



A STUDY ON THE ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN YOUTH AND THEIR WELL BEING

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ABSTRACT

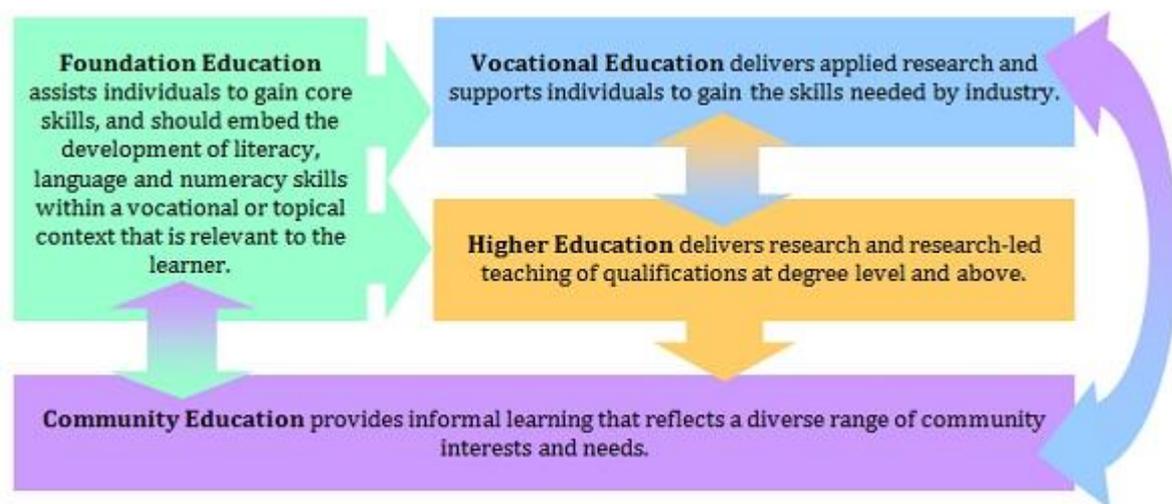
The importance of learning has been repeatedly emphasised down through the ages. Through the knowledge acquired over the ages, man has overtime improved the way he lives and helped others live. This process of learning has found its instrument in education through different institutions from primary school to higher school, then later college. In college from pre-university till one completes a doctorate. With the process of getting educated one's mind gets enlightened with the vast knowledge one gains, through education. It was not surprising to note that Hyder Ali a great warrior and administrator, though uneducated made sure that his son Tipu Sultan gets all the education necessary, in the end Tipu became a linguist knew the political and social histories of different countries and was the only Asian to be in possession of the original document of the Constitution of United States of America one of the seven copies present in the world at that time. In schooling one finds his learning through education having its foundation laid, when it comes to higher education the building becomes completed.

Key Words: *Higher education, Youth, Well Being*

INTRODUCTION

The educational system varies from country to country. In India the student is accumulated with all branches of knowledge whether it would be or would not be of use to him or her. This at times can be a burden to the student. At the same time the purpose of education is to educate and help the young individual be better prepared to face the challenges he or she has to face in the world. When one looks at the history of education, one sees that even in the Gurukuls that were the early form of schools in India teaching the students was more through rote or the process committing through memory. So, the process of education played an important role in our country always. As, even before the learning centres in Greece, Rome and Alexandria, there were two Universities comparable to the Oxford and Cambridge or Harvard, at Nalanda and Taxila holding together more than 10,000 students.

If education was meant to teach a young person about all that the world was, as in the past, it would be referred to as book knowledge. As this would be necessary to help the young person to understand all about historical events, the different sciences giving him or her more broad understanding of the world. But, learning is not meant to enter data into an individual's head like a computer but seek to prepare one to face a world where challenges are there on a day to day basis.



The concept of etiquette taught in the early years of a student till he or she is 6 years old in Japan and certain European countries would be good example for us to follow in India. Character is a simple word which moulds the life of an individual for life. This is very essential in our education system. As children from a young age are given projects that the teacher knows very well the students cannot complete it for the complex nature of the

projects and hence it is the parent who completes them. By creating dependence with the complex nature of projects on the parent, the child as he or she grows older becomes one never original in anything they do. In this process as the child goes into high school and later higher education, the easier path to complete an assignment or project is the number one priority, but when they go out into the real world and the child becomes like a fish out of water. It is necessary to think of the student in giving assignments and projects, at the same time help or encourage the creative and talented abilities in them.

CONCEPT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

When higher education is seen it is more about getting a degree, or a professional degree. In the case of the professional degree the margins get narrowed into engineer and doctor. Slowly that is changing where students now have a desire to seek the avenues of photography, fashion designing, journalism, it is true that these options were there and students did take them as a last option not as the first option. In the case of degree the individual has no clue as to what they desire to accomplish after that, it is more my parents want me to have a degree, and so I get one. The aspect of a goal oriented approach to life is not there. In the process one looks at life in an aimless manner that would not help him or her to be a productive person in life.

When one sees higher education it is not just that graduation, which is no doubt an important part of a student's life. Education is meant also to prepare the individual to be a more responsible person in society; so, that when they go out into the real world they are better prepared to face the challenges posed to them. As today the youngsters are more prone to looking at higher education as a means to getting higher income rather seeking higher learning. So education today too in a way prepares the individual with courses offered that are offered in institutions to help the individual in his or her desire to gain more income.

When one goes back, the desire for higher education was learning, which may still be the case but at times the youth finds the system of education as a means to waste time. In the sense the student comes to college for meeting friends rather than for learning. While at the same time the whole concept of syllabus completion, important questions, and notes for the students by the concerned teacher of their respective subjects is something standard everywhere, if not even demanded by the students and concerned managements. So the student in the desire to learn is merely seeking a completion of a course and getting a degree.

THE OBJECTIVES OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- 1) **Knowledge** - We require knowledge, as with knowledge comes understanding. Even an illiterate man or woman when in a job seeks to learn the skill in operating a machine when employed or knows that they would be removed from the job. A student all the time is in the process of gaining knowledge in different branches of science and social science.
- 2) **Wisdom** – When one thinks of wisdom, one is not asking one to be like King Solomon of Israel or Birbal the courtier of Akbar. But the application of what you have learnt is wisdom, and also the willingness to learn. This is something which is very much lacking in students in the modern generation. Once exams are over their knowledge of the subject does not matter to the students.
- 3) **Importance of higher values of life**- The aspect of living a good moral life, would include the application of higher values. If the aspect of higher values was missed out of education, mankind would be no different from a robot. We are taught higher values not only at home but in the educational system, so that our character gets developed. But students consider the concept of higher values more old fashioned, not realizing, that while knowledge and wisdom gives you a body, character are the clothes that cover the body.
- 4) **Training for Leadership** – The sad aspect of the world today is we have many speakers but few leaders. Through the system of higher education students are challenged and trained to be good leaders. Without leadership no country in the world can survive, the lessons of great leaders of the past act as an inspiration to the young to imbibe their qualities and be like them.
- 5) **To understand the higher education system** – As the higher education provides for the opportunity of research , this would help us not only understand the system but improve on it. In school the basics are taught to the students but when they come to college the students now understand how to apply those basics. This would be

comparable to nature where a student learning the basics is like a caterpillar and coming to college he or she becomes a butterfly.

SUGGESTIONS FOR A BETTER QUALITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

1. Need for a learning society

The need in our country India is that society should have a desire to learn. Today, students when advised to read the newspaper would be more interested in the cricket scores of India and South Africa rather than being aware of what is happening in the country and the world. India was always a place of learning, if one goes back in history the works of Aryabhata, Varamihara, Charaka , Kalidasa show that we never lacked in knowledge. But today that desire to learn and understand has decreased, which has to be re-kindled again through higher education.

2. Industry and academics

The knowledge gained by a student once the boy or girl graduates has many a time seen that the individual has no need for what they have learnt; in the job they get employed. When the student studies what the industry needs, would make the student a productive employee to the concerned company. So the need for a strong connection between industry and academics has to be maintained, if we as a country want to progress, the examples of this connection bearing fruit is seen in the western countries of Europe and US and also in Japan.

3. The need to look at incentives for teachers

A teacher's job is like a sacrificial job in India. The teacher is expected to teach, deliver results, complete syllabus and so on so forth, but not talk about salary. As the profession is so noble though if even one is given a pittance in salary, it is his or her duty to teach. So where is the incentive, and in the process the brightest minds never enter the teaching profession. To some extent in specialized institutions like the IITs and UGC the teachers get paid well, so also in certain private institutions. Money is a necessity and also an incentive that can help bring out the best in individuals.

4. The need for innovation

Through the aspect of innovation, we let the young minds be more creative, and accept different systems of learning. In the process, the mind of the student is no more

fixed by boundaries, but encouraged to explore, research and in this process lead to new discoveries. Thomas Alva Edison had a simple thought when he invented close to 2000 inventions, seen in all his inventions, “ the need to make life simpler for man”. Innovation can help a student succeed in the same manner.

5. Education that is dynamic

The aspect of learning becomes uninteresting when one is told to study only the notes or those pages marked in the textbook. An unorthodox system of teaching, makes learning more fun, interesting wherein even the most dis-interested student would like to learn. Where the concept of learning would be the world around not confined to the four walls of a classroom. Even in the classroom, movies, slides and sometimes a live demonstration of a concept of physics or mathematics in a jovial manner would make the subject more interesting.

6. The need for involvement of the private sector in education

In India the dependency of spreading education falling on the government shoulders makes it impossible for the country to become literate. Here the need for the private sector to participate should be encouraged by the government. In the US and Germany, England and Japan, private participation in higher education has become a huge earner of revenue for the respective countries with students coming from all over the world to study in these institutions. Sometimes it from these privately funded institutions pioneering research is being done in life sciences, and physics and chemistry.

7. The encouragement of exchanges between students of different countries

This form of cultural exchange between students helps them to learn about different countries. The UNESCO is involved in this aspect between different institutions around the world. Through this cultural exchange not only the culture of different countries are seen, but also the fact that we live in one world with different races, customs but same feelings and needs.

8. The need for Quality in Higher education

In our country India we have a lot of educational institutions, but to the lack of quality these institutions have become factories of producing graduates. With the aspect of grading through NAAC and also seeking to make surprise visits to certain institutions and exposing where necessary lapses. By which corrections can be made, the standard

of education in the country has very much improved from what it was before in the country.

CONCLUSION

Having looked at the need for higher education to help the younger generation today, and how knowledge, wisdom and most importantly character, have to be ingrained into these young minds. As education was meant not only to enlighten the individual but that the concerned individual or student would enlighten others. If education were to be based on only studying textbooks and completing syllabuses, then sadly India is far away from becoming a literate and developed country. The more independence of thinking and learning in the young mind is encouraged, and then more ideas, inventions could be seen as we have seen in Japan and South Korea. As India being the only country in the world to have the largest group of people less than 40 years. Through better higher education we can produce not only graduates but individuals of character and leadership.

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