

A CASE FOR APPLIED EDUCATION TODAY

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Abstract

Education plays a great role in the life of everyone all through the life. It is a single and vital way to the success as well as personal growth. An educational system has to test the understanding of a subject and not how much the student is able to reproduce from the textbooks. But the Indian Education system is producing a large number of graduates that are unemployable. They lack basic communication and problem solving skills that are needed for even the most elementary jobs. This is because, year after year, Indian students focus on cramming information. The best crammers are rewarded by the system. This is one of the fundamental flaws of our education system. Rote learning crushes the creativity and originality of the students. Focus on "Application oriented education", from the primary level, will be a solution for this problem. All aspects of education, namely teaching, learning and evaluation must provide a large space for this component, i.e., application. The purpose of this paper is to emphasize the need for application oriented teaching, learning and evaluation which will bring our students and institutions on par with the global scenario and to remain at a higher level in the international ranking.

Keywords: Indian education system, Application oriented education, Teaching, learning and evaluation.

1. Introduction

Education plays a great role in the life of everyone all through the life. Good education is constructive in nature which constructs our future forever [1].

It helps a person to improve his/her status of mind, body and spirit. It is a single and vital way to the success as well as personal growth. It plays a very important role in rational thinking and decision making ability of a person. It is the most important tool that offers inner and outer strength to a person. It is an important medium of acquiring skills and knowledge [2]. It creates awareness, expands our vision and helps us develop a disciplined life. It is the means of climbing the social and economic ladder.

Comparing the increase in the number of graduates and their employability, a disparity is found in the knowledge perceived by them through present education system and the knowledge needed by them to qualify in the entrance and competitive examinations. In this context, the authors present this paper which deals with the aspects of a good education system, flaws in the present education system and emphasizes the need for the changes to be made for an education system to be the best.

2. Education system

A good education system must make the students master the basics from which they build. It should emphasize critical thinking and develop communication skills. It should also enhance practical and technical skills. It must test the understanding of a particular subject and not the ability to reproduce from the textbooks. It is assessed by its ability to elevate a person along with his social group. Education gives the gift of independent thought and opinion. With good education we can improve social standing of people, increase the country's economy, reduce crimes and the most important thing that education can achieve is to expand the worldview of those concerned. The education system should give the children, at an early age, the freedom to express themselves, with their thoughts, questions and ideas. They shouldn't live under the fear of grades but rather explore what on what they are good at. It is only then they will be able to think and dream for themselves.

3. Present education

Academicians and scholars have criticized the existing education system in India as it presents an obsolete but functional entity that has been little

evolved in the last so many decades. The present education system of India promotes memorizing, mugging up and cramming to get 'good marks' in the exams [3]. This scenario is fully encouraged by teachers, parents and the so called educators! Memorizing is not learning. Rote learning crushes the creativity and originality of the students. But the best crammers are rewarded by the system. This is a biggest flaw in the present education system.

There is minimum usage of modern technological aids in teaching and learning, which imparts mainly theoretical and not practical knowledge to students. Because of too many exams, students lose interest in sports, creative pursuits etc. Due to this, Indian Education System is sometimes called Indian Exam System. Students are restricted to classrooms and experience lack of exposure. But practical applications are more important [4].

4. Consequences

The Indian Education system is producing a large number of graduates who are unemployable. Academic results are not a reflection of understanding a subject. Students cannot recall majority of the content even the next semester. They lack basic communication and problem solving skills that are needed for even the most elementary jobs [5]. It kills curiosity – the human nature that leads to development. Because of not getting standard education, students struggle to find employment of their choice.

This could also be evidenced by the conduct of competitive examinations like TET, TRB, many entrance examinations for higher studies etc. Though the candidates fulfill the basic educational qualifications, they are forced to write these examinations to prove their understanding and knowledge.

5. Solution: Application oriented education

"Give a man a fish and you feed him one day, Teach him how to catch fish and you feed him for a lifetime", is a famous Chinese proverb. Application of knowledge, like problem solving, takes the students to a whole new level of understanding [6]. It will kindle the spirit of research in the minds of students. It leads to innovation because the students need to think for themselves.

A famous quote says, "It is better to light a candle than to curse darkness". Instead of blaming the education system, given the academic freedom in the name of "Autonomy", we can devise measures (i) to make the students understand the subject and (ii) to evaluate them on the basis of the level of understanding. Higher education institutions should focus on this aspect while framing the curriculum, using innovative teaching methodologies and evaluating the knowledge, understanding and applicability of the students.

6. Conclusion

India is fortunate to have a large young population. Quality education must be provided to this population leading to fulfilling employment and a prosperous life. Application oriented teaching, learning and evaluation will pave way for quality intellectual youth who will make India growing.

7. References

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