

18. Effective Teaching – the only way to ignite young minds

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In the era of internet and media exposures, it is rudimentary to nurture minds and bodies alike so that only relevant information percolates in their system and influences them in a positive way.

Teaching methodologies of the “Gurukul “way in the past has led to original thinking, innovative developments, creative works, intelligent involvements contributing to social, cultural and economic benefits to our country.

The question always arises whether instructions given in schools, colleges and across several universities are enjoyed by the receptors or are dumped into their learning process for the sake of adding entries in their personal database. These databases are only utilized for the purpose of form filling of different aptitudes, job openings etc. and act as added thickness to their personal files.

As a matter of fact, Rabindranath Tagore, the author and composer of our national anthem had dropped out of school as he was able to excite his creativity only when he was amidst

nature. He could not be in sync with the typical system-based learning within the perimeter of a classroom. Later when he introduced “Shanti Niketan” he ensured that his students enjoy and the formal outcomes of a school are satisfied.

Though project-based learning had been promoted for quite some time, its authenticity, originality and outcomes need to be measured not only by marks or degrees acquired but also by the artistic, commercial and technical prowess gathered by learners. Problem statements are better to be propagated among young learners about all subjects and solutions of those ideas are discussed with them only after they have used experimental base to find out innovative ways to solve them.

Unless a congenial environment is provided, thought processes will not get stimulated. Therefore, effective curriculum of a course, its utility and usefulness, omission of unnecessary subjects within a course, the depth of each topics, blending of eastern and western cultures in the teaching process, avoiding restrictions to the methodologies of content delivery and assessment methods are necessary.

Classrooms, teaching halls etc. are supposed to support the matter within a course and to support those research laboratories, gardens, NGO sites, mini manufacturing plants could be utilized for rendering thoughts and processes of young brains.

Learners’ ability, interests, compatibility, effectiveness could be gauged in the early years of education and parallel

curriculum needs to be structured so as to bridge a major gap existing in our education system. Skills required to solve issues with daily life must be an essential part of all courses and so jobs of plumber, carpenter, electrician, cobbler, tailor and many others should be included in addition to regular experiments. That would avoid social gaps among different classes of people and create different job profiles.

Diversity in courses not limited to engineering, medical, arts and commerce has been introduced so far but it needs revision and modification. Self-awareness should be created among young learners with practical demonstration, its benefits to society, individuals and create fresh job avenues and better employability.

Brain drain to other countries would be avoided and our products, art and craft, articles etc. would receive its much needed and deserved attention by other countries.

Education for all has been a motto by our government but its need is to be instilled in every individual and schemes are to be promoted and advertised. Student and teacher exchange programs between different countries as well as among various universities of our country would invite a natural information flow and develop strong learning attitude, confidence, fresh thinking, and imbibe tolerance, positivity and sensitivity among learners and educators.

A rule to teach rural people or those who cannot afford education has to compulsorily be embedded as a duty of every

citizen similarly as done in medical fields which indirectly would improve our economy and place our country as a developed one in near future.

A complete overhaul of our education system would require industrialists, academicians, public and private organizations, media as well as students to join hands and form strong platform which would invite showcasing new talents, laurels and award-based programmes, strong tie-ups and mental growth and understanding.

Our age-old traditions and heritages are to be showcased by mass promotion of yoga-based courses, Ayurveda, Sanskrit literature, typical art styles across states, weaving skills in textile domain, organic agriculture, classical songs and dance forms, healthy Indian cooking styles etc.

Sports could treat as a separate and compulsory study with better opportunities and scope in an affordable budget.

Evaluation of teachers through appraisals should be a healthy and mandatory process to ensure individual effectiveness and the methodologies devised to do so require a complete change so as to complete the loop of outcome-based education. The education ecosystem must understand value-based roles and responsibilities to meet the multiple demands of teaching-learning experiences.

State or district-based government officials should provide survey on a regular basis in all education organizations involving teachers and students and even senior members of the

society in the process for safe and fair data gathering process to build a motivating zeal and confidence among educational heads to give in further efforts based on the survey. In this way all members of a society would feel the sense of a responsibility which would lead to their professional growth and an effective trust and need based learning process.

As said by Tagore, "The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence."