



Challenges & Objectives of Higher Education

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ABSTRACT - Our Education system chooses one ideal and all are supposed to be like that one. We don't get that what we are asking our future generation to be 'like someone' and indirectly teaching them not to 'believe in self'. We need to change our education system and bring one which won't ask the students to 'deviate from themselves'. The new education should teach students to ask questions and not only to answer the questions asked by the teacher. The centre of new education should be love and not ambition, competition, jealousy.

Keywords: like someone, belief in self, love, humility, ambition, competition, jealousy, revolution in education, Higher education, Concepts, research, सा विद्या या विमुक्तये.

I. INTRODUCTION

We realize we have lost only when we lose something. Since we felt the need to think about it today, means we have lost something in the field of education. That is why we are facing the question of challenges & objectives today. There is definitely a need to review the education system & hence teaching method today. According to the latest statistics, 8000 to 9000 books are printed and published in the world every week. The number of schools, colleges & Universities are increasing day by day. The education system has deviated from its core. So what is the new focus which would be able to face the challenges and fulfill the objectives? One thing should be very much clear here that we classify the education as Nursery, Primary, Secondary, Higher Education, but the basic topic is "Education"! If we can organize the centre of education first, then we can gradually define the challenges and objectives of higher education. The concept on which our education is based today is wrong. Ambition, competition, loyalty, concept, protest, means of livelihood (child education, women's education) etc! I will put these points one by one and try to quote where our point of view has gone wrong.

II. REVIEW

Our education revolves around the axis of ambition. We should be ahead of others - is what we are taught right from childhood. We make even the youngest child going to KG ambitious. We create anxiety in him. We teach how to outdo others, how you will get respect if you go ahead, how you will get humiliated if you stay behind. We create competition in that child's mind. We work harder when we want to get ahead of others. We use all our energy and try harder. This ambition does not stop even after leaving the university. After completion of education, the children want to build a big shop, build a big house; a clerk wants to be an officer. We are obsessed with the thought 'I want to be someone'. It is a mad race and in this crazy race, all the peace, all the energy in our life is destroyed. Some great person has said, "When I reached there, there was no there." It is a deep thought! When you reach your destination, you will realize that there is much more to go. We are all standing in a circle. Everyone is ahead of someone and behind someone. be violent, but the whole education system is based on jealousy and violence. We say to the little ones, look how smart your friend is and you? We create a feeling of jealousy in the mind of that little child. Psychologists also agree that ambition is the biggest disease. Where does ambition come from? It originates from jealousy, from inferiority. Alexander was not happy even after conquering the world, then an Indian monk 'Mandabhis' persuaded him to conquer 'himself'. The monk told him that then only he will get peace.

Challenges

It is not wrong to be ambitious, not at all if the ambition is to acquire knowledge. But if it but it is wrong go ahead violently, competitively, in any way, by any means to achieve your aspirations.

Belief in self

Since childhood, we have been taught that you should be like Rama, you should be like Bhagat Singh, you should be like Tendulkar, and you should be like Lata Mangeshkar. We do not pay attention to teach 'belief

in self', thus the education is focused on 'be like others' instead of 'belief in self'. You should be like yourself; our education system has not been able to dare to teach that you are the best. 'Faith in others' takes a person away from the 'self', creates inferiority. The child thinks that I definitely lack something that's why my teachers, parents & family ask me to be like others. Such kind of education destroys the personality of young child, student. It is serious disease and it affects humans and society by and large. It would have been a disaster, if animals, birds and plants had this disease. God has deliberately designed the universe. Everyone is unique, why does he need to be like anyone else? And even with a million attempts, there cannot be another Rama, or Krishna. Let the flowers bloom naturally. Satisfaction and perfection come from being completely subjective. If they cannot become Ram or Krishna, then they may have an incomplete personality. So the teaching of 'be like others' is suicidal, it should be avoided.

Concepts

'Concepts' are at the heart of learning and not 'Research'. We have been given some concepts. Some patterns are given. Some answers are given. Our education and learning is based on memory. It is based on repetition. We should go to root of it and think about it. The deep and intensive in life does not happen only with help of concepts, it is spontaneous. We need education that inspires us to explore everything. There is need of research and curiosity and not concepts only – there is a need of curious mind. The important in life needs to be found out. The research ends with the rise of concept. Einstein gave us the theory of relativity. After that, everything was based on that concept only. A question on this theory is asked in exams of B.Sc. even today and students write the answer which they have learnt by heart, as if they have understood everything.

Miracles

Einstein's memory was weak but he was intelligent & sharp. Here, it is inevitable to understand that memory and intellect are different. Memory is the past and intellect is the future. The memory is collection and intelligence is search. In examination of Three hours we can find out only two things – memory and speed. We need clerks who can work, that's why the students who learn by heart and stand in merit position in exams remain unsuccessful in life otherwise our nation would have been at different height. What is the reason why great people did not get gold medal in school or college? Thomas Alva Edison was expelled from school for failing continuously. Later, he had thousand inventions to his credit.

Meanings

Computers have proven just how insignificant memory can be. A laptop or a pocket computer, will immediately give you the information, you don't have to remember anything. There are many shortcomings in our education. Experiment are going in America to support - student who can answer more questions is not supposed to be good student; rather the one who asks more questions is a good student. Our education system still asks for answers. Our system asks for an answer that is learnt by heart. Today, there is no need of outdated questions and answers that are by hearted thousands of times. We need to ask more important questions. We are satisfied when we give the answer. There is one question which does not allow us to sleep and when a person goes out in search of an answer for it, his life becomes a journey. The word 'education' means to elevate. That's why we modern teacher need to be a teacher who asks questions and not an answering machine.

Means

What do you want to teach? This is a matter of concern. UGC or NCERT or a commission sitting in Delhi has decided about the capacity & potential of students. Every person have different individualist potential. Mass education just gives instructions, it doesn't give knowledge. Mass education has one syllabus for all. It is giving the same medicine for all ailments.

D.H. Lawrence once said, "Close all universities for 100 years." So we have to think about Mass Education. Child education is of utmost importance in this regard. The whole education system depends on one thing - a child knows everything. That is, try the little ones; they are 'seeds', possibilities, Examine their potential. Don't force $10 + 2$ on them. Let them develop. And this is the point where revolution can take place. Children should be able to decide for themselves what they want to do before the age of 7 to 10

years. We are all under the illusion that how a seven year old child can make a decision? We must respect children. In that sense, elementary education is the most important thing.

Approach and the Purpose

I have tried to get to the root of the challenges that exist in today's education sector. The challenges I have pondered over of education are - classifications like primary, secondary or higher education are very shallow. If we face these challenges properly, we will achieve the goal easily. And what is the purpose of knowledge? "साविद्यायामिमुक्तये"

Our aim should be to create an education system that is conducive to building a healthy society. In fact, so far we have been doing repetition only. We possess thousands of years of accumulated knowledge and information to the new generation. We haven't done anything more than this. So there is a need for a revolution in the field of education today. New education is needed to meet the challenges I have mentioned.

Transforming the focus

First of all, I emphasize on transforming the focus on love in place of ambition. Love should be the focus of education that appreciates the quality in everyone and elevates it. It is necessary to explore various possibilities to achieve this goal. There is no need of ambition; development or competition, there is need of love. In fact, education can bring about a fundamental revolution in the whole world if the teaching of creating self-awareness and consciousness is given through education. Education based on the ambition ranks human beings according to their status which creates comparison. Uniforms imposed in schools are because all should be equal to acquire education. But we don't have this equality in our personal lives. There can be no sense of equality without love. We have not yet realized that the education based on ambition, can ruin us. The education is based on ambition & comparison gives wrong results. There is need to change this foundation. The whole life is the collective contribution of all. This sense & feeling should be created. Not ambition but love! Love should be at the core of education and not ambition, is the first goal.

Perception

Mahavir Swamiji was once asked, whether there is a God? He replied - maybe. And when asked, isn't there God? For this also he replied - maybe! He doesn't give you a notion. Perception means to believe. When we believe or understand something, we don't try to search it or verify about it. Verification and understanding are contradictory. Our education has done a lot of damage to society. I asked a little boy, why don't you ask why things fall down, why they don't go up? So he replied - the teacher says don't talk too much, accept what is written in the book. Talent of that boy buried in. Searching will be more meaningful than 'assumptions'. We need to understand that transferring the assumptions or assumptions made will not achieve anything. Don't give assumptions - give adventure - give research. The student who leaves the university should have a sense of discovery or a sense of inventive intellect, ingenuity, not a burden of assumptions. This is our second goal.

Subjective Education

One more goal is there - that of subjective education. Being like Ram, Krishna or someone else deviate the students from being 'self'. The science of human life is that no one can be like anyone else. No two identical individuals have been born till date. And we are constantly committing the same mistake. We are deviating students from their 'self'. It creates inferiority, but unfortunate it is reality. Now the science of cloning has made it possible to create precise individuals. The glory of man is in his diversity. Let that glory bloom. I am as I am, unique. The goal is to achieve perfection through self-esteem is our third goal.

Purpose defined

There is a way to get away from the focus of perceived negative education! So far we have been educating, which do not give you a chance to think. We believe that "Krishna is God", "Gita is great", and "The Bible is the true scripture". In positive education you are told the decision. You are not a part while taking that decision. Such a education is suicidal. Children should have the courage to ask that, why is Krishna God?. And if he was God, why he stole the clothes of Gopis? The journey from no to yes only gives knowledge.

God met those who went in His search. So education that creates doubts and creates curiosity should be our goal.

III. DATA ANALYSIS

Another important goal is to free education from the traditional curriculum. Someone can be a poet, someone can be a singer, and someone can be a mathematician! But we offer only one course. (Same remedy for all ailments), this is ridiculous. Curriculum means - Mass Education, this should be changed. The need is for class education. In fact, it is almost impossible to determine a different course for each child. But if there is only one diagnosis for every ailment, this is possible in classical music education. We can call this both music education and music therapy. Music has to be made compulsory in all stages of education. Music is not just a subject, it is 'sadhana', it is penance. Nowadays, the use of music therapy is very good. Many experiments are being undertaken to establish truth of music therapy. Scientists agree that music completely eliminates mental illness. Jealousy, fear, ambition, greed is at the root of all mental illnesses. These diseases have made our education system sick. Creating a person free from fear and ego with love is the greatest achievement of music. Music takes you on a path of immersion, concentration, rhythm and poeticism, you become full of love and egoless and that is the purpose of life. There is no other good company as great as music. Music is the conscious presence of God. Recently experiments have been done in western countries. There are two trees. Both are in different pots. Both pots are kept away. Music is being played near one pot and nothing near other. This experiment yielded surprising results. The pot near which music was played had bigger and healthier flowers. If music can create positive impact on trees, then why not on humans? Music takes you towards timelessness and egolessness. There is only one goal of the greatest spiritual penance - Egoless thoughtless consciousness! Music easily gives you an egoless heart. Hence, music should be a compulsory subject in the curriculum. I said that mass education only serves to impose. And it is difficult to determine different schools, teachers and subjects for everyone, but we can do enough to identify the talents of young children and allow them to develop. It is ironic that children have to fit themselves into the school mould. Schools need to try to be like children.

There is another big challenge of all our teaching methods which are employment oriented. We learn to make money, not to get educated. It is good if education is helpful in earning money, but education with sole purpose for earning money is not good. I had said "**Savidyayavimuktaye**" (सा विद्या या विमुक्तये) that liberates is knowledge. The one that makes people human, the one that doesn't make a person money making machine is education.

IV. METHODOLOGY

One more fundamental thing, education is a continuous learning process. Education should be two-way. When someone starts teaching, the future of the student is in the hands of the teacher. The teacher becomes wise and the student ignorant. Has it ever happened that a teacher goes to a class and says to the students that you will teach me today and I shall learn? Education is not a task to be taught but a humble request to learn something from each other. There is an invitation without any prejudice - "Let's learn something."

I have posed some basic questions. If we can understand those questions, those challenges, then all the questions will be answered. One thing appears clear that we really need new ideas when we talk about those challenges and objectives. We saw many political, cultural, economic revolutions but nothing has changed much about humans. There just has to be one revolution - Revolution in Education! So we can be optimistic about the future. This revolution is possible only with new teachers through new ideas. The nature of work for new teachers in new education will be different. What are the teachers doing today? Mass production only! People are being molded in large number. There are large factories from primary school to college.

Teachers are working and serving there and a servant can never awaken anyone's soul. We don't want a salaried servant; we want a teacher - a *guru* (a selfless educator). The new teacher will also have to reach to the centre of love in a dignified position. Rather than thinking that students should respect me, the new teacher should feel that the students should love me. New teacher will be a friend. He has to be humble. Only he who is humble can teach. If education can become fully scientific and become a means of exploring the human soul, then the teacher can do the greatest work.

V. CONCLUSION

Here is a story of a guru and gukul. Three students finished their studies. The Guru said - "There will be another test before the next full moon, after which you can go home." The Guru did not take the exam even on the full moon day. All three students thought that there won't be any exam now. They said goodbye to the Guru. The Guru blessed but said nothing. All three students left for their village early in the morning. On the way there was a dense forest. It was evening. It was getting dark. All three were in a hurry to reach home. There was also the fear of wild animals. All three suddenly noticed that some thorns and pieces of glass were lying on the road. One of the students bent over and began to push the thorns and stones aside. The other two students explained to him - "Don't be a fool. Walk by the side. We are not going to come back on this track - why worry? "The third said what if we are not going to come back on this track? Others will use this track I care about them; I don't want that these thorns should hurt them. Guru was hiding in a nearby tree. He said to the third disciple - You may go now. Your education is complete. You are full of love. You care for others. You are successful in your final exam. The Guru said to the other two, "Your education is not complete yet." They both returned to the Gurukul.

Love, humility and awareness is what we need, not ambition, competition, ego, fear, violence!

“साविद्यायामिमुक्तये”.

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