESS

Let's look at our evaluation process. This needs a total change over. The assessment of a

student is done only with regard to the academic performance. We do not evaluate the emotional and physical development of a child. Evaluation is meant to assess the entire learning aspects not just only the intellectual growth. We need to find a way through which we assess the whole growth of a child not just one particular aspect of a child. Every child is gifted with some special skills and qualities. Thus that needs to be encouraged and groomed. Our evaluation process is purely on written format. We cannot assess a child's growth through writing alone. We need to look out for different type assessment mode. There can be an activity or an act through these means also can help us in assessing a child's growth.

CONCLUSION

The need of the hour is to revamp our educational system. Our country needs to consider this as most important. A country's growth depends largely upon the education. Thus it's the duty of every citizen to have and fight for an education which will give a prosperous and happy life for him. Many activists today who oppose the Indian Education system are of the opinion that the schools teach the students in learning things by-rote and not to understand things through application

"Focus should be on Skill-based Education: Give a man a fish and you feed him one day, teach him how to catch fishes and you feed him for a lifetime"

I would like to conclude with the words of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Our former beloved president and visionary "In decade's time, India will need 300 to 500 million employable skilled youth and there's a need to completely change the university education syllabus and secondary school education syllabus".

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