



The Role of Life-Long Education to Create a Learning Society

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Abstract:

Education is a natural and continuous process. It goes on from cradle to the grave. A person or a child starts learning as soon as he is born. Ulich Robert says: "Education is the constant interaction among people and between people and the objective world." Thus a person learns day by day in his lifetime. A person is also a part of society. The prosperity and status of the person and status of the person and society affects each other. If we want to change the society we should try to change the members of the society. The members can get change about their skills, knowledge, competence, thinking and existence. If we want to create a learning society first of all we have to try that each person should be a learner forever. Each member of the society have learning nature, we have to give importance to the skills of learning to learn.

Keywords: Education, Learning society, Life-long education

1. Concept of Learning Society and Life-Long Education

Emerging Indian society should be a learning society. By a learning society, we mean existence of reading, writing and numeracy skills among the people. The idea of a learning society was very first time given by a UNESCO Report on learning society. According to the report learning society is one is which all agencies of a society are providers of education. Therefore, today the idea of a learning society no longer seems to be an unrealistic idea but a real possibility and an attainable goal through planned development. If there exists a genuine learning society, then all its citizens must engage themselves in education right from birth to death. Purposeful, self-planned and self-initiated learning becomes central to the lives of all adults. Each individual sets a series of learning objectives for oneself and then pursues these by all means through the agencies provided by the learning society beyond elementary literacy and by applying this learning towards improving their own living conditions.

By the Life – Long Education we mean all purposeful learning activities undertaken on an ongoing basis throughout life with an aim of improving knowledge, skills and competence.

A person starts learning as soon as he is born. The formal and planned education is given in school only. A person learns through family, community, society, environment etc. above the formal education. The education given by these institutions is a natural process which is received by every person according to his aptitude and capability. As well as some other institutions and

Agencies can educate a person after the formal education. Hence the person is a learner for lifetime. Life Long Education is not a teaching method, but it is a principle on which the constitution of any method depends. All types of education like formal education, informal education, non-formal education, adult education, further education etc. are included in Life Long education. In short we can say that Life Long Education is education about learning to learn by which a person enable to receive any kind of knowledge during his life-time.

2. Characteristics of Life-long education

Following points to be noted about it,

1. It is need-based.
2. It should encourage creativity.
3. It helps in solving problems;
4. It brings in desirable change in the knowledge, attitude and skills; and
5. It must create interest among the learner.

3. Aims of Life-long education

The points are given below:

- Life Long education should enable people to develop awareness of themselves and their environment and encourage them to play their social role at work in the country and community.
- It is a wide theme by which a person lives with adjustment and prosperous life. He can fulfill his limits and develops a healthy personality as a successful member of a society.
- Provision of facilities for retention of literacy skills and continuing education to enable the learners their learning beyond basic literacy.
- Creating scope for improvement in living conditions and quality of life of the people.
- Creation of awareness on the issues of national concerns, such as national integration, health and hygiene, conservation and improvement of environment, observance of small family norms. Etc
- Organization to cultural and recreational activities with effective community participation.
- Improvement in economic conditions and general well-being of people by organizing short duration training program, orientation courses and providing vocational skills.
- Imparting literacy skills to residual non-literate semi-literates drop-out etc.

4. Importance of Life-long education

Indian is a democratic nation. In fact, survival of democracy will depend on the kind and type of education of the people. Contemporary social, economic, technological and environmental pressures are so strong that the government cannot escape its responsibility to provide an effective and efficient program of life-long education without which it will not be possible for progressive utilization of science and technology, and developing a climate of progress. There is a need to bring positive change in attitude, broadening mental horizons and developing scientific temper among masses. We also have to build a new generation to operate a modern society. We have to build a learning community in which all the members and all the organizations cooperate closely into making it a physically, economically, culturally and mentally pleasant place to live.

It has been seen that effectiveness of traditional educational system decreases with the national progress. The innovative community requires specialized and energetic education system with quick response to people's queries. Since the risk intensity increases with modernization, the new educational strategy has to increase the risk-taking capacity of the people. Life-long education should provide wide access to information and empowerment of mass and make efforts for an achieving and aspiring society.

5. Constituents of Life-long education

Some constituents of Life-long education are such as;

1. It contributes the instruction.
2. It develops the skills.
3. It increases the intellectual (cognitive) growth (horizon)
4. It develops interest, attitudes and values.

5. It is a systematic vocational, cultural education.

6. Contents of Life-long education

The contents of Life-Long education may be divided in some areas, which are following,

1. Professional literacy.
2. Vocational and Occupational education.
3. Professional re-training.
4. Education for cultural appreciation.
5. Education for responsibility of citizenship.
6. Education for adjustment about development and change.
7. Utilization of leisure horse.

7. Methods of Life-long education

The methods of Life - Long education depends upon its mode. It also depends on the learner's age group and the circumstances of the learner. For childhood the methods are suggested inspired with playing and activities. Self learning methods are suggested for youngsters. Cooperative learning methods are suggested for adults and for old age groups the methods inspired with deep-thinking, contemplation and assignment are suggested. Cotemporary debate, workshops, group discussion etc. methods are utilized for it. Hence the methods of life-long education are decided by the learner's age, circumstances, time and also need of it.

8. Modes of Life-long education

Presently, extension education, distance education and continuing education are the main modes of providing life-long education in our country. All kind of education like formal, in formal non-formal, further, adult, continuing education are included in life-long education.

In the formal education a prescribed curriculum, text-book, prefixed time-table, session, admission and examination rules have to be followed. The education given form the primary stage to the university level is generally called formal education.

Unlike formal education there are no prefixed rules and regulations in informal education. In fact, an individual picks it up himself in his natural and social environments. It goes on ever in a continual manner. Family, society and state are the main agencies of informal education. A person can learn informally by the other agencies like religion, sports, cinema, and youth clubs.

Non-formal education is free from the traditions of rules and regulation. There are goals to be realized surely in non-formal education. Certain curriculum and procedures of evaluation have to be followed in it. But for following the laid down curriculum and other procedures, there are no fixed place, time-duration and admission rules. The procedures for this type are quite flexible. The convenience of students is given more importance and the place of teacher and administration is given a secondary consideration. Distance education open educations etc. are the forms of non-formal education.

A person can learn through library and reading room and social education centers also. One of the most important modes of life-long education is communication media. News papers and magazines, correspondences courses, radio, television, video audio records and satellite instructional television experiment (SITE) are utilized for learning. It is also a mode of life-long education. Contemporary by information technology is the best way for learning, such as e-learning.

9. Effects of Life-long education

Life-long education performs following in a society:

1. It serves as extension of the skills and knowledge acquired from the formal school system.
2. It fills the gap created by the former school system.
3. It tends to correct the distortions which arise from the formal school systems.
4. It provides a wide range of learning services for unskilled and semi-skilled workers:
5. It provides numeracy and literacy to citizens who were not opportune to be in the formal system or those who dropped out before completion.
6. It creates an adjustable and moral society.
7. It provides successful, adjustable and prosperous lives.
8. It provides opportunity for innovation.

10. The Role of Life-long education

Emerging Indian society should be a learning society. We have to be literate, educated and learners since the very outset of creation, man has been finding ways and means to make the life easier and comfortable, this process will be every-lasting. Many people in our country who take admission in schools, colleges and universities happen to drop-out in the middle without completing the prescribed course of studies successfully. Thus large numbers of our citizens are not able to complete their formal education. In fact, to live a successfully and progressive life only formal education is not sufficient. To improve the knowledge, skills and competence a person should learn forever. It will not be wrong to say that even in such persons desire to acquire further knowledge must be stimulating them at times. So there is need of continuing education. As we know that learning is the process of acquiring knowledge. As such learning may stop at mere acquisition of knowledge or may proceed further towards acquiring newer skills or techniques and beyond. Thus, it is the acquired behavior which is part and parcel of life—a process of living. Thus everyone needs continuing education in some form or another. In fact it may be said that all great achievements in the world are only results of some persons who succeeded in procuring knowledge, experience and education by utilizing their leisure hour in a worthwhile manner. To create a learning society first of all we have to create keen of learning in each member of society. Today a person wants to be successful in every field of life. For the possibility and progress of the successful life we have to create a learning society. We have to motivate the person to learn anywhere-anyhow. Today people require a systematic and planned education which should continue throughout the life in one form or the other. Only then they will be able to get acquainted with the latest human achievements. We should give importance to the skills of learning. A person must get ready for learning to learn. We have to provide the necessary opportunities to learn how to learn. The most important things is that the learner himself think that what to learn, How to learn and How to utilize it for life. We have to update the skill of learning which will help every individual to learn throughout life.

An effective life-long education system is possible only through intelligent selection and proper use of various communication channels. We have to use information technology and Medias for it. Finally we have to employ latest communication strategies to spread our message quickly and effectively to the members of a “learning” society.

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