It's Time to Change the Methodology of Education

* Rajiv Mishra

ABSTRACT

Reducing the syllabus of NCERT textbooks is a good step, education must be all about knowing things by knowing the logic behind it rather than learning it. The Indian school education system is one of the largest and most complex in the world. The complexity of the system stems from India's need to maintain standard and uniformity, while giving scope for its diverse culture and heritage to grow and flourish across the length and breadth of the country. After independence India has worked hard to provide access to almost all its young people, but it has only just begun to focus on aspects of quality and seek to improve learning outcomes.

India is set to become the youngest country by 2020 with 64 percent of its population in the working age group. We all come across such cliché statements day in and day out. On looking closer, our enrollment numbers are a curtain drawn across a dismal reality. While there is nothing wrong with the statistics, such figures make us ask the question, do these figures imply that the nation is growing, developing, or even emerging as a super power? The answer is simple, and it is 'No.' Our country may have a lot of potential, but most of it would not be of much use if it is not channelized properly.

KEYWORDS – Syllabus, NCERT, Youngest Country, Population

INTRODUCTION

Every established system in the country always attracts severe criticism. The Indian Education system especially has been the target of many allegations from students, parents and teachers. Students think they are overburdened, teachers think they are not paid enough and parents want their children to get maximum percentages.

Unfortunately, all the other evils of the Indian education system ultimately come down to the method in which students are marked. To make matters worse, teachers are forced to stick to a tight, repetitive curriculum. Even the most fresh-faced, passionate teachers, who adore their subject and are determined to introduce the next generation to it, will wither in their ambitions under their harsh, repetitive timetable of marking the same essay questions they have been marking for years. This system is reasonable neither for the children, nor the teachers.

How strange a notion that teachers are so restricted and controlled in their own field or work that they feel compelled to assign extra work that is of no obvious benefit to the child's learning, instead of simply giving them the night off. This indicates another one of the main issues with our education system. How teachers become teachers, and how they are allowed, or not allowed, to teach.

*Mr. Rajiv Mishra, Head, Amity TV & Director, Amity School of Communication, Amity University Haryana

Is it justified that a student is evaluated only on the basis of his/her performance for the duration of three hours of the exam? If the axis of grading and marking is shifted to classroom participation, project work, communication and leadership skills and extracurricular performance, only then will a genuine student shine out.

On the other hand, the requirements from students have also been steadily increasing, to ensure that they achieve higher scores, get admission into colleges, get better jobs and are able to compete with workers from across the world. Encouraging students to achieve, regardless of their previous performance, is what we need to do.

The education system in India has been criticized many times and in many ways in the past. This means that nothing has been done to improve the quality of Indian education? Answer will be No. The problems of India are not exactly unique as the same issues are faced by similar societies and cultures across the globe. India, however, has received much attention because of having one of the biggest populations in the world. The Ministry of Human Resource Development will reduce the syllabus of NCERT textbooks in the coming two to three years effectively by 2019 and this is certainly a good news.

Large portion of our training methodology is based and copied from Britain. Actually, education in Great Britain is vastly elitist and discriminatory. Perhaps Britain's Dickensian education system may have worked in a time when children were seen as vermin, and 'learning disabilities' were probably seen as the work of the devil.

At present, in Britain, one in ten young people aged between five and sixteen suffer from a diagnosable mental health disorder, and many thousands of children and young people suffer from severe depression. Depression in young people, particularly teenagers, is a serious problem at the United Kingdom, with many young people attributing their struggles to a sense of inadequacy. Don't we need to change the training and evaluation methodology now?

Education in the US has been undergoing a major rethink for many years. For many it has been a crisis situation, with increasing dropout rates, falling grades and higher stress levels for students than ever before. Add global competition to the mix and US school students have not been faring well in many fields.

While the West keeps on experimenting and seeking novel ways of growth, India never allows itself to take risks, and that is where the Indian Education System lags behind. We have to change our thinking about education, and finally, implement this change in a pragmatic manner.

We need to tell our students, more than focusing on how many points you score, why not try and understand the subjects and the knowledge that each one of them has to offer? The Indian education system is based on a model that provides a single ground for testing each student's intelligence. A country with a population of more than a billion and still we have the same set of tests for everyone. Almost as if we are trying to turn them into robots. Those numbers don't test student's intelligence or how much they know. Students aren't born thinking about marks, it is this education system, the teaching models that trains them to look only towards one direction, how to fetch maximum marks.

Our education system is all about rote learning, students are emphasized to remember contents of the book or documentation rather than developing their logic**,** thinking and intuition. Education must be all about knowing things by knowing the logic behind it rather than learning it. More practical's are needed to understand things in the

chapters more better it can help the students to know the underlying mechanism more better than just reading it from a book.

Other steps could be to start optional subject concept from smaller grade and suggest the students what they should take based on their interest and depending upon what they want to be in future.

Education is not simply a process to get a job, that is not the only role of education. It is about understanding yourself, your capabilities and putting yourself up for what you are best at, for the benefit of the society. It is not just about learning new things. It's about exploring your hidden talents, and utilizing them for a better life. Education should be able to transform a stone into a statue and a moth into a butterfly. Whether it's using more interactive mediums of teaching or the use of technology, India needs to give a serious thought to how children are being taught. The syllabus needs to be less theoretical and make students understand how to face the world.

A robust platform through the use of technology will be needed to resolve the current problems found within the education sector. Furthermore, given the entrepreneurial boost in the country today, India will need to start encouraging skills in design thinking, creative thinking, unstructured project management, and the ability to adapt and drive in changing environments.

Digitalization has brought about a significant impact in the education industry, and with technology having a positive influence on the future, India should take maximum advantage.

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