

## Challenges of Higher Education in 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Bala Harish (Corresponding author)

School of English, Bhai Gurdas Institute of Engg. & Tech.

12B/58, Shivpuri Mohalla, Dhuri 148024, Sangrur, Punjab, India

Mob: 9815253844 Email: [geenubansal@gmail.com](mailto:geenubansal@gmail.com)

### Abstract

Education is just like a torch that enlightens the way of human beings by not only imparting knowledge in the relevant field but also inculcating moral values, spiritual attitude, and the righteousness in character, the forever existing and never stolen treasure of goodness, piety and purity. The cardinal motive of education is the all round development of an individual. It functions like a magic trick that transforms an illiterate and uncivilized animal to a literate and civilized man. But, in today's so called ultra modern & highly sophisticated society, education has lost its actual existence somewhere. The modern & sophisticated youth of today's totally materialistic and high-tech society finds little interest in the prevailing education. He gets high degrees & certificates with high percentage but fails to achieve the primary goal of education. He knows the things theoretically but is not able to prove the facts practically. The major flaw in the education field is caused by corruption that has successfully spread itself as a giant epidemic disease especially in India and also has played a major role to bring idleness among the youth. No doubt, we enjoy luxuries & facilities but have lost our confidence, right attitude, mental peace and satisfaction, our conscience and even our identity as a human being and the respective qualities. In the context of such a concern, the education must have to shift it self from mere imparting information to the knowledge empowerment and inculcation and development of values which will enable the students to find their problems and get the relevant solutions of them respectively and thus enable to make a more healthier, happier and benevolent society and must contribute to the global growth.

**Keywords:** Education, personality, character, enlightenment, conscience

### 1. Introduction

Education functions like an enlightened torch for this civilized and sophisticated society. Without education human beings are no more than animals. On the basis of wisdom and sanity grounds, education is the lighthouse that enlightens in them the ability to differentiate between right and wrong, true and false, correct and incorrect and also is the milestone in the development of integrated personality, the righteousness in character, the enlightenment of conscience and the inculcation of social, moral, ethical and spiritual values. "A child's legs, arms and body are made stronger by healthful play. We can deduce the mind with its organic counterpart – part, the nervous system, improves and becomes better equipped because of use and exercise in the form of reading, calculating, memorizing, speaking, imagining and other mental activities." (Sorenson 1948). This is education that is responsible for the all round development of human beings.

### 2. Importance of Society

As society is nothing but the inter-related human beings so education cannot free itself from the social and cultural norms. It has to bind itself to the needs of the society. One of the challenges of the education is to

make education effective, interesting and practically useful for the today's youth. It is the challenge for modern education that it must accept and fulfill the desired goal that is yet miles away from the horizon.

### **3. Role of Teacher**

Teacher is the very leader of the society. He is actually the creator of the future of his country. The youth are more influenced with the impressive personality and right attitude of their teachers than any film star or model. A good teacher with his good behavior and personality traits can motivate, inspire and make the students almost indulged in his teaching. That is why a Guru is equated to God in our most adorable Vedas and Upanishads (Guru is none other than the creator, Lord Brahma, he verily is Lord Vishnu, the preserver and he truly is Maheshvara, the destroyer. He is supreme Brahma himself. To such a guru I offer my salutations).

#### *3.1 Corruption among Teachers*

But this has become the biggest challenge in this modern sophisticated and inescapable materialistic world where the creators themselves are lost in the transient and momentarily luxuries and joys. Their soul is shackled completely in the materialistic thoughts and actions. Name, Fame and money have replaced completely the internal peace and satisfaction and thus the eternal bliss has lost its valuable significance in this petty materialism. This is the world of selfishness and practical wisdom where the perishable wisdom has empowered completely the spiritual enlightenment and our education has failed completely to fulfill this primary goal. It is producing never tiring machines that need the petrol of money to run forever. But actually nothing is permanent except the character, the moral and ethical values, purity and pioussness.

### **4. Contemporary Education**

The existing atmosphere in the education system has really become the greatest obstacle in the learning process. The youth are able to answer the questions theoretically but are incapable to prove the facts practically. They know the basic concepts of things but incapable to use them in their practical lives. "Learning is the acquisition of habits, knowledge and attitudes. It involves new ways of doing things and it operates in individual's attempts to overcome obstacles or to adjust to new situations. It represents progressive changes in behavior. It enables him to satisfy interests to attain goals" (Crow & Crow 1973). Learning is an episode in which a motivated individual attempts to adapt his behavior so as to succeed in a situation which he perceives as requiring action to attain a goal."(Pressey & Horrocks 1967). But the contemporary education is completely useless to provide such learning to the youth. They are educated with lot of hollow degrees but the fundamental concept of learning is still opaque for them. They get the designation 'learned' but the word itself has lost its meaning at some place.

### **5. Personality**

Personality, as defined by Eysenck, is the more or less stable and enduring organization of a person's character, temperament, intellect, and physique, which determine his unique adjustment to the environment" (Eysenck 1971) and this is the very primary objective of imparting education But because of corruption, mistrust, hatred, violence and tension in the education system has defeated the very purpose of education. This is because the present day education has failed to provide value-based education which would have produced the human beings who care for others and have love for the mankind.

### **6. Education Fails to Inculcate Moral Values**

Man and values that may be social, moral, ethical or spiritual are inseparable and their bond is the strongest one ever possible. If education fails to inculcate etiquettes or values then it are inconceivable .Values cannot be taught as the subjects like Math or Science in the classroom but values are practiced and taught together. There is nothing great as the human brain that is the supreme creativity of the almighty but this

can be proved the strongest destroyer if not guided properly on the right track. This is also a great issue that must be discussed and solved.

### **7. Goal of Education is not fulfilled**

Society is paying for such degeneration of values as terrorism that is prevailing all over the world. These people are also educated but in the wrong direction so instead of growth and development, they are degenerating and losing the basic quality of education that is to distinguish between right and wrong. If education fails to provide the third eye that see beyond the wrong things then what is the use of getting the mere degrees by wasting lot of time and money. Prevailing education fails absolutely to create the interest among the youth in the right direction and positive attitude and the potentiality of heart and mind.

### **8. Significance of Interest**

“Interest may refer to the motivating force that impels us to attend to a person, a thing, or an activity or it may be the effective experience that has been stimulated by the activity itself. In other words, Interest can be the cause of an activity and the result of participation in the activity.”(Crow & Crow 1973). “A thing that interests us is first something that concerns us or matters to us.”(Ross).We can say that interest lies beyond the course of action. So positive interest must be inculcated among the children towards study so that they could meet the real objective of teaching and learning process .If the students find interest in the course of study, they can meet the desires and objectives of education without much efforts and labour. This is the primary responsibility of the builders of the nation to arise interest among the children by analyzing the following factors and conditions actively involved in the process of teaching and learning—

- The students who are being taught.
- Situations and environment prevailing during teaching.
- The personality and attitude of the teacher.
- The methods or techniques employed by the teacher in the teaching.
- The objectives set for teaching and subject matter.
- Teaching aids, lively examples, material or illustrations available to arise the interest among the learners.

“Teaching is a system of actions intended to produce learning.”(Smith 1962)

### **9. Lack of Moral Education in Curriculum**

Another biggest flaw that we see in the higher education is the lack of moral education subject as a part of curriculum. Although this subject is included in the primary education but the adolescent stage and adult stage which are the most sensitive stages to build the character of the youth, the curriculum finds no space. It is this time when the children grow to become the responsible citizens of their nation and they need the moral and ethical values more than anything else. But the curriculum makes them perfect money makers, the best politicians, the well- known doctors, the skillful engineers, the greatest musicians, the marvelous actors but fails to make them realize a bit to their identity as human beings. They become so selfish and self-centered that no tears ooze out from their eyes even at the death of their near or dear ones. Those relatives or friends with whom they would have spent the memorable time, they forget within moments when the factor career lies before them.

### **10. Presence of Human Qualities among Animals being Uneducated**

But that was never the objective of the education. No doubt we have established ourselves completely and have become the king of this planet, but we are below bottom when we compare ourselves with the smallest insects, birds or animals on humanity grounds. These are the more loving and caring for their comrades but man has lost in the petty materialism and transient fame and thus lacked uncountable miles behind in this respect. While, the primary goal of education was to make the real human beings from animals. What a shock! We need to learn from animals the human qualities. Then we were thousand times better as being illiterates than to get the mere tag as literates.

### **11. The Deviated Definition of Wisdom in Contemporary Time**

Wisdom, the deviated from of selfishness is the product of today's education. The person who is more selfish and knows all the tricks to befool and to use others is more sane and wise and vice-versa. This is the definition of wisdom and sanity in the ultra-modern and highly technical but never escapable world of today's civilized society. This is the strongest inimical thought that is prevailing all over.

### **12. The Destruction of Basic Human Qualities**

The essence of love and affection, the universal brotherhood and ocean of deep feelings and powerful emotions has flown away through the windows when the prevailing wisdom enters in through the doors. But the ultimate reality, the almighty and we as a part of that most powerful light house has been replaced by the transient and momentarily self-respect and reputation in the society.

### **13. Conclusion**

In the context of such a concern, the education must have to shift itself from mere imparting information to the knowledge empowerment and inculcation and development of values which will enable the students to find their problems and get the relevant solutions of them respectively and thus enable to make a more healthier, happier and benevolent society that could contribute respectively to the global growth and development.

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