



Annihilation of Education: A Critical Survey from Contemporary Indian Perspective

Prakash Mondal, Philosophy, Katwa College, W.B., India

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Abstract

Education is the basic right of the people but now-a-day education is corrupted in India. The economic growth of the country not only depends on natural resources, technology and capital but mainly on the quantity and quality of manpower. By quality of manpower, we mean the efficiency and productivity of work force. The efficiency of the manpower depends on many important factors like health and nutrition, education and training, housing facilities, safe drinking water and sanitation. Education is the most important component out of various components of social infrastructure. The well-educated and properly trained manpower can accelerate the pace of economic development. Of late, the education system in India as well as the world has witnessed a drastic decline. In the present article my tentative goal is to show different types of problem and endeavour to sketch an ethical suggestion about Indian educational system (Sharma, 1999).

Keywords: *Education, Drastic Decline, Fundamental Problems, and Manifestation.*

1. Introduction

In every civilized society men and women believe that education is compulsory and necessary for every individual. Every parent tries to provide the best possible kind of education to his children. What is this education? Generally, education is taken to imply passing a college or university examination after pursuing a fixed course of studies. But this general meaning of the term is not appropriate for the educationist. For this reason, the term is extensively analyzed in the literature on education.

2. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the proposed study are as follows:

1. To promote national progress,
2. To make corruption free education system,
3. To sketch a solution for future generation.

3. Definition of Education

Most educationists have defined education to include much more than mere school studies. It is seen that in the case of every definition, the more immediate environment of the educationist has left its influence upon his individual conception of education. Hence, it must be granted that although education can have a general and universal definition, its practical definition must be modified by and accommodated to the conditions existing in a context. Hence, I would like to

introduce the literal meaning of education and educational view of Swami Vivekananda (Vivekananda, 1978).

4. Literal Meaning of Education

The word education has its origin in the Latin word “educatum”, itself composed of two words, “E” and “Duco”. “E” implies a progress from inward to outward while “Duco” means developing or progressing. In its most literal sense, therefore, education means becoming developed or progressing from inside to outside. Thus, education is the process of developing the inner abilities and power of an individual. The term is also often connected with the Latin “educere”, meaning propulsion from the internal to the external. This Latin term means to educate through a change brought about by practice or usage. In this manner, education implies change for the better in a person (Wikipedia).

5. Swami Vivekananda’s Views on Education

“Education is The Manifestation of The Perfection Already in Man” - This is a famous and most often quoted quote on education by Swami Vivekananda. It clearly demonstrates the clarity and crispness with which Swami Vivekananda delivered his messages. As I was contemplating on this quote, three important messages popped out from this statement – *Manifestation, The Perfection, Already in Man... (Vivekananda, 1978)*.

Manifestation – It is not assimilation, but Manifestation Swamiji is talking about. The learning must be manifested. Something is said to be manifested only when it finds an expression. Mere intellectualization of concepts and ideas do not suffice. True education is to see that the learning has manifested in us and our works.

Perfection – Whatever we learn should be manifested. But the question arises... what should we learn? What should be manifested? Swamiji talks of manifestation of perfection. As it is the case with most of Ancient Indian Scriptural Concepts – Perfection, as used by Swami Vivekananda needs to be viewed from two levels/perspectives.

Already in Man – This is the key principle in the above quote. The perfection which has to be manifested, Swamiji declares – is already in man. When we already have it, what is the role of education? What are we learning? The process of education is a process of purification. A process by which we realize the perfectness within. A process which brings out the strength within and makes us courageous like a lion and help us stand on our own legs in this society.

Another important aspect of Swamiji’s scheme of education is women’s education. He realizes that if the women of our country get the right type of education, then they will be able to solve their own problems in their own way. The main objective of his scheme of female education is to make them strong, fear-less, and conscious of their chastity and dignity. He observes that although men and women are equally competent in academic matters, yet women have a special aptitude and competence for studies relating to home and family. Hence, he recommends the introduction of subjects like sewing, nursing, domestic science, culinary art, etc. which not part of education at his time were.

6. The Narrow and Liberal Meaning of Education

In general usage, the term education is used either in its narrow sense or in its more liberal connotation. A slight elaboration of these two senses is given here:

6.1 Narrow Sense of Education

A large majority of people use the term to mean the training or studies undertaken for a few years in some educational institution. This is the narrow meaning of term. It implies education provided according to a fixed curriculum by a set of people in a specific place. It does not necessarily provide any real knowledge, since the individual still has much to learn. The quality an individual need to achieve success in practical life cannot be generated in him by college education (De, 2002). This meaning of the term pertains to the most formal kind of education, in which an individual pursues a course of study dictated by a standard curriculum and at the end of a stipulated period, wins a degree or diploma. This certificate enables him to get a job. In fact, an individual should not be considered educated merely because he possesses a degree, while on the other hand, absence of such a degree should not imply that individual is uneducated. In every country, there are instances of great social reformers, saints, philosophers, thinkers and specially my parent who have never been near an institution of formal education. But can they be called uneducated on this ground?

6.2 The Liberal Meaning of Education

When the word is accepted in its more liberal meaning it is granted that at all time and places an individual is imbibing some education. Education is thus not limited merely to the classroom. It can be obtained from all kinds of social institutions and associations such as the family. It is not the prerogative of the teacher alone to provide education. It can be obtained from all individuals, even from nature. Considered from this standpoint, it can be said that the child gets education not only from his teacher but also from the entire complexity of his environment, each object in which is a means of educating him. Education is, therefore, also not limited to students but comprehends all human individuals, of all sizes and ages, races and groups.

In this sense, education is informal. Besides, this aspect of education has great importance. Such an education is not planned or organized. The child learns many new and interesting things from his parents, his friends at play and his other members of society (Wikipedia).

7. The Western Approach to Education

In Ancient Greece Plato defined education as the process of developing desirable habits through which the child is attracted to good actions and good qualities. Plato interprets education in its most liberal sense. He assumes that the process of education is never ending. Aristotle, Plato's disciple, conceived education to be the creation of a healthy mind in a healthy body (Sharma, 1978).

In the middle ages, the famous educationist Comenius declared education to be a process whereby an individual developed quality relating to religion, knowledge and morality, and thereby established his claim to be called a human being. In more recent times, many famous Western educationists have defined it variously. A slight elaboration is given here:

“Education is the natural, harmonious and progressive development of man's innate powers.” – Pestalozzi.

“By education I mean the influence of environment upon the individual to produce a permanent change in his habits of behavior, of thought and of attitude,” – G. H. Thomson.

“Education is the complete development of individuality so that he can make an original contribution to human life according to his best capacity.” – T. P. Nunn.

8. Indian Approach to Education

Turning to the Indian approach, it becomes necessary to include the spiritual aspect also because it is accepted as a part of the development by education. Yajnavalkya opined that only that education which gives a sterling character to an individual and renders him useful for the world. Shankaracharya expressed that education is that which leads to salvation. In more recent times, many famous Indian educationists have defined it variously. A slight elaboration is given here:

“By education I mean an all-round drawing out of the best in child and man, body, mind and spirit. Literacy is not the end of education, not even the beginning. It is one of the means whereby man and woman can be educated. Literacy in itself is no education.” – Gandhi.

“The chief aim of education should be to help the growing soul to draw out that in itself which is best and make it perfect for a noble use.” – Sri Aurobindo.

9. Problem of Education in India

With my own experience, I have jot down 6with education system in our country. You need to know these 6 problems in elaborate:

- 1) Our education system basically promotes rat race among our children. They must read and mug-up entire text book without any understanding of it. So, a student who scores 90 out of 100 and comes first actually remains a rat. I mean to say he/she does not have any analytical skills that a child must have.
- 2) Unfortunately, our education system is not helping to develop persona of a child. As I said earlier, our system demands good numbers from a child in an exam not to show his/her personality. Hence a child is not well exposed to outer world and he or she might not be able to develop a personality.
- 3) Our child is not able to do critical analysis of anything, for example our history, culture and religion. They take the line of establishment. They are simply not able to look things from their own perspective. If we want a society should become a lot better than we must develop a culture of looking at things critically.
- 4) This is also a big problem that needs to be addressed. We are not able to decide on the medium of language of our education system. Still emphasize is given on English where majority of children cannot understand the language. So how are they going to understand what teachers are teaching?
- 5) This is perhaps the most apparent failure of our education system that after completing graduation in any discipline are not able to get jobs. It is simply because skills that are required in a job market are simply not present in a fresh graduate. All that a student is taught in his/her entire school and college life is almost redundant for job markets. Skill that is required by them is not taught in schools and colleges. Hence our education system is needed to be revamped and must be designed according to our economic policies.

- 6) Now, in college campuses it has become a common thing that every young student is interested in getting a job that pays them well. However, they would never like to become an entrepreneur. This lack of ambition does not allow our country to excel in any field. This attitude of our children making them slaves of few multinational companies.

10. What Can We do to Improve the Indian Education System?

We all believe that the future of any country lies on how well developed is the education system of that country. Hereby, according to the statistics of the education system in our country, there are approximately 500 million people who are below the poverty line and hardly have access to education. There are so many minds sets that pose a hindrance to the Indian Education System. Hence, pursuing a professional degree isn't that important, but primary education, is a necessity for the society.

A lot of corruption and malpractices are prevalent in our Education system, these days. Improvement in our education system can open more employment opportunities and take India to greater heights. Below listed are priorities, as to how the Indian education system can be improved:

- **Effective Implementation of Education Laws:**

Every citizen of India has been given a Fundamental Right to Education, but it has not been so effective in India, this makes the citizens uninformed about their fundamental rights and duties. The government must work on creating more awareness on these rights and schemes, so that they can be used most effectively.

- **Betterment in Government Schools:**

Now days it has become very important for the government schools to take a major step in reforming the prevalent education system as a majority of the Indian population resides in rural and semi-urban areas. Various changes should be made in government schools such as the infrastructure, teachers, etc. Government schools must provide quality education to everyone regardless of one's ability to pay. Teachers must be provided trainings.

- **Elimination of Reservation Criteria:**

This is one topic which is controversial. Removal of the quota system will bring a major change and improvement in the education system. Due to the quota system there are so many students who don't get chances for admission in nice government as well as private schools. Only children with poor economic conditions must be given basic education.

- **Technology Based Education:**

Smart classes should be conducted in all schools rather than sole theoretical knowledge since this is the era of Technology. Teachers should be well acquainted with computers and must have a clear understanding of the subjects, being taught. Practical knowledge is the need of the hour because a child can retain better, what he sees and hears in his/ her memory rather than what he reads.

- **Reservation**

Reservation is debatable. Everybody wants to make the best of the quota system but ideally removal of same will bring major change in education. If not eradication, then at least economic conditions should be the parameter and not caste based. This change will make sure equal access to all.

- **Health Education:**

Health education is one of the most important areas which requires attention and improvement. Yoga and other workout programs should be included in our education system to help in inculcating good values and a healthy mind in the children. Public sanitation system should be improved, and more awareness campaigns should be enforced.

- **Need of better syllabus and more of practical knowledge**

The books and syllabus hardly change and some of them are filled with have wrong information. Recently internet was buzzing when the news of CBSE syllabus idealizing body shape was broke. Just like this many such cases had appeared in past that proves how we are failing the Indian education system with one mistake at a time.

One of the major problems right now students face is lack of practical knowledge as ultimately. Institutes need to give impetus to practical studies and employable skills as this will make students corporate ready.

- **Rote learning VS Real Learning**

Indians are known for their rote learning expertise. But we should realize that rote learning will not take us any way. Mugging up and puking on paper and forgetting is the real issue that needs to die down. Parents too must not pressurize kids to aim for ranks instead they should always ask their kids to focus on their forte and skills.

But the hope is that Indian Education system has come a long way and major changes have been made, there is still a long way to go. Though some changes have been implemented, there is always scope further improvement and a better education system in our country. Being a developing nation, yes, the education system of the nation is also developing and hopefully one day we will become a name to reckon with in this arena as well.

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