



TEACHER EDUCATION AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

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Abstract

Change is the law of nature. Every aspect of nature is subject to change. Education is no exception. In the past the aim of education was to attain liberation, earning a livelihood was secondary. Therefore it consisted of values and quality in that order. In the modern age owing to technological advancement, industrialisation, consumerism etc. The role of education is reversed. Earning a livelihood has gained precedence over everything else. Role of society, parents, teachers and teacher educators thus need to be reconditioned. The quality has gained more importance and values are neglected causing the present chaos. The remedy lies in restoring the role of values in education while maintaining the quality. NCERT has recognised five cardinal values–Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love and Non violence that encompass all human values. Teachers are the future nation builders, they have an important role to play in the social transformation process.

Key Words: Social transformation, social values, PMOST, SOPT

INTRODUCTION

The cosmos is always in dynamic equilibrium. Every aspect of everything–natural or manmade has been changing or transforming from time immemorial and would do so for eternity. Twenty–first century marks an era of quality teacher education. N.P.E. 1986 stated that the existing system of teacher education needs to be overhauled or revamped. This has resulted in a number of planned initiatives being launched.

These include: Establishment of DIETs in each district upgradation of 250 teacher training institutes into CTE(Colleges of Teacher Education)and 50 IASE (Institutes of Advanced Studies Education)in the country, strengthening autonomous status of SCERT and establishment of Departments of education. Teacher education became a new entity with the establishment of NCTE as a statutory body responsible for regulatory as well as professional aspects of teacher education.

PMOST(Programme of Mass Orientation of School Teachers) was launched as a centrally sponsored scheme. SOPT(Special Orientation Programme for Primary Teachers)was taken up to provide orientation in the use of teaching learning materials. Block and cluster resource centres were established for professional growth of school teachers.

Interactive teleconferencing has been successfully tried in two states of Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh on 850 and 1450 primary teachers in one week in service training course. Another pioneering development for qualitative improvement of teacher education was the Teacher Education Curriculum Framework.

No doubt, this is an era of advanced educational technology in the form of ICT and CAI. But in the present era no one is bothered about the morals, values and lead an aristocratic, self centred life. In the earlier times man used to lead a simple, moral based and useful to society life. The ultimate goal of human life (Purushartha)then was Moksha–liberation from endless repetition of births and deaths. This was achieved through intermediate steps Dharma (righteousness/right onduct),Artha(earning money/property through right means)and Kaama(endeavour to fulfil justified desires).Today Dharma and Moksha are relegated to scriptures while desires and earnings to fulfil them are given the utmost importance. Education too has its share of changes over the period of centuries. The value based Gurukul system has shifted to

mundane, materialistic educational system. Lawlessness, politics, rowdiness still thrive in the campuses. Nation is a witness to a wide number of issues prevailing in the society. Poverty, Caste system, Population, Unemployment, inequalities of race, gender, age, crimes against elderly, ragging, terrorism, instigate violence, biased media, inhumane, unjust consequences and lastly but most importantly lack of proper educational system. Anger and violence are around us in domestic abuse, hate crimes and of course in our media. Some twenty–first century social evils including the evils of child poverty, extremism, malnutrition of the spirit, which was described as a society where we worry about things we cannot control, while our media focuses on the negative often in an exaggerated manner, the vulgarization of society, lack of social inertia, greed, judgementalism and climate change. There is no denying the fact that the social evils prevailing in our country may be identified as the great bottlenecks for the overall prosperity and economic stability in our country. It is a fact that the social evils like child labour, acid violence, dowry system, environmental pollutions, corruption and drug addiction are colossal impediments as mixed with our blood and bone.

In case of dealing money with others in exchange of anything, that is in the field audit and accounts and all financial matters, corruption may be defined as $B+D-A=C$ where B stands for Budget, D for Discretion, A for Accountability and C for

Corruption. To remain honest is the remedy of it but this corruption is developed from scarcity and dishonesty upon implicit character level of human beings. Education is achieved for necessity and un-necessity, necessity in the sense that a man can receive education for getting academic degree, to show prestige and un-necessity in the sense that his education, what he has received during academic institution will be reflected in contributing social service and humanity. By upholding any profession, he can dedicate himself for the cause of others and thus he can glitter his image as a rare personality.

Human beings are social in nature, but these social circles have both positive and negative influences. If a person becomes a part of wrong society, this can push him towards danger and inspire him for doing anti-social activities which is called crime. Therefore, being a criminal, he may be infected with the misleading people. Suffice it to say that due to frustrations, unsatisfactory desires and socio-economic conditions prevailing in our country, our society of youths is leading a very miserable life. They are creating hindrance and preventing the people from dealing normal life as they are sometimes no longer normal, lost to play a role of terrorists as well as miscreants.

According to Keats –“The Truth is beauty and beauty is truth.” Hence all the sources of beauty are present in this world. The world we live in is the most attractive place with striking landscapes and features, wild and domesticated animals and a variety of

odoriferous flowers, evergreen trees and the most wonderful creation of the Lord–human beings. The world has been created for the human beings so that they would applause the Lord for his power and preserves these natural beauties with undiminished care. But ever since, the world began, man has been doing the opposite thing bit by bit. He has been making progress in science and industry, great deals of landscape and wild life are being abolished day by day. Over population in small areas has given birth to traffic jams and poverty which destroys the people. Trees have been cut down to make way for construction of modern buildings. Waste disposal is discarded on land and water, which spread mosquitoes. Mosquitoes enter the household and sit on food and spray dirt on the food from the waste and many more harmful activities for which man has started to destroy the beauty of the world.

There are many ranges of atmospheric pollution problems currently threatening the earth’s general environment, the problem arises from the acidic gases produced by burning fossil fuels in different situations. The majority of power stations in industrialized countries burn coal or oil. Both these fuels are polluted with sulphur, which produces sulphur dioxide when it burns. The wind can carry acid rain clouds away from the industrialized centres, causing the pollution to fall on other countries. Besides this, oxides of Nitrogen dioxide are produced when thunderstorm blows or air is heated in furnaces or in vehicle petrol engines.

Presently, child labour has been a great impediment for flourishing the prospects of building good citizen in our country. Due to the fact that due to poverty, the parents are forced to send their children to work in order to maintain their family. Presently, under aged children are found engaged in different factories and other offices to earn livelihood because of poverty and frustrated socio-economic condition in dealing with normal life pattern.

Society's increased affluence has resulted in environmental degradation, increased appetites and addictions, alienation between generations, tensions in diverse communities and a greater divide between today's rich and poor. Our market economy has bred the view that some human beings are of less value than others. We need to learn to live together and share the benefits of our affluence, creating a society in which all are valued and none are expendable.

The greed that subordinates the needs of others to the gratification of ourselves. Two hundred years after the slave trade was abolished, slavery is still alive and well in new forms of human trafficking, often involving women and children. Migrant workers and refugees are treated with contempt as we fear sharing our wealth with others. Rather than welcoming refugees and asylum seekers, so clearly a statement of fundamental human need, we fear their impact on our own lives.

Social changes and transformation can only be brought by people and not through technology alone which itself is a product

of human endeavour. A positive social change can occur by inculcation of social values.

N.C.E.R.T has recognised five cardinal values—Truth, Right conduct, Peace, Love and Non violence that encompass all human values.

Truth is an attribute, which is eternally changeless and absolute. It is not merely speaking what one considers being true. It is the absence of deceit or fraud.

Right conduct is the type of behaviour one expects from others for oneself. It is the response to the inner prompting. It prompts to help/serve others even if this amount to personal discomfort or loss. It is doing things as per the codes of conduct laid down by the society.

Peace is the result of the quality of maintaining equanimity under all circumstances at all times. It is not getting disturbed under difficulties and overly elated in favourable conditions. It is expressed by a calm smile. It is a mental state of well being, a state in which nothing is wanted, no desire is left unfulfilled.

Love is the state of wishing the well being of others unconditionally and unselfishly. It is an attribute, quality or virtue, which has no place for hatred, jealousy, competition, anger or ill will. Non-violence is an attribute whose owner does not cause harm or hurt any living being including plants—mentally, physically or verbally. These values can be inculcated by teacher educators and can lead to social transformation. A society builds structure

when it evolves in an organised way. Likewise, people build structure when they adopt certain rules of order. If the way people structure their lives is poorly defined, the relationships they establish with others will lack definition and integrity. The bonds such relationships create will not always be strong enough to withstand the intense ups and downs of conflict and stress that often occur between people in stressful times. Therefore, it is possible to make a comparison between the effects of stresses and strains on the integral construction (emotional and physical stability) of a person's life. In an orderly society, certain behaviours are discouraged because they undermine the integrity of a person's thoughts and actions.

In human cultures, the evolution of ethical systems is facilitated by the remembrance of the many human actions that undermine the integrity of a person's thoughts and actions. These remembrances are recorded in the cultural lore, research, technical writings and literature accrued over many centuries. The remembrance of human actions in this way may not be an exact science, but it does have scientific characteristics. Both the scientific approach and the more informal accumulation of human knowledge evident in social rule sets manifests even higher levels of social organisation.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE

Teacher educators are the future framers. They are the builders of the nation, who

can bring about social transformation. Present society needs to be churned in terms of ethical and moral values.

Moral education is a must for transforming the society. Social changes and transformation can only be brought by people and not through technology alone which itself is a product of human endeavour. A positive social change can occur by inculcation of social values as Truth, Right conduct, Peace, Love and Non violence that encompass all human values.

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