



Challenges of 21st Century Education

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Abstract:

Things are changing around us very dramatically, very quickly. The world is becoming more interconnected, the environment is becoming less stable, and technology is continuously altering our relationship to information. Changing global conditions demand that we rethink what, but even more important, how and where we learn. We need education for the 21st century.

In response to the challenges we face in the digital age, schools are starting to do education differently. Why restrict lesson times to an hour when half-day sessions allow pupils to delve really deeply into subject material? Many young people have smart phones, so why not allow them to be used as learning aids? Adults learn in the real world, why not let pupils? And, fundamentally, the best teachers are people who love learning, and the best way to make sure that you understand what you are learning is to teach.

The schools that are taking this seriously are still in the minority. But across the world there is a growing global movement towards achieving the vision of 21st century education.

Keywords: Challenges, Global Movement, Illiteracy, 21st Century Education

1. Introduction

***“Knowledge is the food for man because in absence of knowledge
man cannot grow his food”***

“Education is the pond of knowledge”

Today, every country of the world is trying to be developed in every possible way. Every country whether it is a developed or developing, they both want to progress in a scientific way. They want to reach on the top of developments. But all countries know it better that whether the problem of poverty or corruption cannot be removing the problem of illiteracy.

All our leaders and educators are trying to get over this problem but, find them unable to do so. And this all is happening due to our sick and insufficient education policies.

And when our policies fail, we curse to others like population is washing our efforts and corruption has eaten up our system etc... In this context when we talk about education and its contemporary issues. We should first discuss that what challenges and issues do we have in contemporary world and before this we should discuss that what are the aim and objectives of our education and then we should search the reason of it. The first aim of our education was *all round development of a child*, but it is quite apparent that all round development is like a day dream because the current system is not developing even a single ability in the child.

Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi once said, "By education I mean all round drawing out of the best in child and man body, mind and spirit." Our national poet, great philosopher and follower of naturalistic approach of education somewhere wrote that, the highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence." Here, a question rises do we follow the thoughts of our great educationist and leaders?

2. The Top Most Challenges

2.1 Un satisfaction of Youth

The main issues and challenges of contemporary Indian education are as follow. The fore most issue is the unsatisfaction of youth. Teachers are unable to satisfy the youth by their knowledge and methods of teaching their knowledge level and education system is not providing the satisfaction and due to this the youth stands against the teachers and system.

2.2 Discipline

The second reason is discipline in schools and colleges. This reason is given of our so called leaders and social contractors. Who instigates the youth time to time for their own benefits.

2.3 Unemployment

Third can be the problem of unemployment. Some of our educators think that now this problem is an issue for education system but when a youth looks his or her brother or sister unemployed even after getting bachelor or post graduate degree , they are unemployed, this give the birth to a revolt.

2.4 Poverty

Poverty can be next issue or a challenge to which our education system is facing. Nowadays the cost of getting education is very high so poor of our society find themselves lost in getting education.

2.5 Political Unwillingness

Political unwillingness is also a great challenge for our education system. Politicians think that they got five years to fulfill their wishes. Matters of education are just kept in pending.

2.6 Casteism

Casteism creates a wall between lower class and upper class. Once I was in another college there I saw a teacher taking fee from the students (you will say what is surprising in this in most of the schools teacher takes fee from the students). But when a student came to give fee, the teacher asked to put the amount on the table. That boy put the amount on the table and went. When I asked about the matter, the teacher replied I was busy in some other work so I could not take the amount in hand. But reality was different, that boy belonged to SC category and that was untouchable for the teacher... *This happens in our schools and in colleges.*

2.7 Dearness

Dearness is another challenge for the education system. Fee of colleges and schools is rising day by day with public schools raising their fee structure in every session but the wages of laborer is not increasing at the same speed. So poor people find themselves unable in admitting their children in those schools. And government schools do not compete with the public schools or CBSE schools.

2.9 Corruption

Corruption which has become the right of all government officers and whole system. In many schools it is found that the fund which was sending to the school disappeared on the way.

2.10 Privatization of Education

Privatization of education is great issue. Some learned people say that government officials take higher salaries but not work according to that. But in private institutes teachers remains in very critical conditions which is not good for the education system.

2.11 Unawareness of Teachers

Unawareness of teachers about the methods and techniques of teaching. Even they are not interested in these. Teaching is the profession in which a teacher needs to polish his /her knowledge day by day. And because it is the profession daily updating of methods and techniques is compulsory. I think this is the demand of the profession but our teachers are so rigid that they don't want to change themselves.

2.12 Character of Teachers

Our teacher's character is going downwards. A teacher is the only person who can change the direction of the society. He is the person who is the center point of any education system. This influences much our society than any other part of the society. This effects much our education than all the above points. But nowadays news in different form can be read in newspapers that a teacher kidnapped his /her students or a teacher raped his student. And due to this many students left their schooling on the mid way.

All these issues and challenges did not rise in a day they took a long period. If we look back in time, ancient time India was on the top in education and knowledge. This was the country in which students used to come from all over the world to acquire the knowledge and education. No country of the world was even near to it. Then what happened to our great country?

The story starts from the invaders first Muslim invaders who came to the country to loot it and tried to destroy the culture and knowledge of the country. After them came the British invaders. They left our country in the condition of a beggar gave us many things like poverty, corruption, injustice, unemployment and many other problems which are now standing up as a challenge for our education system.

And, now as we see in the society that the level of our social, moral, culture values and ideals are going downwards towards hell. We are acquiring western culture and social values which are totally different from ours. We believe in spiritual education and they believe in physical or worldly education. Then how can we develop our current education system because it provides us only the mob of unemployed youth?

Students do not want to go to study.... they try to get good marks by unfair means and teachers do not want to teach...and they pay their total attention to coaching classes.

Private college owners sell the degrees and marks on high rates or bids. This happened due to the mentality of college owners because most of the college owners came in this field belong to the business families or people who had some useless land and little money to invest, they came in this sector due to high profit and not to serve the society, which is natural. Then how we can think that those people will serve the country and society, because such people think treats with school as a factory, principals/HOD as a managers and teachers as workers.

But at last I shall bind up with these lines that people who are in this field or who are the part of this holy course should think that this occupation is like that doctor's job who gives light to the blind and this job is the part of that holy job of God because God made man but we make them civilized.

3. Top 4 Challenges for Education in India

India is the largest democracy with remarkable diversity among its population of 1.2 billion which makes up about 17% of the world's population. Almost 70% of Indian population is rural. The adult literacy rate stands at about 60% and this is significantly lower in women and minorities. Education in India comprises of government, government aided and private institutions of which nearly 40% are government. With the population growth rate of 1.5%, there is tremendous pressure on the education system to provide quality education at affordable price and improve the literacy rate. Education in India faces following primary challenges:

3.1 Quality

Maintaining standard of education in more than a million schools nationwide, offering training programs to teachers, and keeping good balance with education system worldwide is a big challenge. Schools vary in size and resources and are forced compromise in the all round development opportunities they must provide to students.

3.2 Access

Having infrastructural constraints and social issues, it becomes harder to make education accessible to all segments of the society (women, minorities, poor).

3.3 Cost

The cost of education is very high even for the people and places where it is accessible. E.g. the competitive pressure on students & parents forces them to opt for private tuitions & trainings to supplement the school education.

3.4 Social & Cultural

The ethnic diversity in India poses challenges to implement consistent education nationwide. There are more than 300 languages spoken in the country and makes it difficult to offer education tailored to specific social segment. Educating women in some societies is a big issue. Children of poor families are forced to work and miss out the learning opportunities. Illiterate adults have very limited opportunities to get educated at later age in their lives.

4. Conclusion

Our world is different and rapidly changing. What we are trying to do in education today is have our children prepared for that "new" world and to understand how to use these needed skills to be adaptable and flexible. Finding the time to reflect on what they have to do and then to step forward in a proactive way to solve whatever problems they may face is the key. It is an exciting time in education! We are asking far more out of students and teachers than we have ever asked before. Together, we will help our children develop the confidence and competence they need to face the new world head-on. May be then we can stop with the references to "21st Century Learning" and get on with the fact that this is just learning... period! Without loose our confidence.

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