

Role of College Teachers in Educating the Youth in the Changing Society

Abdul Awal

Asstt. Professor, Deptt. Of English KharupetiaCollege.P.O.KharupetiaGhat District-Darrang:Assam(India)
Email- abdul.awal 786@ yahoo. Com.

Introduction :-

We live in a rapidly changing society. In fact, love for change and progress is inherent in human nature. It is this reason why man, since the dawn of human civilization, has been trying to make adjustment to physical and social world around him. But in this age of globalization and information communication revolution, this change has been even more rapid and dramatic, affecting our life styles, our ways of thinking, feeling and acting. The youth, like any other section of people simply can not remain unaffected by this change. Teachers as educators have sacred duty to educate and guide the youth to cope with this rapidly changing society. The College teachers who are considered to be highly intellectual section of the society have even a bigger role to play in this regard. An attempt has been made in this paper to throw some light on the role to be played by the teachers in general and the College teachers in particular in educating and guiding the youth in the fast changing society.

Objectives:-

The objectives of this paper are as follows :-

- (i) To highlight the importance of educating and guiding the youth in the fast changing social scenario.
- (ii) To identify the needs, problems and challenges faced by the youth in the changing society and the areas in which they need guidance of the teachers.
- (iii) To highlight the role of teachers in general and the college teachers in particular in educating and guiding the youth in the changing society.

Why the youth need to be educated / guided:

It goes without saying that the youth constitute a sizeable portion of the world population. Youths of today will be the responsible citizens of tomorrow. Again youth is also the period which is characterized by certain unique features which are usually not found in the other stages of human development. This stage no longer exhibits the stability and uniformity that marked his preceding stages i.e childhood and boyhood. Furthermore, youth or adolescence being a period of rapid growth, development and change, is most likely to be accompanied by a number of difficulties and problems. The needs and problems of the youth are very peculiar and hence, these need to be understood and addressed very carefully. Without proper education and counseling it will be next to impossible on the part of the youth to make proper adjustment in the changing society. In the absence of such guidance, the youths are likely to face the danger of being misled and will be unable to translate their dreams and aspirations into reality.

Educating the youth: Role of College teachers:

Collegiate education has undoubtedly a significant role in shaping and moulding the future of the youth, and college teachers, being highly intellectual, are entrusted with the onerous responsibility of guiding the student youth in the proper direction. In fact, college teachers as social engineers have a multifarious role to play in this respect. The role of college teachers in educating the youth can be discussed under the following headings:

i) Understanding the mindset of the youth:

The first and foremost task of the teachers in general and the college teachers in particular is that they must be capable of reading the mindset of the college youth who are confronted with a myriad of emotional and psychological problems at this stage. College going youths are usually highly vulnerable to the limitations in personal growth, imposed by emotional disturbances of varying severity. Furthermore, problems of the youth are unique in that many of the difficulties are related to development issues of gender, self-esteem, competition and cultural membership in a population in transition. These developmental issues lead to vague symptoms of anxiety and depression, rather than to clearly defined emotional disturbances one would expect in a general adult population. College teachers can play a crucial role in addressing these problems. In order to address these problems of the youth college teachers need to be very sympathetic and cordial towards them.

ii) Teachers as counselor:

College teachers can effectively play the role of a counselor in educating the young generation. They can not only guide and advise the youth, but also help them to get over their stress and anxieties which are caused by the fast

changing socio-political-cultural milieu around them. As a successful guide and counselor a teacher is capable of giving new direction to the lives of the young people.

iii) Inculcating a sense of social responsibility:

Youth is also the period when the society expects something from the young generation. Youth being the future assets of the nation, they have great social responsibility. Being a product of the society they must be sensitized to the needs and problems facing the society or the region they live in. It is needless to state that a team of dynamic and energetic youth can change the very fabric of a given society. In view of this, college teachers should be capable of sensitizing the young generation to the burning problems of the society and should also prepare them to shoulder social responsibilities in right earnest. The youths should be trained in such a way that they will use their skills and talents in the services of his community, his country and the whole world.

iv) Making the youth politically conscious:

The youth of today being the future custodian of democracy, need to be politically conscious. If the youths are to assume the future leadership of the country they must be trained to be conscious of their own rights and duties, and they must be made to feel respectful to the democratic process. College teaches can do a lot in making them aware of their roles in building up the economic prosperity of their country.

V) Cultivating qualities of good citizenship:

Though the concept of education for good citizenship has been an old one, it has its relevance in all times. In this fast changing world, the necessity of educating the youth for good citizenship has assumed greater significance. Youth is the most opportune time to inculcate a sense of good citizenship. The youth should be taught to cultivate the qualities of a good citizen which include, among others, the following:

- Ability to be aware of the importance of meeting human needs and to be concerned with the extension of the essentials of life to individuals.
- To owe allegiance to the ideals of democracy.
- Practice the kinds of relationships that are consistent with a democratic society.
- Recognizes and endeavours to help in the solution of the social problems of the time.
- Possesses and uses knowledge, skill and abilities to facilitate the process of democratic living. (Harris: Encyclopaedia of Educational Research)
- Ability to work with others in a co-operative way.
- Ability to understand, accept and tolerate cultural differences.
- Willingness to resolve conflicts in a non-violent manner.
- Ability to be sensitive towards and to defend human rights and rights of women, etc.

vi) Imparting value education:

The period during which the youth prosecute college education is very crucial in so far as the perception of values is concerned. In fact, student youth in modern society is constantly subjected to confusion of values all around them. There is great contradiction in what parents, teachers and leaders preach and what they themselves practice. In such confusing situation everybody suffers from a dilemma with regard to various values. The impact of social forces unique to youth's time, economic dependency, subordinate role in the society, adult's attempts to understand them in the light of their own experience, ambitions and aspirations, distorted perceptions of the urges and aspirations of the youth create a social situation where the youth comes to occupy a marginal place and is pushed to a stage of anxiety. Moreover, the weakening of social and moral values in the younger generation is creating many serious social and ethical conflicts and there is already a desire among some great western thinkers to balance the knowledge and skills which science and technology bring with the values and insights associated with ethics and religion at its best. It is in this context that the role of college teachers assumes significance. Teachers in general and college teachers in particular must be able to inculcate in the youth a clear sense of values-
- moral, social and spiritual. In this context, the following aspects may be kept in view:.

- a) To balance knowledge with essential social skills.
- b) To balance science and technology with ethics and religion.
- c) To help form character besides training in skills.
- d) To cultivate true citizenship spirit.
- e) To work for the fulfillment of national goals.
- f) To attempt eliminate religious fanaticism, superstition and fatalism.
- g) g) To attempt to transcend linguistic regional barriers.

vii) Motivating the youth to dream :

Adolescence or youth is also the time for dreams and aspirations to achieve better future. Indeed , the education of individuals as well as of societies is propelled by the power of dreams – of visions of what to be, of what we want to become, of what kind of world we would like to live in, of how to find peace and happiness . Education is goal oriented and is motivated by the values we cherish, the ideals we seek, the priorities we choose to live by. In the words of Leonard Cheshire (1981) quoted from *Educating World Citizens* : “We need a vision, a dream.

The vision should be the oneness, the essential and organic solidarity of the human family. The dream, that we each in our own way make our personal contribution towards building unity and peace among us.” The college teachers are expected to lead the societies not only by motivating the youth to dream high, not merely by preparing them to meet the challenges of the changing societies but by empowering them to image preferred futures, better worlds for their generations and for those to come.

(viii) To instill self confidence :

Mere making the youth dream high will be of no use unless they are taught to develop the will power. In this fast changing society, newer and newer challenges are coming before them which they must be able to face and get over with their strong will power. They must be taught that failures and even repeated failures can not deter them from achieving success. They must be encouraged to proceed with self confidence towards achieving their goal Teachers can surely play a crucial role in developing such confidence and positive attitude among the youth.

Conclusion :

To conclude it may be said that the importance of the role of the teacher in general as an agent of social change, promoting understanding and tolerance has never been more obvious than today. Teachers have crucial role to play in preparing the young people not only to face the future with confidence but to build it with purpose and responsibility. This role is likely to become more crucial in the days to come. The need for change from narrow nationalism to universalism, from ethnic and cultural prejudice to tolerance, understanding and pluralism from autocracy to democracy in its various manifestations, and from a technologically divided world where high technology is the privilege of the few to a technologically united world, places enormous responsibilities on teachers in general and the college teachers in particular who participate in the molding of the characters and minds of the new generation.

References :

1. Agarwal J.C : *New Education Policy 1986*, Sterling publication Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
2. Kennedy Kerry J. : *Building Civic Society for a New Century : Engaging young people in civic institution and civil society,*” Paper Presented at the 7th UNESCO-ACEID conference. Bangkok.
3. Mukherjee S.N. : *Education in India ; Today and Tomorrow*, Acharya Book Depot, Vadodara.
4. Prayag Mehata : *The Indian youth : Emerging Problems and Issues*, Bombay, Somaiya Publication Pvt. Ltd. 1971.
5. Quisumbing lourds : *Citizenship Education for Better World Societies.: A Holistic Approach*, Paper presented at the 8th UNESCO-ACEID conference on Education, Nov. 29th 2002, Bangkok.
6. Srinivas M.N. : *Social change in Modern India*, Orient Longman, New Delhi, 1995.
7. World Education Report (1998) : *Teachers & Teaching in a Changing World*, UNESCO Publishing.

-X-