

EXPECTATIONS AND REFORMS FOR 21st CENTURY

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Introduction:-

The very purpose of education as envisaged by thinkers and educationalists from the time immemorable is to aid and assist around development of a child so that it becomes a noble personality useful to the society. But it is very regretful to note that this very aim of education is thrown into winds by the educationalists themselves by laying over-emphasis on academic aspects, as evident, if the syllabai of various boards and universities are examined thoroughly. The socio-economic demands, the demographic factors, the professional demands, the job market prospects, the heterogeneous ability of students, the diversified tastes are little considered either by rulers or by educationalists and as such the problem of unemployment or human resource emigration is a static factor in Indian economy. The root of all this is in our faulty education system.

The aim of Education:-

As Mahatma Gandhi said, “Education is bringing out the best in man- in mind, body and spirit”. “Education is the manifestation of perfection that is already in man”, said Swami Vivekananda. According to Dr. Radhakrishnan, “The aim of education is not the acquisition of information though important, or acquisition of technical skills though essential in modern society, but the development of that bent of mind, attitude of reason, that spirit of democracy which will make us responsible citizens.” Stressing the importance of education, our Kothari Commission had endorsed the same fact when it said, “The destiny of a nation is being shaped in its class rooms.” All these target one common fact. Education should help a child develop into a worthy citizen. It should help him bring out the hidden potential. It should appeal to his mind, body and spirit. The academic section appeals to the mind. To train body physical education, sports and games martial arts and the like are essential. To explore the spirit the yoga, meditation, spiritual preachings, music, painting and fine arts play a crucial role. In developing social etiquettes and acceptable attitude the scouts and guides, NSS, NCC, excursions and tours do a lot. The socially useful productive activity wherein the wards are taught crafts or motivated for innovative creations help them become vocationally efficient. A good education is that which gives scope to all these equally in its curriculum, not just by displaying them in a time- table but inserting them in serious evaluation process.

Present System of Education:-

If present education system in India is viewed in this background, it is in a very pathetic condition. It teaches nothing but a rat race for grades. Still paining fact is that MEANs have taken a back seat and ENDs are all important. The only option for those losing this race is depression, frustration, unrest, addiction to drugs and when all fail, a sublime solution- Suicide. Isn't this the great achievement of our education?

- The prescribed texts or units are scientifically chosen which apply aptly to the IQ of different ages for which they are chosen. Cases of the gifted or the specially challenged are altogether discarded.
- There are heterogeneous students with diverse talents, interests and socio-eco background, but uniform syllabus thrust upon them.
- Games, sports, physical education, yoga, are excluded from serious grading. Thus training of body neglected.
- Same is the fate of music, art, crafts etc. in the absence of which the spirit left unexplored.
- Vocational training has gone far from modern educational system.

- The social attitude developing units like Scouts and Guides, NCC,NSS, are on the verge of closing forever.
- Syllabus is book- centred. No scope for creativity and innovation. Hence robotic, mechanic rote memorizing learners are the heroes and the real genius are the drop-outs.
- Another major flaw of our education is, it utterly fails in inculcating moral values. The worst criminal –the corrupt officer , the hacker techie ,the terror master mind - is from our top educational institute.
- Lack of vocational training in the curriculum leaves a child shattered when it is forced by the circumstances to pursue work to support family in the middle of his education. Common sense destroyed, practical knowledge not added, his condition is worse than an illiterate labourer or a farmer.
- Method of teaching from pre-primary to higher education institutions, is still out-dated. Our kids are studying in the same class rooms where our grand- parents studied. Except Smart Class , PPT, digital evaluation , even our sight has not gone beyond that. Even the smart classes are often old class with non-working models. Black board and chalk pieces still rule more than 75% of our classrooms.
- The unscientific mode of testing still prevail with all its drawbacks like paper leak, valuation scams, fake marks cards and the like.
- Ill-planned modern education is the breeding ground for increasing students' unrest, depression, frustration, drug addiction and suicides.
- Modern education unquestioningly bears the moral responsibility of increasing unemployment.

The suggestions for improvement:-

Education is the sector demanding emergency attention as major socio-economic ills spring out from here. From rulers to educationalists, from teachers to parents if all have passing the ball kind of attitude, who is to shoulder the responsibility of our invaluable kids on whom rests the nation's destiny. They are not MNC commodities to be shifted from market of abundance to the market of scarcity. They are the solid beings with heart and soul and to be handled very sensitively. It is enough of discussion, seminar, symposium, talks and debate. Let us be practical and think seriously before it is too late. New education policies of late like NCF,NPE 2016 - are nothing but revised versions of old ones. No remarkable, noticeable recommendations or suggestions for improvement. The educationalists for the time being should keep aside their personal aspirations and think seriously for kids. The politicians likewise should come out from their political vindictiveness or favouritism and think for nation by bringing to the front a handful of real educationalists who are behind the curtain making dramatic changes.

- There must be structural changes in the whole education system.
- IQ of modern kids is very high. The aims of education must keep pace with it. Outdated aims and objectives must first be deleted.
- Some unique mode of teaching must be urgently innovated...something like open education. It must be flexible and adaptive, giving full scope to change every moment , every day depending upon that days class climate or student mood.
- Heterogeneous nature and ability of students, their diverse tastes etc must be considered.
- Teachers must settle as inspiring guides. They must try to be passive in class. They must work as only motivators.
- Children must be made active. Younger generation kids have over flowing enthusiasm .They can no more be silent spectators. Teachers must grab it .
- Kids are not so dull as they are thought to be by the teachers and educationalists.
- Grading system should be reversed. For rote learning qualifying grades and for talents ,ability, creativity evaluative grades should be provided.
- CCE, Open book exams should replace unscientific 3 hrs testing of 100 hrs learning .

- Practical exams, oral tests, viva , group discussions –these should gain ground. Because these rule job market and corporate world.
- Year end or term end vacation must be replaced by short duration holidays once in two months. It improves efficiency and learning outcomes.
- Education is not the only means for job. It is one of the means. So those who are weak , can quit and join apprenticeship or professional training quite early.
- Govt., Boards, Universities must provide ample add- on courses for those students.
- Engineering, medical, MBA are not the only courses. There are millions others CA, CS, Animation, Graphics, Interior design, Fashion design...At least their existence must be made available to students extensively at secondary level.
- Career guidance cell must be given top priority in education.
- Psychological counselling too should be part of education system.
- Through e-media - Students , parents, teachers must be consulted along with the educationalists while framing syllabus.
- Syllabus must change every two years strictly. Sticking to same syllabus for decades is the root of lethargy.
- Market demand, job trend must be studied before framing syllabus.

Conclusion:-

Boards and Universities are not factories to produce a commodity called graduates. They have a noble responsibility of giving nation responsible citizens. For this they must change their attitude and outlook before it is too late. Everybody's business is nobody's business can't work anymore. Before the students boycott them en masse, they must change.

