IMPERATIVE NEED FOR OVERHAULING INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

Dr. Pandurang Korde  
Principal, Jog College, Pune, India  
Email: pbarke@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Educational system plays a pivotal role in the achieving country’s national goals. It is worthwhile to recall the Japanese strategy regarding education which realized them to rebuild their economy in a short span of time of 10 years after the independence. Education is a tool to achieve development. Today, the Indian education system is at crossroads. Now the entire education universe has totally changed beyond recognition. Currently it is a scientific and technology advancement era which has a bearing in on the educational universe. Today’s education system has to adopt a global approach. Because so far as labour market is concerned the whole world has become a labour market. Today, there is imperative need of inculcating the importance of development of skills amongst the youths of this country. There is dire need to redefine and redesign our college syllabuses which are age old to suit the current requirements of the employers. The teachers should think about how to remain relevant in the changed scenario. The teachers should become frontiers of knowledge. The teachers should go back to the intellectual engagement with the subject of their teaching. A teacher carries the knowledge from the past, transfers it in the present and supposed to be preparing the students for their future. Today knowledge is technology embedded, they are not separate. Teachers should think beyond classroom and look at the world around and that’s where the values are lying and these are the values that the teacher needs to imbibe in our children. To tackle mammoth challenges Indian education is facing with respect to enrolment, excellence and employability, the education sector was expecting announcements for structured education reforms.

Keywords: Technology; Online Teaching; Reforms in Education; Changed Role of Teachers

INTRODUCTION

Generally the objectives of education are those which relate to the moral and social development of human beings. The overall development of the child is the primary objective of education. The Kothari Commission (1964-66) set out the objectives of the elementary education in India as under:

1. Physical, mental and social development by games and sports.
2. Emphasis on the development of emotions.
3. The vocational education according to interest.
4. Qualitative education and
5. Compulsory education

So far as policies and framework is concerned the Governments both Central and State are trying their best to achieve these objectives. However, even after 7 decades of the independence we are in the process of achieving these objectives.
Educational system plays a pivotal role in the achieving country’s national goals. It is worthwhile to recall the Japanese strategy regarding education which realized them to rebuild their economy in a short span of time of 10 years after the independence. Education is a tool to achieve development.

Today, the Indian education system is at crossroads. There are various commissions and committees who addressed to bring about changes in the education system. However, we have never attached due importance to it. Rather we were never serious about it. We have never been able to take holistic approach to the education despite passage of over 7 decades after the independence. This is also due to the fact that the administration has also failed to understand the changes and implementing them.

Need For Overhauling the Education System

Now the entire education universe has totally changed beyond recognition. Currently it is a scientific and technology advancement era which has a bearing in on the educational universe. Particularly after the globalization like the industry and business and trade, even foreign educational institutions have made inroads into Indian educational horizon. Numbers of foreign universities have opened up their colleges in prominent cities in India and offering their professional courses. Some universities have entered into collaboration with Indian universities and have opened their doors to the Indian students. Even some Indian universities have also made their presence in gulf countries. Thus there is a need to give a multinational touch to the Indian educational system.

Today’s education system has to adopt a global approach. Because so far as labour market is concerned the whole world has become a labour market. Now there are number of expatriates working in various organizations in India. Similarly, the numbers of Indian expatriates in overseas countries are in a sizable number. Therefore, the need of the hour, so far as education is concerned, it should bear in mind the world canvas for its various courses.

Today, there is imperative need of inculcating the importance of development of skills amongst the youths of this country. The universities are introducing a huge number of graduates/postgraduates and professionals in the Indian market but there are no job opportunities to them. A sizable number of educated youth are unemployed. This is because today’s university finished product does not match the requirement of the industry, business and trade. There is no relation of the syllabuses for the university courses and the human resources need of the industry. The product they induct has to be taught several things which should have been taught to them by the universities. Therefore, this mismatch of industrial / business needs and the education imparted by the universities have created need to overhaul the education system of India.

There is dire need to redefine and redesign our college syllabuses which are age old to suit the current requirements of the employers. Before the award of the final degree there should be a provision for apprenticeship in any industry of suitable duration so that the student will get an opportunity to have the practical exposure to the floor level environment at the organization where the apprenticeship is being performed. For this purpose there is need to build new partnerships between the employers and the educators.

Today’s world is a dynamic one and day in and day out there are changes in all fields and the education field is not an exception. Change is a continuous process and one has to find out solutions to the problems that will come in the process of advancement. The change in the educational system should fit in the current economic and social order. There are scientific discoveries and innovations in the everyday life. The changes do meet out the resistance but in course of time those will be stabilized.

Countries moving towards or aspiring for innovative skills try to have linkages with each other.

Today’s economy is a knowledge based economy. It is no more a secret that the present system does not meet the human resources requirements of the industrial sector. Role of education cannot be underestimated and hence needs to be redefined. The ultimate objective of education should be productive and sustained employability for the youth. This will help the government to increase the Gross Domestic Product. The education should be value based and enrich the cultural values. This
calls for radical change in the educational system. It is not sufficient to have evolution in education, it should be a revolution. There should be a change in the approach towards classroom teaching, it should be more of a learning rooms meant for discussions and debates. The teaching methods should also go a drastic change and use of modern technology in education should be increased. Even the teacher’s role will also undergo a change from a teacher to facilitator or a guide. The education should enable the students to learn to face uncertainty without getting intimidated by it. They should be ready to willingly face the realities of life with zeal and zest. The thrust should be in bringing out the creativity of the student. Teachers should, in the first place, develop them into computer and technology savvy and make maximum use of it rather than using a blackboard and a chalk. The teaching should be in such a fashion that the student should get interest in it.

For this purpose there is need to change the mindset of the teaching community. In the present set up the next generation’s approach to education, tastes, dress and behavior pattern are totally changed from the earlier generation. The present students are technology savvy and the teachers will have to be on the same platform to have positive results. Therefore, the need of the hour is that the teachers should change their mind set and prepare themselves to face the challenge of the new generation students. With the emerging technology the traditional classrooms are losing its character because of the emerging technology.

As a consequence of globalization there are number of students going abroad not only for their higher education but every year the number of students going abroad for school level education.

The new education system should give preference to developing the team culture for this purpose suitable methodology needs to be developed.

The educational institutions are in number of cases lacking the basic infrastructural facilities. One of the reasons is paucity of funds. In some cases particularly in the case of college education which is now mainly in the hands of the private entrepreneurs, are not keen on providing the basic facilities despite they are charging fabulous fees. These institutions solicit various concessions and allocation of land at throw away prices but the fee structure and the donations that they expect keep the common student away from the college education. The government and the courts of India do try to improve the situation but under one pretext or the other the private entrepreneurs do not allow these efforts to succeed. This is the grass root reality so far as higher education is concerned.

In this regard it is worthwhile to note that the recent legislative measure of creating an obligation on the identified industrial organization about the Corporate Social Responsibility which will bring the educators and the industry to provide necessary financial support for developing the educational institutions on a sound line.

With the advancement of technology to day we have concept of online teaching wherein the importance of class room teaching has been lost. However, the way technology is changing is so stunning, but it does not mean that the role of teacher has become irrelevant. Therefore, the need of the hour is that the teachers have to remain relevant in this completely new world. The teachers should think about how to remain relevant in the changed scenario. The teachers should become frontiers of knowledge. The teachers should go back to the intellectual engagement with the subject of their teaching. Teachers should be the frontier of knowledge. Teachers should be able to think out of box and embrace a new framework of accountability. Every teacher has to become digitally empowered. There is no escape from it. A teacher cannot survive without being digitally empowered because children are growing today with tablets in hand. There is a new value system that is emerging because of technology. A teacher carries the knowledge from the past, transfers it in the present and supposed to be preparing the students for their future. Today knowledge is technology embedded, they are not separate. Teachers should think beyond classroom and look at the world around and that’s where the values are lying and these are the values that the teacher needs to imbibe in our children. The conditions in which school children are going today are quite different from the time when the teacher
was a child. This happens for every generation and that is what we call a generation gap. In nutshell the teacher should reinvent himself. There is no alternative to it.

CONCLUSION

To tackle mammoth challenges Indian education is facing with respect to enrolment, excellence and employability, the education sector was expecting announcements for structured education reforms. In the current central bud get education listed amongst the “9 pillars”. The budget has planned to make 10 private and 10 public institutions become world class. The govt. has made an allocation of Rs 1804 crore for skill development but compared to the demographic growth it is a poor allocation. The govt. has planned to open 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas to provide quality education will help in increasing enrolments in Navodaya Vidyalayas however the budget has not taken need to improve the quality of education in the existing Navodaya Vidyalayas. The govt. has decided to set up a Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) with an initial fund of Rs.1000 crores.

The teachers are required to change their mindset and get themselves digitally competent. They should get themselves exposed to the new values that they have to imbibe in the students. They should make themselves relevant to the current times. This is not an easy task and conscious efforts are needed for the same. The government should also come forward to make the digitally empowered.

REFERENCES