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23.	<b>Importance of Values in Higher Education System in India</b> <i>T. Nirmala and S. Jothi</i>	177
24.	<b>Impact and Challenges of e-Learning in the Development of Student Life</b> <i>G. Saktheeswari, C. Kuyin</i>	185
25.	<b>Guidance and Counselling in a Different Drift</b> <i>J. Sharmila</i>	192
26.	<b>Quality Assurance and Sustenance in Higher Educational Institutions</b> <i>B.J. Queensly Jeyanthi</i>	198
27.	<b>A Study on Earthworm Treated Azolla Compost in Relation to N, P, K and Microbial Load</b> <i>Vinothini A. and Arockiam Thaddeus</i>	205
28.	<b>Acyclic Edge Colourings Of Planar Graphs</b> <i>J.D. Sundari</i>	212
29.	<b>Waiting Time Analysis of the Continuous Review (s; S) Inventory System with Service Facility and Postponed Demands</b> <i>J. Sebastian Arockia Jenifer</i>	229



## GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING IN A DIFFERENT DRIFT

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### Abstract

*"Choose my instruction instead of silver; choose knowledge rather than the finest gold." (Proverbs 8). The word 'Instruction' that we find in this Proverb (in the Bible) makes us know that our mighty Lord is an Instructor, in other words, he is a Teacher/Educator. Educators explained the term 'Education' as the art of 'leading out.' The education policies and provisions are changing year by year. Because of the policies the students are protected and motivated on one side, but on the other side the responsibilities of the management and the teachers are added day by day, leaving us badly in need of counselling and guidance. Recent news threatens us that even the school/college is not safe haven to teachers and students. Something must be done to keep up the morality or else it will be in danger. The teaching of the wise King Solomon encourages us to be hopeful as it follows, "The teaching of the wise are a fountain of life; they will help you escape when your life is in danger." (Proverbs 13:14). The Bible being a golden treasure, if prescribed in text books can prove to be a beacon for this perplexed generation.*

**Keywords:** Bible, gold, proverbs, education, silver, morality.

### 1. Introduction

"Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you..." (John 14:27). The Peace that God has given to mankind is stolen by money and many. Though we are in the sophisticated, literate and technological world, the human mindset is not civilized but remains primitive and pathetic. The human race searches (net)work to set up pleasure which is full of dreading violence and vulgarity. Facing our daily life is highly a challenge. "More safe I sing with mortal voice, ... though fall'n on evil days," (Paradise Lost – Book VII). These immortal words of Milton convey us that we have to develop the spiritual power

to go further while falling upon the thorns of life. At least, the teaching community can be remodeled, not only by the current educational policies, but in a holistic way. As 'The Holy Bible' had always been the greatest source of strength and solace to me, I piously quote my ideas which if incorporated into the general curriculum can greatly benefit the student community.

## 2. The true life education

Listen!..

I appeal to you, mankind;

I call to everyone on earth...

Listen to my excellent words;

all I tell you is right.

Everything I say is true;

nothing is false or misleading.

To the man with insight, it is all clear;

Choose my instruction instead of silver;

choose knowledge rather than the finest gold. - Proverbs 8 (1-10)

The almighty Lord educates us to choose instruction and knowledge better than gold and silver. In the derivation of the term 'Education', 'E' means 'out of' and 'Duco' means 'I lead.' Thus education is to draw out rather than to put in.

## 3. The applied education in Milton's life

"I call, therefore, complete and general education that which fits a man to perform just by skilfully and magnanimously all the offices both private and public peace and war." [2] The English poet, Milton quoted and also exemplified these words in life. He authored many books when he was the Secretary to Cromwell, the Lord Protector of England, but his books were not up to the mark earlier. In 1652, he became blind. In 1660, Charles II became the King of England. As Milton was close to Cromwell, he was punished and put into jail. Since the king was against him, no people were there to meet him. In that battlefield, he decided to write a book. It gave him an opportunity to author the great epic, 'Paradise Lost'. Thus he excelled his social competence and optimum



individual development. Can we expect the same from the current youth? If it is so, I won't select such a title to discuss.

#### **4. The incompetent education policies of today**

In most colleges at the beginning of every year, the management conducts a counselling programme not only for the students, but also for the staff members. Is there any need for it? The upcoming education policies and provisions are for the good cause to protect and motivate the students, but the management and teachers' task is highly challenging. Being benefitted by these policies, the students are expected to be safelights to the society/family. Instead, their confident and courageous level is at issue today. Why do they commit suicide even for the failure or lower mark in the examination? The hard truth is that counselling and guidance becomes part and parcel of their life to promote self-esteem.

#### **5. Counselling through Christ**

Counselling is an interactive process conjoining the counselee who needs assistance and the counsellor who is trained and educated to give this assistance. The counsellor can initiate, facilitate and maintain the interactive process if he communicates the feelings of spontaneity and warmth, tolerance, respect and sincerity. So the counselee can find a way he/she should go. "I will teach you the way you should go; I will instruct you and advise you." – Psalms 32:8. "I have told you this so that you will have peace by being united to me, The world will make you suffer. But be brave! I have defeated the world!" – John 16:33. The words of Jesus Christ show that we have suffering in the world. If we want to defeat the world that is to overcome our sufferings, we can take the provisions provided by Christ Who defeated the world!

"Children...obey your parents, for this is the right thing to do. Respect your father and mother...so that all may go well with you, and you may live a long time in the land... Parents, do not treat your children in such a way as to make them angry." - Ephesians 6 (1-4) It defines that Christ is the best Counsellor not only to the children (Students) but also to the parents/second parents (teachers).

## 6. Challenges in handling the youth

Nowadays, the students do not allow the teacher to correct them. The teacher is threatened by the parents and even by the students. Whatever it may be, a student can't acquire holistic development by a computer. It has to be done by a teacher who knows the holiness of teaching. If he/she hesitates to discipline a student, the pointedness of the Bible is impossible to miss,

**"Pay attention to your teacher and learn all you can." - Proverbs 23:12**

**"Don't hesitate to discipline a child. A good spanking won't kill him, As a matter of fact, it may save his life." - Proverbs 23:13**

If a student at a college and a teacher at a church are liable to be killed, there will be a doubt about educationalism. It seems to say the world that anybody can do anything, anywhere. The present preponderant duty of the day is to reform the education system by taking the essence of the following Proverbs as the effective workaround in which wisdom consists,

**"Always remember what you have learnt. Your education is your life - guard it well.", - Proverbs 4:13**

**"The teaching of the wise are a fountain of life; they will help you escape when your life is in danger." - Proverbs 13:14**

I believe that the teaching of the wise King Solomon can correct the corrupted culture.

## 7. 'The Bible' in text books

Gandhi said, "By education, I mean an all-round drawing out of the best in the child and man, body, mind and spirit."

Abdul Kalam said, "If you fail, never give up because FAIL means First Attempt In Learning."

Jesus said, "I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...Why should God reward you if you love only the people who love you?" - Matthew 5 (44 - 46)

Like Gandhi and Kalam, Jesus was also born as a man, but I have never studied a single saying of Jesus Christ in any text book prescribed for students. I



can love Jesus, Gandhi and Abdul Kalam because of being a citizen of India, the great democratic country which is highly famous for its unity in diversity.

#### **8. The remedy to remake the society**

We appreciate our educationalists for being aware of the social values by quoting the philosophical "Thirukkural" even in buses. It is the time to think about the easiest sayings from the Bible, the beacon which shows the right path having only truth and life.

**"Listen to your father; without him you would not exist. When your mother is old, show her your appreciation." - Proverbs 23:22**

If the present generation (Students community) follow this proverb, there won't be any old age home in future. We should be open minded, free from the bondage of religion. We can prescribe 'Proverbs' in the Bible to school and college students in their text books as memory verse like 'Thirukkural.'

#### **9. Conclusion**

As a loyal teaching faculty of India, I humbly register my rhythming heartbeats as it is,

**"Teach a child how he should live, and he will remember it all his life." - Proverbs 22:6**

**"Speak up for people who cannot speak for themselves. Protect the rights of all who are helpless. Speak for them and be righteous judge. Protect the rights of the poor and needy." - Proverbs 31:8,9**

**"An idea well-expressed is like a design of gold, set in silver."**

**- Proverbs 25:11**

I start with gold and silver and end with the same which is going to glitter in our students' life. To my point, I conclude that the present state of human mind is full of discord and turbulence. The teachers and students' fruitless hours are filled with mutual accusation against each other. It is my hope that an obedient and God fearing generation would rise by practising the 'Proverbs'. Inculcating Biblical values in students is a sure way of ensuring this positive change that would greatly benefit the society.

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