

Some Views to Improve Present Education System

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Abstract

Education is a multiple learning lifetime process of gaining knowledge from all means. The present education system is mainly based on the intelligence quotient I.Q aspects and lacuna exists in emotional intelligence quotient E.Q. aspects. To improve the quality of the present education system emotional intelligence subject should be implemented as compulsory subject at college level in Indian universities. A tentative syllabus for E.Q. is highlighted. Three dimensional thinking can enrich E.Q of a student. Students of higher E.Q are talented in facing of any arising situation in a perfect manner. We need fast track updating of teacher's knowledge through refresher courses and extending internet facilities to improve the quality of teaching. Research and publications of papers / books are to be made mandatory norm to teachers at college / university level to enhance the quality of teaching and progress of India. Professorship may be reintroduced in college level to motivate teachers in research.

KEYWORDS: Education, Emotional intelligence, Student, Indian university

Introduction

UNESCO Commission on Education in the year 1972 declared that education is a life long process and its purpose is to establish a learning society – a society which knows how to learn, to grow and transform itself to the needs of ever changing world. Swami Vivekananda said that “Education is not the amount of information that is put into your brain. If you have assimilated five ideas and made them your life and character, you have more education than any man who has got by heart a whole library”. This paper attempts to highlight the views to improve the present education system, especially in quality aspects.

New Definition: “Education is a multiple learning lifetime process of gaining knowledge from parents, teachers, friends and neighbours, books and journals, movies, Television channels and internets as well as from experiences and exposures to different environs. Any kind of learning of an individual beneficial to mankind and nature is under the scope of education”. The knowledge equips everyone to suit for the changing world and also to modify the societal conditions to realize his own goals.

Society need based Revision of Curriculum:

Quality and standard of education depends on the continuous review and updating of the curriculum of the students in the school, college and universities levels periodically. Board of studies should delete the lessons not useful to life and society and periodically introduce new syllabi to suit the society needs. A best education system is not only improving the I.Q. (Intelligence quotient) of students but also equally the E.Q. (Emotional quotient).

Emotional quotient (or) Emotional Intelligence is a newly evolved science, which deals with ways and means to handle the newly arise any situation in a right manner. It is a science emerged out of past problem solving good experiences of individual scholars and Nations, which they have successfully adopted to overcome the hurdles of problematic situation of all kinds (ex. occasion of decision making board meetings, Terrorism, Tsunami, earthquakes, flooding, settlement of National and even family problems). Still now our system of education is not well concentrated on E.Q aspects.

Importance of Emotional Intelligence (E.Q) aspects.

Human brain is mainly composed of combinations of acid natured positive charged white cells of heat component and base natured, negative charged grey cells of cold component (Manimaran, 2003). Seymour Levin (1966) pointed that the interpretations of informations are carried out by grey cells of brain and the communications and executions are done through white cells of the brain. While understanding of information is through frontal cortex of brain (I.Q. house) and three dimensional thinking and decision making on newly arising environments are through parietal cortex of brain (E.Q. house). During the three dimensional thinking brain cells of both frontal cortex and parietal cortex are activated. It is well known that Geology is a field science in which students are compelled to think in three dimensions to understand any geological process like continental plates motion, erosion of mountain, Transportation and deposition of sediments in ocean, earthquakes and each and every process of earth acting in 3D. Hence students of Geoscience have ample opportunity for the activation of I.Q and E.Q houses of their brain. On analysing the success of our own students of Geology V.O.Chidambaram College, Tuticorin for the past 23 years; I came to know strikingly 80% of them are of higher E.Q. acquired students, though I.Q. wise above average. Still I remember them as active, aggressive, competent of doing the assigned job in a excellent ways, never short tempered and problematic but sharp and smart higher E.Q students. In real sense E.Q. brings out smartness and good leadership qualities of a student. From the success history of my students, I can boldly chalkout that the present education which is fully loaded with I.Q. aspects (lot of information) should be reformed to incorporate the E.Q.aspects so as to improve the quality of the education.

Syllabus for emotional intelligence

Education is the key for creating, developing, adopting and spreading knowledge in different disciplines. Universities and colleges have a paramount duty and responsibility to produce new knowledge and adapt knowledge produced in any part of world and create intelligent human power at all levels. Emotional intelligence (or) emotional quotient, simply called E.Q is a newly emerged behavioral science during the late decade of twentieth century. Sofar only few books are available on this subject.

The competencies of emotional intelligence (E.Q) are self-awareness, self-regulations, Empathy, social skills, problem understandings, decision making and perfect handling of any situations. Self-awareness is the ability of self- assessment to know strengths and weaknesses in all aspects and accept feedback without justifying. Self regulation is the humility to review self behaviors to achieve the goals through own strengths while focusing to improve upon weakness. Empathy is the ability to understand others behaviour and acknowledge differences and feedback with open mind. Social

skills to be learned are communication skills, group working and behaviour skills, presentation skills, leadership skills, interpersonal skills, self-motivation in the face of opposition and all soft skills. The other salient features of emotional intelligence are multidimensional approach to a problem, analysing any problems in pathways of past, recent, present and future and trying to make out correct decision in the current context. An attempt is made here to frame the broad outlines of the syllabus for E.Q.

Syllabus for Emotional Intelligence Quotient (E.Q)

- Definition and scope of emotional intelligence (E.Q)
- Views of different scholars on E.Q and I.Q.
- Facts and problems in human psychology.
- Self Assessment and self regulations of individuals.
- Development of social skills and soft skills.
- Case studies on decision making board meetings.
- Successful Scenarios behind freedom of Nations.
- Dos and Don'ts on a changing business environments.
- Merits and demerits of privatization and globalization
- Practical problems of Disaster management.
- Facts from dissolved border problems between Districts, States and Nations.
- Disputes and solutions to environmental problems.
- History of National disputes and their solutions.
- Facts and failures of world wars, country wars and terrain intelligence.
- Tackle the problems of Terrorism.
- Eradication of social evils
- Importance of humanism, patriotism secularism and fundamental rights.
- Case studies on Pros and Cons of Government policies.
- Problems related to planning and execution history from different countries.
- Solved International disputes.
- Meditation and Yoga related to emotional intelligence.
- Exercises to improve self-awareness, self-regulation, empathy, social skills three-dimensional thinking and decision making.

UGC Model Curriculum for Emotional Intelligence

To provide an updated education to the students at large, University Grants Commission has published UGC model Curriculum (2001) in 32 subjects prepared by subject experts of Curriculum Development Committee constituted by UGC. Recognizing the importance of environmental issues, UGC on the direction of the Hon'ble supreme court, introduced a six months compulsory core module course in environmental studies almost in all the colleges / universities of India from 2004 – 2005 Academic years onwards.

Renewing and updating of the curriculum to take care of newly emerged science like emotional intelligence is a must to improve the standard of education and competency of our students. On considering the benefits of the subjects, UGC may take necessary steps to constitute a Curriculum Development Committee to prepare UGC Model Curriculum for emotional intelligence and may introduce the emotional

intelligence subject as a compulsory subject for the benefits of each and every graduate students at college / university level.

We need ever updating professionally competent teachers

It is an important fact that the progress of a country depends on the quality of education, which in turn depends on the quality of its teachers at all levels of education. In India, 5.3million people are involved in the noble teaching profession of which about 4.95 million are teachers of elementary and secondary schools (Chockalingam, 2003; 2004). All teachers are not always respected, but good teachers are always respected.

“Every teacher should bear in mind that nothing can be taught, but everything can be learnt” rightly said by Sri Aurobindo.

As a dedicated teacher personally I feel that lifetime thirst of learning and teaching are the left and right respiration of a teacher. Without updated learning, quality in teaching is impossible. Teacher should update himself / herself with the modern knowledge and recent trends in research fields of different disciplines. Every year UGC has organized many refresher courses in many subjects so as to professionally upgrade the teachers. But due to want of teacher participants many refresher courses are either cancelled or postponed. The main reasons behind the failures in conducting refresher courses are

1. Long duration of the refresher course, usually more than 3 weeks.
2. The refresher course organizing institute is far-off from the locations of colleges of participants.
3. Psychologically most of the teachers are hesitant to stay continuously out of station for more than 2 weeks.

Hence to successfully update the knowledge of teachers in a fast track, UGC may take necessary steps to conduct more refresher courses in local colleges and universities by inviting subject experts from various institutes and duration of the course may be reduced to two weeks. It is a bound duty of every teacher to attend and update their knowledge through refresher courses, since teachers are committed to offer quality education to student's community.

To improve quality of education each teacher should have free access to internet facilities to update his knowledge for the preparation of his class room lectures and for receiving the latest information and data in their field of research. College / University authorities should consider this most important aspects to elevate the quality of education.

Research can rejuvenate the quality of education

Innovative research and publishing of research articles / books should be made mandatory for teachers at college/ university levels. Without research, it is believed that education remains stale and outdated. Unless the teaching faculty is involved with research as well, the system will become sterile and no progress to the country. While

addressing the All India Conference of the Vice Chancellors in November 2003 at Tirupati, Our president of India Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam emphasized that

“Experience of research leads to quality teaching, and quality teaching imparted to the young in turn enriches the research and higher learning. Research brings transformations and development and also enhance the quality of education. This sets in a regenerative cycle of excellence”.

National Assessment and Accreditation council (2003) considered that the extent of research work undertaken by the College/ University becomes a measure of judgment for their core competence and quality of education offered by them. To improve the quality of education through motivating the research attitudes of faculty members of the colleges, UGC may reintroduce professorship to the college level also. Faculty members of college those who published research papers / books and Readers / Selection Grade Lecturers of proved excellence in education may be upgraded to the professor posts.

Conclusion

The present education system is fully loaded with I.Q. aspects (Intelligence Quotient). To reform present education system E.Q aspects (Emotional Intelligence Quotient) should be incorporated. UGC model curriculum for the subject of emotional intelligence should be prepared and made compulsory subject at college level of Indian Universities so as to improve the quality of education and students. Updating of knowledge of teachers through refresher courses and free access to Internets is a must to improve the quality of present education system. Research can enhance the quality of teaching and to motivate research activities among faculty members of college professorship may be reintroduced at college level.

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