International Journal of Applied Research

Dr. Seema Singh
Department of Political
Science Agra College, Agra,
Uttar Pradesh, India

Role of education in social change

Dr. Seema Singh

Abstract
Education is considered the most powerful tool in bringing change in men, it preserves, transmits and develops the culture of a society. Education and culture are mutually interdependent, complementary and supplementary in all their aspects and activities. Education prepares the mentality of people to welcome and adopt desirable social changes easily. It may be noted that the people will welcome and adapt any technique of pattern only when they become convinced of its utility and desirability. Education structures the wholesome and conducive environment for the social changes to become acceptable to all. Societies usually face various problems. Education May enable the society overcome some of the problems. It is the duty of an educated person to device strategies that would help the society to overcome the problems. Educated people should use their knowledge in improving the welfare of the society. It is vital to ensure that the knowledge of the educated people does not go in waste.

Keywords: Education, social change, poverty, illiteracy, knowledge, environment integration

Introduction

Education has been major catalyst for the growth and development of modern civilization. No society will succeed to get rid of her ills without a sound system of education. India as a developing country and as an emerging global power cannot afford to ignore her education system India has been known since ancient times for highly appreciated, knowledge tradition, structured around the framework of Gurukul Parampara, which was characterized by self-motivated devotion to teaching learning process. Indian teaching learning tradition excelled in in all branches of knowledge and produced number of great scholars like Panini, Kalidas, Sushrut, Aryabhatt, Varaha Mihir, Charak etc.

Objective of Study: This research paper focusses on role of education in social change with special reference to educated people.

Education

The term education is very common and popular word that is used by many of us but understood by a very few in its right perspective. The word education is derived from the Latin word 'educare' which means 'to raise' and 'to bring up'. According to few others the word education has originated from another Latin word 'educere' which means 'to lead forth'. This shows that education seeks to nourish good qualities bring out the best in every individuals. Some others believe that the word education has been derived from the Latin term 'educatum' which means 'the act of teaching or training'. In this reference we can say that education aims to provide a nourishing environment that would facilitate or bring out and develop the potential that is in an individual. Here are some definitions –
Plato, "the end of education was to develop in the body and in the soul all the beauty and all the perfection of which they are capable". It means a sound mind in a sound body.
Mahatma Gandhi, "education I mean and all around drawing out of the best in a child man's body, mind and spirit".
Doctor Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a great philosopher and educationist of India has said "education must be humane, it must include not only the training of the intellect but also the refinement of the heart and the discipline of the spirit".
So, the idea of education not merely impart knowledge to the people in some subjects but to develop in those habits and attitudes with which he successfully face the future.

Corresponding Author:
Dr. Seema Singh
Department of Political
Science Agra College, Agra,
Uttar Pradesh, India

The objective of education has been recognised as an instrument of social change. The role of higher education will be imparted training and skill for the empowerment of socially disadvantaged groups. Education plays a vital role for socio cultural and economic development of a nation. Education and social change are interrelated. Both are equally important for the growth and development of a society. Education has a great social importance especially in the modern society. Society needs to change from time to time for its own prosperity and development. Social change may include changes in nature, social institutions, social behaviour and social relations.

Change means accepting new ideas leading evolution and development. Change is the law of nature. The rapid growth of industrialisation and urbanization results in change in social setups, social institutions as well as social patterns of human life. The role of education as an agent of social change is widely recognised and it plays an important role in moulding the structure of a society.

Education is considered the most powerful tool in bringing change in men, it preserves, transmits and develops the culture of a society. Education and culture are mutually interdependent, complementary and supplementary in all their aspects and activities. Education prepares the mentality of people to welcome and adopt desirable social changes easily. It may be noted that the people will welcome and adapt any technique of pattern only when they become convinced of its utility and desirability. Education structures the wholesome and conducive environment for the social changes to become acceptable to all.

Societies usually face various problems. Education May enable the society overcome some of the problems. It is the duty of an educated person to device strategies that would help the society to overcome the problems. Educated people should use their knowledge in improving the welfare of the society. It is vital to ensure that the knowledge of the educated people does not go in waste.

The educated people can participate in the social construction by doing quite a few things. They can bring Big as well as small changes. But here I focus only a few small changes which can be easily done, and if done properly can bring about revolutionary changes in the society. First of all we take the example of untouchability. In spite of various laws to end social discrimination, we must admit that caste continues to play a role in a person's access to opportunities. A person born in a certain caste always remains in that caste, irrespective of talent or efforts. This evil has stuck to us and still remains with us. It is true that the cause of untouchability is much less in urban life than in rural life. The sooner it is abolished, the better it is for India. Educated youth can take leading part in eradicating this evil from the social system than any other agency.

Another area that needs attention is form of inequality that is deeply entrenched in our country based on gender. The dropout rate in schools is hire for girls then it is for boys, in spite of the fact that girls tend to outshine boys academically. To my mind, empowering women is another important way of empowering the nation. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru once said that all our progress depends not on the factories and plants that are put up, but on the quality of human beings that we produce and train. According to him, "subject can be of greater importance than that of education which is supposed to build those men and women". Today

education is seen as a major vector in society. Education plays critical role in women's economic empowerment. Absence of education can bring a negative change in the country's development for becoming a superpower.

Now we talk about illiteracy. Most of the villages are illiterate. They do not have any functional education. Education carries a tremendous impact in modernizing the behaviour and the character of the people. As per the last census, only about 65% of the people illiterate. This comprises of the people who are only able to write their names and put their signatures. The educated people should try to dispel such ignorance by spreading scientific knowledge. Education can also change the technique of production. The agricultural graduates educate them what are the adoption of latest modern techniques with a view to increase agricultural productivity which will result in improving rural economy.

Illiteracy is most dangerous for the development of any society. It results in most significant issues such as unemployment, population burst, poverty etc. Illiteracy only can be prevented by education. Our government has also taken some steps to eradicate literacy by adopting some programs such as Sarva Shiksha abhiyan, national education policy but the role of educated people in this direction may bring a significant change. The relationship between education and population has attracted the attention of both scholars and policy makers. Education has a great motivational force to perform for controlling overpopulation. Fortunately, in our country there is not much opposition against family planning. What is necessary is there that people should be educated in regard to population control so that they can realise the importance of birth control.

On the economic front, poverty is one of the most fundamental challenges before us. Lack of education continues to be another problem, which is closely linked to poverty. We all know that the schools and colleges often cater to only the rich and privileged. Poor send their children to schools which often lack good teachers, and other support infrastructure. Since the poor go to the poor-quality schools where children find it difficult to break the circle of poverty. The children of the poor remain poor. Perhaps the only way we can prevent poverty from being passed on from generation to generation is through education. Mother Teresa once said that "We should have love and affection for the poor people rather than show sympathy and compassion to them". It seems to us that most of the educated people who are now trying to serve the people having a patronising attitude towards them. This is not a healthy sign. If we can change the environment, they can become useful citizens of the society and many of them can do much better than others, who are well placed in the society.

Now we can also focus on the problem of environment. There are a lot of environmental issues around the globe. Air pollution, water pollution, unexpected climate change, garbage, are some of the challenges faced by many other countries in the world. We can also consider the question of plantation of trees. Deforestation has created on the great deal of ecological imbalance in the country. Trees are among the most important living resources. They play most important role in the essential global cycling of oxygen, carbon and nitrogen.

They not only supply fuel for cooking timber for construction cellulose and pulp for the production of paper, plastics but also their ecological role is also very important. When trees are so essential, the educated people should try to participate in such an important endeavour to sustain life on earth. The educated people may spare some time from their busy day to day work, plant some trees and aware the people with the sum technical know-how regarding the after care of the plantation so that they can be able to maintain the same. Educational institutes should facilitate the planting of trees by students. Educated people also should encourage people about waste management and water conservation by organising events Vriksha Bandhan and Vriksha Dan.

Education can prove very useful in bringing about national integration which is the basis for unity among people. The history of India presents a very poor record of national integration. In the pages of history, we find innumerable instances of indignity and humiliations because of this disunity. Even though today we are free, the spirit of unity has not yet developed. There seem to be many obstacles in the way of integration. The most formidable obstacles are linguism, communalism and regionalism. If India has to survive, all these divisive forces have to be contained and controlled effectively. If the educated people take this as a challenge and make every effort to reduce divisive forces and enlarge the areas of agreement, they will be able to promote National unity and understanding.

Conclusion

Education is generally regarded as an effective instrument of upward social mobility. Abraham Lincoln of the United States, whose journey from the 'log cabin into the white House' is a shining example of social mobility. The educated people in society should consider themselves agents of social change who can influence the minds of the young and should consciously reach the weaker section of society and encourage them to pursue higher education so that they become bright and confident citizens of the future. But today educated people are becoming self-centred. They are using their knowledge and degrees as a passport to easy life. If the educated people can intensely feel for the poor and the country, we can build a society free from rancor and bitterness and help in bring about social and economic reconstruction which is conducive to healthy and dissent life. There are many more things which can be done but let us start with a few and do these with sincerity and devotion.

References

1. Saha, Pijushkanti. Role of Universities in Societal Transformation, University News. 2005;43(47):87-90.
2. Misra, Baidyanath. Educational Inputs for Social Change, University News. 2005;43(47):91-94.
3. Planning Commission. Report of the Commission on India Vision 2020, Government of India, New Delhi, 2002.
4. Sharma KA. 50 Years of University Grant's Commission, University Grants Commission, New Delhi, 2003.
5. Mashelkar RA. Paradigm of Wealth Creation through Knowledge, University News, 1999, 37(35).
6. Kalam APJ. The Second Green Revolution and Beyond, University News, 2004, 42(5).
7. Rao BS. Values in Higher Education, Society and Development. Edited by Tilak, J.B.G., APH Publishing Corporation, New Delhi, 2003.
8. Dube SC. Theories and goals of education: A Third World Perspective. In Sinha, R.P. (Ed.) Inequality in Indian Education, Vikas Publishing House, New Delhi, 1997.
9. Kirpal, Vinay, Gupta, Meenakshi. Equality through Reservations, Rawat Publications, Jaipur, 1999.
10. Sinha D. Towards an ecological framework of deprivation. In Sinha, D. and Mishra, G. (Ed.) Deprivation: Its Sociological Roots and Psychological Consequence, Concept Publishing House, New Delhi, 1982.