

## Education in the Modern Globalized World

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### ABSTRACT

*After the Britishers left India, their British Education system still prevailed in Independent India. From time to time, many modifications have been made in the Education system according to the suggestions given by different Commissions and Committees. But how far these updates have actually been useful at the ground level? In the current scenario, a lot of emphasis is being given to marks. There is cut-throat competition leading to pressures on students to devote their energies and time to secure high marks in Examination. The Education system should be such that there is emphasis on understanding of concepts and not on achieving high marks in examinations. A qualitative shift is needed from emphasis on rote memorization for achievement of marks to the development of full capacity for critical thinking and the ability to learn how to learn. This would prepare the students for life-long learning and would help them in all phases of their lives.*

*We are living in an 'ICE' Age of Information, Communication and Entertainment. The role of internet in providing this to some extent cannot be denied. But all the information available online does not necessarily enhance our knowledge. Besides, the ready availability of information and ideas is greatly harming the creative thinking of the new generation as majority of them avoid spending time and energy in in-depth thinking for something innovative. To reduce the interests of children in the virtual world, we need to make the teaching-learning process both simple and interesting. For this the redundant components present in the curriculum, routine teaching methods and evaluation techniques need to be replaced by innovative and interesting methods so that students are attracted towards education.*

*The need of the hour is to educate our children to be "unique and smarter than the machines". The present Education system has to prepare individuals who will be imaginative, creative and intuitive. They have to be educated in higher order cognitive skills. The modern Education system should provide children with the knowledge and skills that make them capable of divergent and creative thinking that would prepare them to face the real challenges of life in the global society. Today creative and innovative ideas are the new age mantras for success.*

*When children pass out from school, they often have marksheets and degrees that showcase their theoretical knowledge but often do not have the requisite practical expertise to make them indispensable for the professional world. Often the gap between what is taught in the classrooms and what is the current need of the workforce in the real world is very wide. A comprehensive strategy is needed to enhance employability skills in our children. Vocational streams have to be developed and expanded to equip larger number of students with occupation-related knowledge and skills.*

*In addition to providing knowledge and vocational skills to the children, we need to adopt strategies for nurturing the life skills that address the 4H i.e. those related with the head, heart, hands and health. In the 'Targeting Life Skills Model', Patricia Hendricks (1996) has mentioned the skills related to head, heart, hands and health. According to World Health Organization (WHO), Life Skills are the "abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life". WHO has highlighted 10 core life skills: Self Awareness, Empathy, Critical Thinking, Creative Thinking, Decision Making, Problem Solving, Effective Communication, Interpersonal Relationship, Coping Stress and Coping with emotions.*

*To ensure success and happiness of our children we need to inculcate values in the young generation so that they become aware and sensitive to the needs and problems of others also. We need to revive the culture of formation of values through strong family ties, inspirational stories, dramas and portrayal of great persons.*

*"By education I mean an all-round drawing out of the best in child and man - body, mind & spirit."- these words of Gandhiji rightly emphasize that education should be such that it leads to all round development of children. In the modern globalized world, we need to provide education that makes the children aware of their capabilities, develops life skills in them, equips them to face the challenges, helps them to think innovatively to solve the problems and prepares them to be successful in the professional field and personal lives.*

After the Britishers left India, their British Education system still prevailed in Independent India. From time to time, many modifications have been made in the Education system according to the suggestions given by different Commissions and Committees. But how far these updates have actually been useful at the ground level? In the current scenario, a lot of emphasis is being given to marks. If we observe the recent class 10 and 12 results, we see that some of the students score as unbelievably high marks as 499 out of 500; and 2 students have even obtained 500 out of 500 marks. Such perfect scores seem to suggest very high standards of the Education System.

The present Education system requires students to gulp down large chunks of information and are considered successful only if they score high marks. There is cut-throat competition leading to pressures on students to devote their energies and time to secure high marks in Examination. The unbelievable marks obtained by a few students in the Examinations put so much pressure on many other students also to study harder and excel. In some cases, when children are not able to achieve extremely high marks in spite of great efforts, they become frustrated and may even be driven to commit suicide. Therefore, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century globalized world, there is a dire need to de-emphasize the relevance of scoring high marks. The Education system should be such that there is emphasis on understanding of concepts and not on achieving high marks in examinations. The present Education system has to be revamped in order to ensure that students are also prepared for the real challenges of life. A qualitative shift is needed from emphasis on rote memorization for achievement of marks to the development of full capacity for critical thinking and the ability to learn how to learn. This would prepare the students for life-long learning and would help them in all phases of their lives.

We are living in an 'ICE' Age of Information, Communication and Entertainment. The role of internet in providing this to some extent cannot be denied. It does provide wide-exposure; and at times may make learning easy. But this is also making our children too dependent on the electronic devices with internet connection. So often it is seen that as soon as a task is given, the children immediately look for help from 'Google'- cutting and pasting data, images and using the ideas available online. A lot of information, from all over the world, is available for us at the click. But the quality and authenticity of the information received from internet remains doubtful. Children often are not able to differentiate between right and wrong information available online and may become victims to the threats of the cyber world. They need to be made aware of the difference between information and knowledge. Knowledge is structured information. All the information available online does not necessarily enhance our knowledge. Besides, the ready availability of information and ideas is greatly harming the creative thinking of the new generation as majority of them avoid spending time and energy in in-depth thinking for something innovative.

In today's time, we all use internet. But children often become so addicted to the internet that they spend long hours

in browsing and connecting in the virtual world. This is having a serious impact on different aspects of their development. It is the need of the hour to make them aware of the significance of time management for success in life. They should be motivated to set priorities and to stick to a time schedule diligently for the completion of relevant tasks and to avoid excessive wastage of time on internet, especially the social media. Steps have to be taken to engage them in activities that are interesting so that they move away from the addiction of the digital world to the participation in useful activities of the real world. Parents and teachers need to ensure that children show lesser dependence and reliance on the digital technology for all types of tasks that the children are expected to perform.

To reduce the interests of children in the virtual world, we need to make the teaching-learning process both simple and interesting. For this the redundant components present in the curriculum, routine teaching methods and evaluation techniques need to be replaced by innovative and interesting methods so that students are attracted towards education. An ideally '**BLISS-ful**' Institution of Education has an eco-friendly **B**uilding; a **L**ibrary as a centre of Information Science Technology; is equipped with all necessary **I**nstruments; has qualified and competent **S**taff; **S**tudents who are bubbling with curiosity and updated relevant **S**yllabi. The Libraries need to be made updated with the latest information, based on keywords, that is available readily and conveniently. The teacher has to don a new mantle. Earlier the teacher was the 'sage on the stage'. But now the teacher has to be the 'guide by the side of the students.' It has to be ensured that the students do not remain passive recipients of information but they should be active participants in the constructivist teaching-learning process. Their innate curiosity and exploratory nature should be promoted and not killed due to over emphasis to gulping down of chunks of information for just scoring high marks in examinations. Their immense energies need to be channelized in a positive direction by involving them effectively in their own learning process. For this it is necessary that the curriculum is revised regularly and made more relevant and useful in the current scenario. Excellence in education requires the presence of a very stimulating learning environment for the promotion of efficiency in all the spheres of teaching-learning. This needs to be supplemented by accountability for performance.

Recently, I saw a video of Jack Ma. He is the Co-founder of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd (China's largest e-commerce firm). He has rightly said that the current education system needs to be revamped. He has said that we now should not confine ourselves to just transfer of knowledge as this can be done by machines in quite a better manner. Children are presently being trained in the tasks which the computers are doing in a faster and better manner. The need of the hour is to educate our children to be "unique and smarter than the machines". The present education system has to prepare people who will be imaginative, creative and intuitive. They have to be educated in higher order cognitive skills. The modern Education system should provide children with the knowledge and skills that make them capable of divergent and

creative thinking that would prepare them to face the real challenges of life in the global society.

Today creative and innovative ideas are the new age mantras for success. The idea of e- marketing has brought wealth to so many and convenience of availability of goods at the footsteps to so many people. Kickstart cabs have made the life of the differently abled persons a little more convenient by allowing them to travel comfortably. In February, 2018, 9 Engineers in their early 20s created a robot called Bandicoot. This robot can be used for cleaning manholes. The dangerous and sometimes fatal task of cleaning sewers and septic tanks is being done by men manually even today, in spite of this being outlawed about 25 years back. Innovative planning and engineering has helped in saving the lives of many scavengers from working in dangerous and often fatal filth. We need to take our students away from the bondages and restrictions of the education system and make efforts to imbibe in them the skills and capabilities of independent, creative and critical thinking that can be useful for the welfare of mankind. The old education system has often put blinkers on the thinking capabilities of our children and it is high time that we removed these to widen the vision for our children to think for creative and useful enterprises.

In order to ensure that children are motivated to think 'out of the box', the Education system needs to cater to the interests and capabilities of children. Youngsters can be expected to be more enterprising and interested in learning if they study subjects of their interest and caliber. There are many students who do not have interest or caliber to successfully understand all the different subjects of school education. We all know of students who, in spite of all efforts, fail to understand the concepts of Algebra and Trigonometry but are very good in Art or Social Science. For such students Mathematics is equivalent to terror. The understanding of basics of Mathematics that are needed in day to day life is necessary but why should such students be forced to study concepts which they may actually never be required to use in their lives. It is the need of the hour to make modifications in the curriculum so that all the subjects may be taught till maybe class 7 and then after that option of choosing a lower or higher level of some subjects may be given to the students. The uniqueness of each students cannot and should not be confined to just excelling in all the academic subjects in school.

Education does not just imply scoring high marks in examinations. In fact, education needs to be such that it prepares children for a successful life. When children pass out from school, they often have marksheets and degrees that showcase their theoretical knowledge but often do not have the requisite practical expertise to make them indispensable for the professional world. Often the gap between what is taught in the classrooms and what is the current need of the workforce in the real world is very wide. It is a general observation that labourers often prefer to send their children for training in some skill but do not wish to continue their education in schools. I remember one labourer whom I tried to convince to allow his son to continue his education. She said that with the kind of education that she could provide him where is the guarantee that he will get a job. She added that as he had joined a

mechanic's shop, he was learning the skills that would fetch him a job or make him capable of self-employment. This highlights the significance of cognitive apprenticeship whereby our students' theoretical knowledge in class needs to be augmented by his learning under an expert. In some courses we do have internships but we need to make them more intensive and quality monitored. A comprehensive strategy is needed to enhance employability skills in our children. Vocational streams have to be developed and expanded to equip larger number of students with occupation-related knowledge and skills.

In addition to providing knowledge and vocational skills to the children, we need to adopt strategies for nurturing the life skills that address the 4H i.e. those related with the head, heart, hands and health. In the 'Targeting Life Skills Model', Patricia Hendricks (1996) has mentioned the skills related to head, heart, hands and health. According to World Health Organization (WHO), Life skills are the "abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life". WHO has highlighted 10 core life skills: Self Awareness, Empathy, Critical Thinking, Creative Thinking, Decision Making, Problem Solving, Effective Communication, Interpersonal Relationship, Coping Stress and Coping with emotions. Youngsters need to be trained to act with responsibility and to control their emotions. They should be educated to build strong relations with people and for contributing to the society. They need to be made aware of their own emotions and should be educated to manage their emotions for effective interpersonal relationships in society. The young generation should learn the significance of nurturing relationships — in family, in school and in society. They need to be made efficient in team work also. Often parents pamper their children a lot and keep them away from all problems. They are often not able to cope up with stress and failures and in some cases may even end their lives. It is the need of the hour that children are not always kept away from the realities of life but trained to face them. They have to be made to understand that failures and problems may come in life and that one has to overcome them with concerted efforts.

To ensure success and happiness of our children we need to inculcate values in the young generation so that they become aware and sensitive to the needs and problems of others also. Jack Ma has rightly said that "machines have chips while we human beings have heart". He adds that human beings are being trained and 'programmed' in schools to behave like machines but should actually be educated to become better human beings with a mind that thinks and a heart that feels for the welfare of mankind. It is necessary that values like love for humanity and concern for global social and environmental issues should also be instilled in them. Various programs should be organized in schools and colleges to spread awareness of different social and environmental issues like child labour, female foeticide, gender discrimination, global warming etc and they should be motivated to play a significant role in the eradication of the evils present in society. We need to revive the culture of formation of values through strong family ties, inspirational stories, dramas and portrayal of great persons.

“By Education I mean an all- round drawing out of the best in child and man - body, mind & spirit.”- these words of Gandhiji rightly emphasize that education should be such that it leads to all round development of children. In the modern globalized world, we need to provide education that makes the children aware of their capabilities, develops life skills in them, equips them to face the challenges, helps them to think innovatively to solve the problems and prepares them to be successful in the professional field and personal lives. Thus, for the all- round enhancement of performance of our students

we have to seed excellence, weed waste and pay heed to the feedback from all the stakeholders. The students should be involved in the enhancement of quality in education as they are the chief stakeholders. An important role of education has to be to make children responsible, capable, active and healthy members of the family and society. This would ensure that they become competent and responsible citizens in the modern globalized world.

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