



The Role Of The Hindu English Newspaper In Education

C. SHEELA , Ph.D (Part-Time) Research Scholar, PG. & Research Department of History, H.H. The Rajah's College (Autonomous B+), Pudukkottai , (Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli) Tamil Nadu, India

Dr. J.PRINCELY ISAAC CHRISTUDOSS , Assistant Professor, PG. & Research Department of History, H.H. The Rajah's College (Autonomous B+), Pudukkottai , (Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli) Tamil Nadu, India

Introduction

In general the term 'education' means the advancement of the mental, aesthetic, physical and moral faculties of an individual. Acquisition of knowledge is the basic purpose of education. Education is not merely a preparation for living but it is living itself. In a democratic country, the fundamental aims of education are considered to be the development of the personality, training of the character and making of the best citizens.

Education has always been used as a process, as a powerful instrument for effecting desirable social changes. Education brings about a change not only in an individual or a society but also in the entire nation. All eminent scholars and educationists have acknowledged the importance of education in the economical, social and political development of a nation. Education is being no longer considered just a matter of formal schooling, but it in all ways to influence in shaping the character of the society.

Education in Ancient India

The whole educational system of Ancient India was the Teacher and the student based on their functions. The teacher was called as Acharya, Guru, Upadhyaya and it was known as the Gurukula system. The teacher is superior to the father. Education was not to all but limited to a certain section of society.

Education in Medieval India

During the Medieval period, large parts of India were ruled by Muslims such as the Delhi Sultans and Mughal rulers. The scheme of Education of this period was flourished for a period of five hundred years till the British introduced their own system. The rulers

provided aid to schools called as Maktabas and Madarassas. Maktabas were known as elementary schools and it is regularly given financial aid. Madarassas were the higher educational institutions that existed during the Muslim and Mughal rulers.

Both education in the Ancient period and education in the Muslim period was also influenced by religion. In the Hindu Kingdoms, education was based on Hindu scriptures and in the Muslim kingdoms, education was based on Khuran. The concept of secular education came to India only after the advent of the British.

Education in Modern India

The combine contribution of two British servants called Macaulay and Harding in the field of education creates important landmark in the history of modern education system in India.

He further deals with the important matter, the medium of instruction, where he formulates both the language as a medium of instruction. In primary level the vernacular language takes as a medium of instruction and the modern Indian language consider as medium of instruction at the secondary stage.

After Independence, India needed immediate reforms in the education system which is an important instrument for social change and national upliftment. Several committees and commissions were required to review the educational problems and make recommendations in order to adjust them to the changing needs, aspirations of the people, structure, and strategy of education. Free India needs an effective Constitution to provide Justice, Liberty, and Equality and to provide free education to the people of India. Finally, some of the articles in the free India constitution deal with education in the republic. The Five aspects of the Indian Constitution towards the Education is:

1. Provide Free and Compulsory education for all children until, they completed the age of fourteen years.
2. The Indian Constitution safeguards the Secular Education because India is a secular state and every religion has got the right to popularize and spread its religious ideals.
3. The Indian Constitution guarantees the minorities, equality of opportunity in educational institutions, cultural and educational rights to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice, whether based on religion or language.
4. The Indian Constitution guarantees the educational interest of the weaker sections of the Indian community, that is, socially and educationally backward classes of citizens and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
5. Any section of the citizens, residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to construe the same.

Kothari Commission Report and Primary Education

To construct a fresh and more effective system in the field of education, the Education Commission (Kothari Commission) was appointed in 1964-66 to advise the Government on the national pattern of education for the development of education at all stages and in all aspects. According to Kothari Commission, education is an important instrument for change, while the development of physical resources is means to an end, of human resources is an end in itself and without it; even the adequate development of physical resources is not possible.

Kothari Commission observes that the quality of Primary Education was very poor. What is expected is that Primary Education should lay the foundation for a child to grow into a responsible and useful citizen of the country. Kothari Commission recommended Seven years of compulsory education and suggested certain practical measures to implement. After long proceedings, our Education system was framed to develop the four objectives of education for democracy are Self Realisation ,Civil Responsibility, Economic Efficiency and Human Relationships.

Education does not mean formal education alone. Education is meant for the all-round development, especially for improving the thought process. We know that necessity is the mother of invention and a mind that thinks is the mind which can create things. This is the sole purpose of imparting education. This quality of imparting education is not the process owned by a set of institutions or an attribute of schools or colleges. Every day is a day of learning for individuals and the role of newspapers towards the same is unending and advantageous. All Human Rights give a prominent place to Rights to Education and also stress the importance of education in promoting human rights.

In India, there are hundreds of villages that are not able to maintain a village school at a very moderate cost. There are thousands of people who are unable to pay the very small fees payable in such schools. The study of the history of Indian education is the best to consider as a part of the wider study of the history of The Hindu to Enhance the Education System. The role played by The Hindu, the English daily in educating the masses is huge. It could be well explained if we have got into a deeper understanding of the systems and practices in India, then move on to the promising role played by The Hindu in promoting Education in India.

Hearing impairment

An inability to hear as well as someone with normal hearing is Hearing impairment and people can be Hard of Hearing is (HOH) deaf. People who cannot hear at all, then they have deafness.

Education for Physically Challenged

The Hindu showed its care to physically challenged children. In the world, we could see some abnormal, exceptional or non normal types of human beings. One of the said categories is deaf children. The terms deafness and hearing impairment have been defined from a variety of different perspectives including audiological, cultural and behavioral criteria. The term hearing-impaired is often used to denote the entire spectrum of hearing loss from mild to profound.

The Hindu had taken serious effort for the Hearing Impaired Students by issuing the news under the headline that Hearing impaired students suffer for want of teachers. To educate hearing impaired students, qualified teachers are wanted by the government. In our State, we had 11 schools for the hearing impaired. In nine of 11 schools across the State, the delay in hiring affects the students' performance. The student-teacher ratio was eight to one. So it is unable to maintain the requirement.

In Salem, they had only five teachers and they don't have Maths and Science teachers to teach. In Virudhunagar, 13 teachers were there to teach for 75 to 80 students and also in Thanjavur, 10 teachers are there for 180 students but the sanctioned strength is 150. More than 10 teaching post vacant was here. The same problem is prevailed in Dharmapuri also. In Ooty, there are seven teachers for 23 students. The lack of teachers affects the impaired students to get training.

In accordance with norms for teaching the hearing impaired the new building would come upon 50 cents with a plinth area of 4,150 square feet and it would have a spacious class room, kitchen dormitory, dining hall and warden room also.

The site for the construction of a school for the hearing impaired was inspected by the State Commissioner for Differently abled at Pudukkottai, because the present private building was quite inadequate to cater to their needs. So in the Town area, the district administration had identified a site for the construction of a government school.

Smart Classroom for Hearing Impaired

The Hindu happily issued the information about a Smart Classroom which had been opened at the Government Middle School for the Hearing Impaired at Pudukkottai town. The new classroom had been set up at a cost of Rs. 1.20 lakh with public contribution amounting to Rs. 40,000. The District Collector inaugurated the smart classroom. It showed that how The Hindu was much care about the physically challenged students.

Pre-Primary Education

The first five years of a child is considered to be of great importance by the psychologists. Those years experience of the child had got influenced over the years to come in its life. This period had influences on child's physical emotional, intellectual and environmental

adjustments. As a result, Pre-Primary Education is important for the child. Children with unsatisfactory home environment, the working mothers all find the need of this particular stage of Education. It had been found that children who had been to a Pre-primary school show better progress at the primary stage.

Over the years, The Hindu, the English daily covered practically the entire educational field right from Pre-school education to pursuit of Research degrees at the university level and to vocational and professional education

Primary Education

The Hindu stated that strengthening of Primary Education is the first imperative to tone up the Education System. The Central Budget 1995-96, stresses the aspect. It enhances allocation to primary education and includes several incentives and concessions for elementary and adult education. Upgrading human resources is a high priority. Improvement of Primary and Adult education in rural and semi-urban areas is the fundamental need where facilities are deficient. In addition to public funding, we have to encourage private contributions for this purpose.

Importance of Elementary Education

In order to improve the quality of the Elementary Education, The Hindu stated that the Elementary education obviously requires maximum attention in respect of academic, administrative and financial inputs. According to The Hindu, the 24% rise in allocation to the private sector is a welcome step and the incentive to individuals and voluntary organizations for investment in this area were praiseworthy.

Compulsory Education

According to The Hindu, in India Compulsory Education of children in the age group of 6 to 14 is made free and become a Fundamental Right.. Elementary Education should be preceded by a year or more of early childhood education, to prepare pupils for school by developing habits, attitudes, and skills. Middle schools must further develop the skills acquired in elementary school, and equip students with additional knowledge, skills, and techniques for advanced work in high school. High schools must prepare students to be responsible citizens, and to earn a living or to pursue additional academic work. The structure of School education in Tamil Nadu has four levels namely Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary. In Tamil Nadu, elementary school is generally divided into two parts with five years of Primary schooling, Std I-V followed by three years of Upper Primary Std VI – VIII.

The Government Efforts to Learn Tamil

The Hindu gives more importance to teach mother tongue in the schools, so it happily published that The State Assembly on Wednesday passed the Tamil Nadu Essential Services Maintenance (Repeal) Bill, 2006 and also the Bill to provide Learning of Tamil as one of the subjects in all schools in the State. As per the scheme, students would learn Tamil in part 1; English in part 2 and other subjects (Mathematics, Science, Social Science etc) in part 3. In part 4, students, who do not have either Tamil or English as their mother tongue can study their mother tongue as an optional subject.

Giving prominence to School Enrolment

The Hindu showed its interest in basic education with an objective to increase the school enrolment rate, reduce the number of dropouts, and to abolish child labour. The training programme on free and compulsory education as part of the Right to Education Act, 2009, was conducted by the St. Thomas Mount Panchayat Union (also called St. Thomas Mount Block), along with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Hand-in-Hand, a voluntary organisation.

The Hindu told that even today there are many schools in the city and its southern suburbs where children did not enjoy comfortable amenities. It was the duty of the elected representatives' to raise these issues. Elected representatives could walk the extra mile to rope in the support of corporate firms and local industries to help in improving the amenities in the schools. The Hindu pointed out that the various programmes would be carried out throughout the year to ensure cent per cent school enrolment rate and a zero per cent school dropout rate.

Programme for Children

The Hindu showed much interest on the safety of the school children to educate service of the Aram Foundation over 10,500 children on safe touch (good and bad) in the Coimbatore district. The children pursuing their studies in Corporation Schools and Government Schools aged between 5 and 10 were sensitised to good and bad touch. This was one of the Happy Child Programmes of the foundation.

As it was a sensitive issue, the Foundation had conducted extensive training sessions in the most informal and personalised manner among the children. About 100 trained college students, who study social work in leading institutions in Coimbatore, volunteered for the programme. Videos played, explained the importance of being safe and taught the students, the three important messages "Say No, Run and take help". The help line number also published by The Hindu to help the children.

Secondary Education

Secondary Education which is a link between the Primary Education and the University Education plays a vital role in any programmes of education for national development. It provides teachers for primary education, prepares pupils for the universities and other institutions of higher learning. Besides this, a vast majority of students complete their education at this stage. Unless the students have received sound education at the secondary stage, they could not take full advantage of the university education Hence, Secondary Education, being the terminal point must be the highest quality.

The Hindu, published Annual Survey of the Education (ASER) that showed that the system was unable to give quality education to a large section of the population. The data it presents is shocking on the learning levels of over 26,000 students across 29 districts in Tamil Nadu. Only about 32 per cent of the students in class V could read a simple story in Tamil. The study covered class IV students, only 40.6 per cent could perform subtraction of two-digit numbers, while the current curriculum expects them to be able to perform multiplication and division as well. The ASER study, facilitated by non-governmental Organization Pratham, seeks to look at learning outcomes in children in the age group 6 to 14, by testing their ability in reading and arithmetic, using simple tests.

Presenting some of the Report's findings at the launch of the State-level ASER-2011 it should be considered a "Himalayan failure" that a large section of the population was unable to get quality education from the system. The surveys also showed us that it was a myth, the private schools were better. The findings clearly showed that students, going to the private schools do not perform better than their counterparts in Government Schools. The Hindu asked that what could be a major reform in school education in Tamil Nadu since 1979. The State government decided to introduce Board Examinations for Class XI from the coming academic year 2017-18, and also to issue a consolidated mark sheet and based on this marks secured in Classes XI and XII for students passing out in 2019.

Promotes Reading

Lee, J., & Schallert, D.L. explored the reading-writing connection in a year-long classroom-based experimental study of middle school students developing literacy in a new language find out that first and foremost, The Hindu newspaper instils a habit of reading in the individuals. It was a proven fact that reading improves the literacy of an individual.

The Hindu gives much importance to promote reading habits and for that it has taken the special initiative on on January 11, 2019, "Read and Rise", a reading movement to empower youth. KSR Educational Institutions donated books to Government School libraries. To promote reading habits among the school children The Hindu distributed

more than 8000 books to the 144 Government School libraries as a part of its “Read and Rise” programme in Cuddalore.

Newspapers in Education (NIE)

Newspapers have been the main apparatus in moulding the development and improvement of any general public. The Hindu Newspaper In Education (NIE) programmed for the 2008-09 academic year at the St. John's International Residential School (SJIRS), Palanjur, near Chennai was launched.

The Hindu also published its NIE version for students which was used as a teaching material by teachers in English Language Teaching. It was also used for teaching and learning about the scientific advancements, the art and culture of the nation through the impressive and attractive pictures and articles and also gains knowledge of the scenario of the world they lived in by reading from their comfort zones. The NIE was a special initiative taken by The Hindu to shape young minds. NIE modules were designed to enhance the soft skills and personality of students besides improving general knowledge. This was yet another milestone in the history of The Hindu in promoting education in the society.

Reference

1. Jagannath Mohanty, (1. Bases and Sources of Human Rights), Human Rights Education, Deep and Deep Publications Pvt Ltd, New Delhi (2000)
3. Report on the Vernacular News papers examined by the Government of Madras, dated 17th June, 1911, TNSA, Chennai.
4. P.V. Kana, History of Dharma Sastras (Pune Bhandarkar) Oriental Research Institute (1941), Vol.II, Part I, P. 369 .
5. Indian Philosophy of Education..
6. Ghosh, Suresh C. ,History of Education In India, Published by Prem Rawat Publications, Jaipur, (2007).
7. Purkait, Biswa Ranjan, Milestones in Modern Indian Education, Publisher New Central Book Agency (P) Ltd. Calcutta (2002).
8. S.K. Kochhar, Pivotal Issues In Indian Education, Sterling Publishers Private Limited, New Delhi (1981)..

9.Ministry of Human Resources Department, National Policy in Education. New Delhi (1980).

10.Perkins, D. N. (1994). The intelligent eye: Learning to think by looking at art (Vol. 4). Getty Publications.

11.DeRoche, E. F. (1981). Newspapers in education: What we know. Newspaper Research Journal, 2 (3).

12.Report on the Vernacular Newspapers examined by the Government of Madras, dated 17th June, 1911, TNSA, Chennai.

13.Ghosh, S.C,The History of Education in Modem India,1757-1986, Hyderabad, 1995.

14. The Hindu, English Newspaper