



EDUCATION TO BEAT THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE

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Challenges of Life

Life without challenges is like a sky without stars and a king without a crown. The challenges are God given occasion to make one sterner and tougher. When one learns, challenges as opportunities, he/she is more likely to transform the fear into a learning tool which leads to better life. But today most of the students are not able face the reality, specially the failures. The failures may be said about due to the Personal problems, Family problems, Friendship problems, Studies problems, Relationship problems, etc.

Personal problems refer to the health problems both physical and mental. Students don't give much importance to their health. They don't eat well and want to be slim considering it as a fashion but if they fell in ill, they are not able to bear with their sickness and they get collapsed. On the other hand, they eat more junk foods which hurt them and they grow bulky but not healthy. Also the students least bothered about their mental health. They give much importance to video games, playing games in the computer and cell phones because of which they are trained mentally in what they play. They become more aggressive and they are mentally disturbed.

Then comes, the family problems which refer to the understanding between the parents and the children. The more controlled children are not growing well and the more lawless children also are not growing properly. So there must be an attitude of freedom with responsibility in growing the children. Most students hate the comparing attitudes of the parents with their children to other children of the same age. Also there can be an economic and social problems that affect the family, may affect the children and their growth.



I asked many students how many friends do you have ? Immediately, some reply the whole class is my friends but we know it is not possible to have the whole class then that means he/she doesn't have friends. Some say the number that may be correct but I have heard some saying no friends at all who may find difficult to adjust everyone in the class and may long to have friends. At the same time, there can be group of friends who may dominate the others then there will be problems.

Some students also have got the problem in their studies which may be the result of slow learning or any other disorder problems but most often the students face the inferiority complex which is cause of their slow learning or to hate certain subjects.

Finally the relationship problems refer to the attachment of a student with one or two in the class either the same sex or opposite by which he/she may find happiness at the same time misery. This can be also said to be the problem of adolescence. These are all the main problems that the students face and many other but how do they respond to these problems. Here education must help them to make a correct decision. Some students try to overcome their problems and few falls into their problems try to commit themselves to end their life. In that case, what did they learn must support their life to beat their challenges?

Benefits of Education

Education in its general sense is a form of learning in which the knowledge, skills, and habits of a group of people are transferred from one generation to the next through teaching, training, or research. Education frequently takes place under the guidance of others, but may also be autodidactic¹. Any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts may be considered educational. The reasons for what people do educate themselves are many, but we can summarize certain aims as people themselves foresee as the benefit of education. They are: Gaining Knowledge, Attitude changes, Discern the right and wrong, Able to communicate, Help to express oneself, Orient towards a disciplined life, Critical thinking, Situational understanding, Social Consciousness, Work and earn, Life settlement, etc.



Gaining Knowledge

The prime aim of the education must be gaining knowledge but what happens today it has become a knowledge that the book contains, must be loaded in memory. To be a successful student is to gain lot of marks in the exams by memorizing the total book. In other words, the knowledge is considered as bookish knowledge. The student is not trained to reflect and see what he learns from the book that knowledge is genuine by comparing with other sources. He is not also able to analyse what he had learned from the prescribed text book with other examples, then how that knowledge gained may be a support for his life.

Attitude Changes

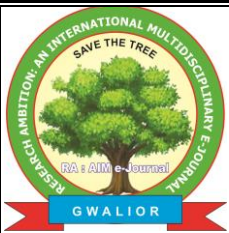
The one who is educated must have changes in his knowledge which may also change his attitudes. If a student learns about the environment, he learns to respect the nature. But he expects that too must come from the mouth of the teacher or from the printed text book or from the higher authority of school or department, then what he learns, become static. So education has become a static one but always education is a dynamic process that moves the learner to do certain actions or reflections. There may be attitude changes in every learner but certain cases higher, for some very poor.

Discern the right and wrong

A student learns and gets the knowledge must know what is right and what is wrong about all he has to decide for himself but he is not able to decide by himself what is right and what is wrong for him then basically he didn't learn properly what he suppose to learn. The genuine aim of the education must help the person to make a correct judgment in the given situation.

Able to communicate

Education helps one to relate with others easily by way of communication. He learns whatever the medium that he had selected but he is able to communicate in what medium he learned. Again if he is not able to communicate well what he had learned become inutile. Communication is an essential attitude to be with others. Human is a social being. He cannot live by himself. So he



needs to relate with others for which the communication is needed on for which the education helps the individual to communicate what he needs.

Express oneself

The highest form of communication would be expressing oneself. What is in the mind of the individual can be explained only how he expresses himself which may be by words or gesture. All these are essential that one gets from the well education. But most of the students after scoring very good marks in the final board exams, not able to express oneself which means their education is to score marks that is carried out by memory.

Discipline

One of the aims of Education is seen as Discipline. If a student is well disciplined, he may able to study well and do well all of his exams. But it has become just the contrary in many cases, the one who is aggressive in the class, do well his studies but the one who is well disciplined and calms in the class, gets low marks in the exams. All these take place, because the education is not seen in its proper sense of learning. It has become scoring than life orientation.

Critical Thinking

Today the student is asked to think according to the text book and what the teacher thinks about that texts of the book. Apart from this, if a student thinks, he is punished. So totally the critical thinking is being avoided in all most all. But this sense of learning only may help the students to come out with innovation which is unique element of the education.

Situational Understanding

The uniform introduced in all schools help the student to think that they are all, common, equal and no difference on the basis of caste, creed, race, etc. After learning many things in the school, the student is not able to understand his situation, his family situation, his surroundings, etc. Once he understands the situation that he is then only he can face the positives and negatives of the society and balance himself. Otherwise he will be in the air as many students do.



Work and Earn

Educations is for work and earn which is well understood by many. So they train for the better job and earnings but in most cases they lose to learn live the life. Basically that means the student must to learn the life and its importance. At the same time the values or morals to inculcate within oneself must be learned to govern one's life rather just job and money.

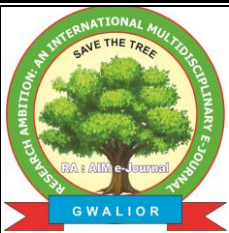
Life Settlement

The final aim as I considered is the life settlement that means adjusting oneself to live in the family, in the society and in the world. This is also learned by education. The value systems such as morals, socials, religious, etc would help the individual to live harmoniously in the society without any problem.

Beat the Challenges

Actually the word "education" is derived from the Latin word "educatio" which means "a breeding, a bringing up, a rearing". It has the root word "educio" means "I educate, I train". It is also related to the homonym "educio" means "I lead forth, I take out; I raise up, I erect" in which the word "e" stands for "from, out of" and word "duco" stands for "*I lead, I conduct*"ⁱⁱⁱ. Individual purposes for pursuing education can vary. The understanding of the goals and means of educational socialization processes may also differ according to the sociological paradigm used. In the early years of schooling, the focus is generally around developing basic Interpersonal communication and literacy skills in order to further ability to learn more complex skills and subjects. After acquiring these basic abilities, education is commonly focused towards individuals gaining necessary knowledge and skills to improve ability to create value and a livelihood for themselves. Satisfying personal curiosities that is an "Education for the sake of itself" and desire for personal development, to "better oneself" without career based reasons for doing so are also common reasons why people pursue education and use schools.

Education is often understood to be a means of overcoming handicaps, achieving greater equality and acquiring wealth and status for all. Learners can also be motivated by their interest in the



subject area or specific skill they are trying to learn. Learner-responsibility education models are driven by the interest of the learner in the topic to be studiedⁱⁱⁱ. Education is often perceived as a place where children can develop according to their unique needs and potentialities^{iv} with the purpose of developing every individual to their full potential. Education is the unique process by which a human being is shaped. It is the most significant achievement of the human race. It is the process which raises the individual from the level of a biological being to the higher levels of thinking and spiritual beings. It is not merely the transmitter of civilization across the annihilating influence of time. It is the process by which civilization is brought into being, enriched and vitalized^v. Education is the aggregate of all the process by means of which a person develops abilities, attitudes and other forms of behaviours of positive value in the society^{vi}.

To help young people to come to a better understanding of themselves and the world they live in is the primary function of good education^{vii}. John Dewey states, "Education is the development of all these capacities in the individual which will enable him to control his environment and fulfill his possibilities^{viii}". Education is related to productivity, strengthens social and national integration, hastens the process of modernization, and strives to build character by cultivating social, moral and spiritual values^{ix}. Petalozzi defines education "as the natural harmonious development of man's innate powers^x". The grate use of education is not merely to collect facts but to know man and to make oneself known to man – Tagore^{xi}. Funk and Wagnalls new encyclopedia states education is a process by which a person learns facts and skills and develops abilities and attitudes. More specifically education denotes the methods, by which the society hands down from one generation to next its knowledge, culture and values^{xii}.

But in today's context the education has become an industry in which the students are invested as capital so that they may become a commodity to earn in future but human beings cannot be considered as a commodity because they have the reasoning power and freedom under which they can be transformed at any moment of their life. So the education in today's world must be centered on the individual learner to face their problems and find correct solution so that the education that they get may be a helpful to face the challenges of their life situation.



- ⁱ Dewey, John., **Democracy and Education**, The Free Press, pp 1- 4.
- ⁱⁱ **Educate**, Etymonline.com. dated 21.10.2011.
- ⁱⁱⁱ J. Scott Armstrong (2012), "*National Learning in Higher Education*", **Encyclopedia of the Sciences of Learning**.
- ^{iv} Schofield, K (1994), **The Purpose of Education**, Queensland State Education.
- ^v Joy Vazhayil, **Reflections on the Philosophy of Education**, NCERT-2001, p.1.
- ^{vi} Devendra Thakur, "**Education and Manpower Planning**", 1990.p.393.
- ^{vii} Vashist S R., "**Prospective in Education and Vocational Guidance**".1982. p.16.
- ^{viii} Ernest Norton, "**A Text book in the Principles of Education**", 1924. p.4-5.
- ^{ix} Rajendra Varma, "**Educational Planning and Poverty of India**", 1978. p 6.
- ^x Aggrawal J C., "**Theory and Principles of Education**", 1982. p. 5-6.
- ^{xi} Husen and Postleth Waite, "**The International Encyclopedia of Education**", II ed., Vol.10. p 5597.
- ^{xii} Funk and Wagnall's, "**New Encyclopedia**", Vol. II., 1972.p 475.