

THE DEVELOPMENTAL CONCERNS OF EDUCATION AS EXPRESSED IN THE REPORTS OF THE INDIAN EDUCATION COMMISSIONS

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Abstract: *The Indian Education Commissions have given us many innovative suggestions and recommendations for developing every aspect of Education of India. The author has done a deep analysis of these recommendations and suggestions and derived certain developmental ideas of education. These ideas are named as the Developmental Concerns of Education. These concerns are related to various matters of Education; examination system, science education, educational administration, government's participation, etc. These developmental concerns may be helpful for understanding different perspectives of education.*

Keywords: *Developmental concerns, Education, Education Commissions*

1. Introduction

The development of education is always directed by certain educational issues and concerns such as national integration, education system, Technology and Science education as well as government's role. These concerns and issues can be used as the theoretical bases for the educational researches. In the present study, the researcher has studied the developmental concerns of education as expressed in the reports of the Indian Commissions.

2. National Integration through Education

Education helps in the process of national integration which is basically the most important thing for the national development. The national integration makes a way for the growth of the major fields of a nation, i.e. economy, industry, science, commerce, vocation, administration, etc. The educational policies and programmes can lead this. These may help in increasing the national unity, in developing the moral and spiritual values and upgrading them, too, in bringing modernization, innovations and reconstruction in the country, and on the whole in building the national identity.

3. Social Development through Education

The development of society and education is always reciprocal. The education system plays an important role in determining the form of any society. The involvement of social activities and programmes in education can help in building an ideal cooperative society. Folk dance, discussion, interschool competitions, role plays, debate, scouting, physical exercises, etc. are some of these social activities and programmes. The main developmental concerns for the society are:

3.1 Women Education

Women education needs to be fostered in every legitimate way for the social development. Public funds of all kinds – local, municipal and provincial – should be chargeable in an equitable proportion for the support of girl's schools. It is necessary to close the existing gap between the education of men and women in as short a time as possible. Their social and political awareness and representativeness can help in this. The curriculum for their education should involve home science, music, home management, nursing and fine arts. The national council for women education may help in taking fruitful steps for the growth of women education.

3.2 Education of the Backward Classes

The education of the backward classes in general and of the tribal people in particular is a major programme of equalization and of social and national integration. For their uplifting in education, it is needed to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

3.3 Human welfare and Development through Education

The welfare and development of all human beings are the most important part of social growth. Education develops the individual into a socially and economically useful human being with respect for the welfare of all living beings. It creates the individuals who are intellectual and brave in action. It produces in human beings the values and qualities such as leadership, national unity, democratic attitude, culture, discipline, sociality, cooperativeness, for-sightedness, tolerance, spirituality and so on. It brings about integration of the hand, head and heart in all individuals.

4. Economic Development through Education

Education is the main base for the economic development. It prepares the individuals who can contribute in the economic growth. The economic development in villages, the reconstruction of rural areas, industrial development and employment opportunities for people are depended especially on education. Some of the developmental concerns of economic growth are:

4.1 Development of Industrial and Vocational Education

The economic growth depends on the development of industrial and vocational education. For this, it is needed to involve vocational subjects in curriculum and to encourage the students towards these subjects. The educational programmes such as career conference, vocational training programmes and researches in industrial education can help in it. The subjects of industrial education should be related to the profession like agriculture, spinning and weaving, carpentry, pottery, home-science, etc.

4.2 Development of Agriculture Education

Agriculture development is important in national economy so it must be stressed in all schools. The students must have an opportunity to work under realistic conditions for a considerable part of their study so that they may acquire the right approach to agriculture. The establishment of agriculture schools, agriculture research centres, poly-technique institutes, the experiments of newer technologies and the human capacities – all these help in the development of agriculture education. It is important to develop agriculture education through its integration with general education.

5. Development of Science Education

Scientific development depends on the development of science education in schools and colleges. Science is an integral part of general education till the end of the school stage. In primary schools, it is given in the form of nature study. While at the university stage, it involves humanities and social sciences in education. The schools should have scientific equipments to be used in the physics, chemistry and biology laboratories. The science education is necessary to be given importance for the national development. So, the steps should be taken to lead the programmes of science education.

6. Development of Religious Education

Religious education is the education of moral and spiritual elements. Religion should not be directly related to education, but the important thing is to teach the elements which are equal in all the religions. Moreover, simple and interesting stories about the lives and teachings of prophets, saints and religious leaders should be included in the syllabus. It is important to produce a kind of respect in the students' mind towards all the religions.

7. Education System

Education system is one of the significant developmental concerns. The educational development depends on how its system is run, what improvements it needs, how it helps in expansion of education and so on. The main developmental concerns of education system are:

7.1 Education Improvement and Expansion

The necessary improvements and expansion of education are inevitable for the educational growth. To enrich the libraries, to modernize the laboratories, to bring scientific method in examinations, to organize programmes for illiteracy, to improve the teacher-education programmes are some of the unavoidable necessities for the educational improvement. While the expansion of education can be done by the establishment of intermediate colleges, improvement in village education by different programmes, active supervision and administration system, discovery of new knowledge, etc. On the whole, the education expansion and improvement make a way for the educational development.

7.2 Researches in Education

The educational researches are essential for the betterment of education system. These involve the researches about the curriculum improvement, the students' achievement, the betterment of teaching-learning processes, improvements of teacher-education courses and so on. The educational researches are not easy to do. It needs quality, activeness and proper planning. Today, science and technology play an important role in enriching the educational researches.

7.3 Financial Assistance

The educational development inevitably needs the financial support from the local and central governments and other institutions. The investments for the teaching-learning materials and equipments, for the betterment of classroom facilities, school facilities such as good library sources, better equipped laboratories, learning atmosphere and so on are the major investments. Today, the investments for the development of the rural institutes are become essential to be given an adequate attention by the state governments. It requires an active association between the government and the educational institutes.

7.4 Curriculum in Education

Curriculum does not mean only the academic subjects traditionally taught in the schools but it includes the totality of experiences that a pupil receives through the manifold activities that go on in the classroom, library, laboratory, workshop, playgrounds and in the numerous informal contacts with teacher and other students. It is necessary to bring variety and elasticity in the curriculum to allow for individual differences and adaptation to individual needs and interests. The inter-connection between the subjects is also important. All these demand intelligent alertness and responsiveness on the part of the teachers.

7.5 Educational Administration and Management

There is an important role on the part of the educational administration and management for the development of education. If the educational administration and management are to be reformed, the programmes of qualitative improvement are necessary. It involves the development of curriculum, establishment of research centres and teacher-education institutes and publishing of the books needed for both teachers and students. The responsibility of management committee is to take steps for providing better supervision and guidance to schools and doing comparative studies of administrative procedures. For proper administration and management, it is desirable that the functioning of the education departments should be made flexible and dynamic.

7.6 Teacher-education

A sound programme of professional education of teachers is essential for the qualitative improvement of education. The growth of Teacher-education includes the establishment of education departments in universities, arrangement of regular lectures, seminars, refresher courses, etc. The educational researches on different subjects such as teaching methods, teaching-learning materials, curriculum development, students' achievement, etc. are also the parts of this development. It is also necessary to attach the teacher-education institutes with each other and to modernize the curriculum of teaching-learning by including newer technologies.

7.7 Physical and Health Education

Every school should have the facilities for this kind of education and its programmes. Physical and health education helps in improving the health care of students and in increasing their physical strength. It is necessary to provide them with good comforts and facilities of physical education such as better equipments for exercises, playgrounds and other reference materials, i.e. books related to physical education. The physical education institutes should be developed with all these facilities. For good healthcare of students, they should be provided with clean atmosphere in schools, pure drinking water and healthy snacks in the canteen houses of schools. The health education should be involved as one of the important subjects in their curriculum. All these can improve the physical and health education in schools.

7.8 Development of the Levels of Education

A balanced development of the educational levels, i.e. Primary, Secondary and Higher education, needs an essential concentration towards the education system, administration, finance, teachers' training and curriculum development. At the primary education level, the growth of education can be done by long-term developmental planning. It is important to improve the conditions of primary schools, especially in rural areas, and the teacher-education colleges. The curriculum should be based on learning activities which can develop the qualities of self-confidence, co-operation, discipline, etc. in the children. The establishments of development centres at state level, compulsory education, enhancement in school facilities, modernizing the teaching methods are some of the major factors for the development of education at primary level. The state government should give priority to the primary education and prepare educational policies for its growth.

At secondary level, the growth of education depends on its expansion and improvement. The curriculum, at this level, should be included with the subjects related to vocational, industrial and technical education. The effectiveness of teacher-education programmes, modernization of teaching-learning methods and techniques and better facilities are necessary for the development of education at the secondary level. At the university and higher education level, more enriched libraries and better equipped laboratories, more improved examination system and educational researches make the way for the development of education.

7.9 Special Education

Special education is the education for the students who differ in their physical and mental conditions from other students. They have learning abilities but they need encouragement. So, the attempts should be made to expand the educational facilities for the physical and mentally handicapped children and to develop integrated programmes enabling them to study in regular schools. It demands a great responsibility on the part of the teachers. The establishment as well as development of the training colleges for the teachers who can teach the handicapped children is also an important job. The role of the state and central governments is to establish the educational institutes for special education. The curriculum should also be prepared including special subjects for these children.

7.10 Examination System

Evaluation and examination are integral parts of education. These are related to the objectives of education. So, for the improvements and reformation of examination system, the major goal is to improve the reliability and validity of examinations and to make evaluation a continuous process aimed at helping the students to improve their level of achievement. An examination committee can be helpful for giving advices for the examination planning and can check the progress done by it.

7.11 Method of Education

The method of education needs a special attention for the development of education. The improvement in methods of teaching can be done by some changes in techniques, i.e. self-learning, group-learning, activity-based learning, etc. All the students do not have same level, so it is necessary to bring flexibility in teaching methods. Newer technologies, computer-aided learning materials, learning with self-experience, programme learning, e-learning and many other innovative techniques should be used to bring the educational improvement.

7.12 Basic Education

Basic education is essentially an education for life and through life. It aims at creating eventually a social order free from exploitation and violence. Productive, creative and socially useful work, in which the students may participate, is placed at the centre of basic education. It is related to practical experience and observation. It makes a close integration between the schools and the community so as to make education and the children more social-minded and cooperative.

8. Development of Technology Education

Technology is the main tool for the national development. So to be developed in all major areas of a nation, it is very essential to foster the technical and engineering education in schools. These subjects are very necessary to include in schools. In this type of education, the main emphasis is given on the use of knowledge in practical situations and technical works. The curriculum of schools and colleges should be prepared and the students should be encouraged to enter in the technical institutes. The establishment of management institutes technical schools and colleges can help in the growth of technology education and that of the nation.

9. Role of the Government in the Educational Development

The government is a key factor in the educational development. Its role is –

- To establish new schools especially private schools and to help financially.
- To establish national education system for the co-operation between central and state governments.
- To create new curriculum of secondary schools.
- To publish necessary books for the teachers and students.
- To establish teacher-education institutes and research centres for the solutions of the problems of the secondary education.
- To take hard decisions on linking most of the jobs from degrees to provide satisfactory conditions of work, revision of recruitment policies, etc.

10. Conclusion

In this way, the developmental concerns of education discussed above are related to various matters of education. National integration discusses about unity and equality among people. The social concerns deal with the education for women, for backward classes and for human welfare. On the other hand, the economic concerns talk about the industrial, vocational and agricultural education. The concerns of science education tell about better equipped laboratories and institutes. The religious education means to teach the equal elements seen in different religions. Education system covers a wide area of the developmental concerns of education; i.e. Educational investment, administration, examination system and levels of education are some of them. Government's role is to establish educational institutes, to facilitate the system and to provide financial support.

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