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School and community-Partners in management of quality education

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Abstract

The Community contains within it many agencies of education such as family and the school. Hence educational process becomes more effective when the community is directly and closely related to the process of education. A school to perform its functions effectively should aim at, being an internal component of the community, providing useful services to it and in performing its roles obtaining support and acceptance from the community. Keeping this in new, the author tries to stress the need for active participation of community in the management of schools and their educational programmers.

Keywords: Partners, Management, Quality Education.

1. Introduction

Education is a social process and community is a concrete social organization, constituting a group of individual located in a specific geographical area ^[1]. Members of this group have generally a common life style, language, objective and occupations. All its members are inspired by a sense of community welfare. This group of individuals aiming at welfare of the community plays a significant role in the field of education- formal and informal.

Informal role of community in education

Informally community plays a significant role in socializing a new generation at any particular time ^[2]. It also makes a direct contribution to the child's style of living, development of ability and sense of behaving either people of different age groups.

It gives definite direction to the child's attitudes interests and aspirations, preparing ground for deter the goals of life.

Thus community educates children in the real sense, provides real learning leading to modifications of children's behavior.

Formal Function of Community for Education

Formally, the role of community is planning educational programmers at local level and implementing the programmers by providing physical, financial and human resources from its own sources and the resources from the government.

Supervising and monitoring of programmers from time to time to know 'what is happening' 'what is going wrong' and 'what plans and direction are called for' also falls under the responsibilities of the community.

Thus if community is motivated to perform above said functions, it can prove an ideal partner for managing quality education leading to better quality of life.

Community as an Effective Agency for Management Quality Education

Community being an important agency of education can enrich and supplement learning by socializing the child through its various institutions. It provides concrete, seeable and tangible resources which may prove meaningful for the learners. ^[3]

Important Community Resources

Generally, in a community we find following important resources:

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1. **Places of civic interest:** Which include village panchayat and state legislature.
2. **Places of Cultural Interest:** which include art theatres, clubs, emporium galleries, kala Kendra, museums, and radios stations, T.V. Stations, Zoos etc.
3. **Places of Geographical Interest:** which comprise dams, hills, lakes, rivers, river valley projects, rocks, springs, tea gardens, waterfalls etc.
4. **Places of Economies Interest:** which include agricultural farms, banks, commercial centers, factories, telephone exchange etc.
5. **Places of Historical Interest:** These include caves, churches, excavations, forts, gurudwaras, inscriptions, mosques, pillars, and temple etc.
6. **Places of Industrial Interest:** which include Factories, small scale craft groups etc.
7. **Places of scientific Interest:** which include broadcasting stations, engineering institutes, thermal and hydropower generating stations, television centers etc.
8. **Government Buildings:** which include fire stations, law courts, military installations, police stations, public libraries etc.
9. **Methods of Utilizing Community Resources for Quality Education:** Following methods can be employed by the schools for utilizing various community resources:
 1. Field trips to places of Civic, Cultural, Geographical, Social and Scientific important can be organized by the school authorities. These trips will prove very helpful in integrating class room instruction, stimulating imagination and learning by providing sensory perceptions, seeing life vividly, learning in the art of living with others and expanding emotional and intellectual horizons.
 2. Experience of the Members of the Public may be shared. Various resources visitors may be invited to the school to give out their life experiences in various walks of life which enhance the general knowledge of the pupils.
 3. Participation by the Parents in school Programmers may be promoted. It may help in raising funds for school. This will develop in them sense of belongingness to the school.
 4. Surveys can be conducted to know about the conditions of the community.
 5. Use of Resources for Specific Programmers of school improvement. E.g.
 - Repair the school buildings.
 - While washing of school buildings.
 - Provision of sheds for cooking mid-day meals.
 - Land for playground.
 - Donation of T.V., Radio etc.
 - Scholarship.
 - Coolers etc.

Thus the scope for community participation is unlimited.

10. **Importance of Community:** The school is a social

institution set up by social service community to serve its ends. Hence it is the responsibilities of school to inculcate the feeling of community social service through its various programmers units like NSS, NCC, Blood donation camp etc. Following are advantages of community service activities:

- These inculcate in the students the spirit of self sacrifice.
- These give children a scope for the develop an attitude of Co-operation and fellow feeling.
- They train students in leadership.
- They develop a widen outlook.
- These activities foster dignity of labour.

In conclusion it may be said the community is a child's laboratory which provides him first hand learning experience of different kinds. School in coordination with community can play an effective role in the building up citizens useful for the community and society as well.

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