

Restructuring The Educational System, A Mentoring Methodology, Art Integrated & Eco Friendly

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ABSTRACT: Education has an important role to play in the child's development. Is the present educational system aiding in the child's growth and development? Are we living the education that we are getting in the educational institutions? When there is progression in the field of science and technology, why is there so much of confusion and conflict in the mind of the educated? Education is in continuation of the past to the present and will be carried over to the future. What we receive in the present is the result of efforts put in by the earlier generations. Education exists in relationship and not in isolation. The education that we receive and experience has to be lived and that is "right living". Keeping in mind that education is not only for the immediate present but in having a long vision in connection to life, a balance in theory and practice has to be maintained. Throughout life, relationship is a great teacher, learning from the members of one's family, society, nature and the environment. Awareness, attention and sensitivity play important roles, in developing relationship with the surroundings, and the learner learns from observations.

The environmental conditions and social conditions affecting human mind body system, to a very great extent, are causing changes, in the thinking, human behavior and are affecting relationships. The upbringing, nurturing and the pattern of development, of a child are undergoing changes. Their requirements are increasing, with the result, the duty of the parents, and the teachers are trying. The increasing discontent in the 'teaching profession' is an alarming situation. Teaching requires a thoughtful, 'meditated' mind, in which the 'journey with the learners, is made in, togetherness'. The present atmospheric conditions are leaving the teachers, fatigued. Their occupation is demanding, more than their capabilities, resulting in inertia, in the system. Though we are progressing in very many ways, we are overlooking them, who are contributing, to the system. In order to eradicate, this, we urgently require 'appointments of mentors, along with teachers', who would counsel and cultivate the learners, taking care of their requirements, in friendliness, improving the relationships, in day to day life and benefiting the society at large. The learners belonging to the underprivileged class are struggling to achieve success, in life and learning. Those in the privileged urban sectors are mostly loners, getting addicted to gadgets. The job of the mentors would be to motivate the gadget addicted learners, in as many creative activities, so that their creativity is boosted. Arrangement of innovative programs could be planned and specially carried out, in associating, the learners from both the sections, of the society, in the 'Natural Environment'. It has been seen that children, have an inborn love for the nature. They love water, birds, flowers and animals. They love to play amidst nature. Their activities in nature, keep them fresh and healthy, both physically and mentally. The facilitation, with creative activities, will help in the learners' holistic development, through better relationships.

KEY WORDS –Art, Creative, Cultivate, Development, Eco Friendly, Mentor & Relationship

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I. INTRODUCTION

Dr. Perez Barrales, said at the University of Portsmouth, 'If you're a seedling in a barren landscape- the top of a mountain or a sand dune, for example – and you're lucky enough to end up underneath a big plant, your chances of survival are certainly better than if you landed somewhere on your own.' 'The seedling benefited from shade, more moisture and more nutrients, from the leaf litter of the nurse plant and probably higher bacteria and fungi in the soil, among other things. AS it, matured, the 'nurse' plants nearly growing alone, greatly increasing her chances of producing seeds and propagating.¹

Human being, nurtured well from the early stage of life, experience better sustenance and survival. A well nourished mind body system is ideal for learning and development. Is our curriculum learning aiding in the learners development in the true sense? How does learning affect our thinking? Are the learners experiencing joy and peace? Are the teachers enjoying their part of job? In my opinion education is a journey made in togetherness in which both the learner and the teacher share and participate on a common platform. The increasing dissatisfaction among the learners is due to too much of expectations. They are unable to cope and balance learning and living. We are following a pattern in the present educational system, set a century back. In

my opinion learners are wasting a lot of time and energy in following an old agenda, which is creating drudgery, resulting in frustration. We have not considered that we have to change the system of learning, with changes in our social structure. The learners thinking can bring changes which are hardly being considered in education. We have to encourage learning in a way in which the learners remain fresh & creative.

II. SIGNIFICANCE OF MENTORING

We are part of the universe having the capacity of getting cosmic energy, to enliven ourselves. Our mind is in relation to the cosmic energy. In education, it is the thoughts in the learners' mind and the inherent source of energy playing vital roles. We need to develop tools through education to understand the nature of our thoughts. Only a mind that is in silence can draw energy from the cosmos. We have to be watchful about not wasting our energy, as whatever that is happening outside affects directly or indirectly our thinking processes. What sort of thoughts would lead to restoration of energy? Our thoughts distorted for many reasons are a waste of energy. The foundation of thinking on strong moral values, will give strength in the person's character. There is a scientific way of thinking as well as a holistic and a spiritual way. For a balanced functioning, both should go simultaneously, and then appropriate actions, will follow from those thoughts. The left part of the brain analyses, organizes and processes. The right is for emotions, for holistic thoughts and imaginations. How one uses and balances, the two halves are shown in his actions. For example, one with a more scientific way of thinking will be practical and will think of those skills that will help him in building his career. Those with more of the spiritual side developed will think of those actions that will benefit others, the society at large, resulting in peace and harmony.

A cooperative teaching system can be introduced, in which the learners of the urban section, will be contributing, to the progress of those learners, belonging, to the weaker sections of the society, in the form of catering, of free coaching, for those, who cannot afford, to go to school. Preparing lessons for them, who are illiterate, in the form of preparing skits and plays, emerging their creative skills. Their learning should be provided in dramatization and other forms in a playful manner. Learners in the urban sectors, with the assistance of the mentors, can prepare lessons, and carry out programs, on their own, for the deprived. Education exists in relationship and not in isolation. The education that we receive and experience has to be lived, and that is "right living". Keeping in mind that education is not only for the immediate present, but in having a long vision, in connection to life, a balance in theory and practice has to be maintained. Educational institutions are producing mechanical beings, improvised by habitual behavior, in society and human relationships are experiencing a crisis.

Our educational system, have to be successful, in its entire policy making, through better relationships. Throughout life, relationship is a great teacher, learning from the members of one's family, society, nature and the environment. Awareness, attention and sensitivity, play important roles in developing relationship, with the surroundings and the learner learns from observations. Human beings can think and with this thinking capacity is able to relate intelligently, with their surroundings. Based on the changing social scenario, when families are dwindling and the parents are in hectic schedules of long working hours, the job of the mentors are becoming more and more crucial, as they are the torch bearers, for the learners, and have to guide and motivate them.

We have to appoint mentors in order to conduct programs beyond syllabus, such that the learners are able to enjoy learning, without the fear of examinations and competitions. As learning is getting more and more in achieving success, the interest in academic learning is becoming mechanical, causing monotony and drudgery. They are hardly cherishing healthy living and the society is compelling, them to conform to a pattern, giving rise to frustrations. Their opportunities require them to be attentive and alert. Motivations beyond the syllabus based learning, helps in an overall aesthetic development, the implication of which is felt throughout life. This can be successfully fulfilled by the mentors, in a caring manner, more into motivation and inspiration. The job of the teachers on the other hand, would be focused, in guiding the learners, into new avenues. With increasing technological facilities, and online learning, the learners can be guided, to extend their knowledge, in different subjects. They should be given scope to expand and express. In the words of philosopher and educationist of recent past, J. Krishnamurti, "The bringing up of a child requires intelligent observation and care. Experts and their knowledge can never replace the parents' love, but most parents corrupt that love by their own fears and ambitions, which condition and distort the outlook of the child. So few of us are concerned with love, but we are vastly taken up with the appearance of love."² He adds "The influence of the home and that of the school must not be in any way contradictory, so both parents and teachers must re-educate themselves. The contradiction which so often exists between the private life of the individual and his life as a member of the group creates an endless battle within himself and in his relationships."³ The job of the mentors would be to, bridge the existing gap, between the school and the home.

III. CONCLUSION

Learning is in respect to our surroundings and we learn knowingly and unknowingly from persons, books, media and others. Learning with the nature and the environment has a benefiting effect that keeps the mind nourished, while learning with electronic devices causes disturbances, to the peaceful mind. We have to

curtail the use of the electronic gadgets. Our mind is becoming machine and our nature robotic. It is time when the teachers' concern for the students, should be in friendliness, such that there is more of sharing, than just 'giving' and 'taking', in an environment of cooperation and companionship. They need an environment of love, discipline and freedom. Though we are providing children with modern amenities, they are not getting adequate nurturing. These days relationship through devices are common and correspondences through sms, emails, and face book ,for convenience .They should be used within limit, as their effect on mind and body, is damaging, causing distractions. These are useful to an extent and should be utilized intelligently. They facilitate the learners in a global system of learning. National progress in the field of education can only be achieved, in joining both the sectors in togetherness. We have to make deliberate effort in progression, in the real sense, by providing basic education, to the deprived sections, much below the poverty level. We have to develop favorable conditions ,in the educational institutions ,through enhanced teacher, mentor and student relationships. Innovative methodologies to develop learners' interests in various fields, not only to keep them occupied, but informed, in new inventions and discoveries; in order to build a better society and community.

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