
Education Is Not the Filling of A Pail, But the Lighting of A Fire
(The Current Scenario in Corporate Education- A Close and Critical Illustration)

Mr. Shyam Sundar Kongari (kongari.shyam@gmail.com)

Associate Professor in English, Vignan's Institute of Management & Technology
for Women, Kondapur, Ghatkesar, Hyderabad, India

Abstract

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire” - William Butler Yeats.

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education. -Martin Luther King Jr.

There is a basic need to bring changes in the existing system of education and make it more practicability and easy accessibility to an average student. The current system should enhance the curiosity and enthusiasm towards quality of education among the slow learners. The less intelligent students should be identified and special treatment should be given to them so as to reach the high standards and achieve equal opportunities like that of the fast learners.

Introduction

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire” which is an inspiring quote, says William Butler Yeats, the keynote speaker at a conference in the US. The speaker went on to say that college instruction should not be about dribbling drops of knowledge that students collect as they move from course to course. It should be more like gathering kindling, letting students play with matches, encouraging them to take risks and hoping that for the same materials burst into flames and become lifelong interests.

This won't happen to every student in every class. It won't necessarily happen when students or professor expect it to. But, if it happens occasionally, it makes a college education worthwhile.

At all levels of education, what we as teachers hope for is that our students will find issues, ideas, authors, experiments, projects and problems that they find genuinely exciting. We want them to get fired up about something. We want education to be about those fires.

On the subject of whether or not Yeats had anything to do with the quotation about pails and fires. Maybe someone else will come up with a definitive answer to what Yeats, or Plutarch, or someone now anonymous, said or wrote about pails and fires.

As per George Washington Carver, Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom. And according to Wilbert McKeachie's in his book, "Teaching Tips", Will and skill - you need both to light a fire for learning.

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education. -Martin Luther King Jr.

"Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel" - Socrates

"The mind is not a vessel that needs filling, but wood that needs igniting".- Plutarch

Objectives

The following objectives are to be achieved in the present system of education by the students that:

- They should be supported to gather more relevant information in their respective subjects.
- They should be encouraged to take risks so as to improve their knowledge in their concerned subjects.
- They should be supported so as to take up new projects and to face new problems.
- They should be advised to get fired up about something which is more useful in their life period. It is to be suggested education should be made more relevant to the current social life.
- They should be taught or made to think intensively, independently and critically about the related subjects.
- They should be given proper training in order to make them more intelligent and to improve their good character.
- They should always be kept to interact with other students on the relevant topic.
- They should be promoted to develop their academic interest in their minds.
- They should be encouraged to undertake innovative and new projects aiming at improving their knowledge in their concerned subjects.

Moreover, the central aim and objective of education is to enhance intelligence, thinking power and good character. The learner should be made independent and to stand on their own feet and not depending on others for their bright future and their livelihood. The students should be made to become self employers by giving them proper training and teaching them more skills in their related fields or subjects. The present curriculum of education should be framed in accordance with the needs of the students or the contemporary society. The standard of the present education system should be changed in order to raise the levels of the students and to make them more perfect so as to reach the goals on par with the high intelligence.

Problem

The problem of the current education system is that it is not able to make students think independently and critically. The present education system at all the levels whether it is school or college education whatever it may be but it cannot boost students to take up new issues or innovative methods which will be helpful to them in their future and moreover they are depending upon other sources available online. It cannot make students best intelligent and virtual students.

Moreover the problem of the system is trying to bring all the categories of students under single banner giving them common education. In the system of education, it is only the bright and intelligent ones can cope up with the existing corporate system of education, but the less intelligent who are not able to compete with the brilliant ones are deemed to lose the better opportunities which they in fact or accessible to them. More over the present system was framed I accordance with the expectations of the students who are high intelligence in the present day high tech world. So, there is a lot of gap between low and high ambitious learners in the scale of learners, Hence, keeping all these things in view there is a need on the part of curriculum framers to simplify the existing system towards more practicability which is easily accessible to varied social background students.

Scope of the Study

The current system of education is trying to make the heterogeneous students uniformly applied to all the students alike. As a result, the students who are not fully equipped with at the entry level are bound to lose out. Only the bright students are able to take advantage of the existing corporate system of education

and its methodology adapted which is not up to the expectations of the students in the present technological world.

Hence, the researcher strongly feels that the gap between the slow learners and the well informed or prepared students is to be addressed. There is a basic need to have a system keeping in view of simplifying the system towards practicability instead rote learning and teaching and the best use of it as a bridge course to reach the students of the varied backgrounds of vernacular media and multiple cultures.

The scope of the study is to improve the proficiency on the part of the students in order to make the learners' self-involvement effectively and to make understand easily. The new system of education, which is required to be upgraded, keeping in view of the standards by the latest trends and advanced technological devises, has to inculcate the students at the entry level. It is supplementary and complementary and it can be used in all the educational institutions. It will enable the slow learners cope with the existing education system and exploit the desired output. It will be a student friendly system in building good command over all the required skills. The scope of the study is to improve the skills of the learners as well as teachers and to make the students from varied backgrounds exploit the benefits of the existing system of education in an ideal fashion. It enhances the curiosity, enthusiasm and zeal towards the quality of education among all the students. Therefore, it is proposed to work on the thesis entitled, 'Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire'-the current scenario in corporate education- a close and critical illustration.

Methodology

Methodology for the study of the current system of education can be studied under two headings. The first one is the empirical method which is completely based on field and practicals. For this, the researcher has to move or visit to different educational institutions to gather information which is more relevant to their studies and the current study. In this empirical method, he has to interview curriculum framers, teachers and the students of high and low performance. In this method, one has to do field work in order to gather the authentic information about the current system of education. Moreover he has to interview concerned persons who are working in the research centers such as NCERT and SCERT.

Secondly, it is the theoretical method which is based on the primary and secondary sources such as journals and original texts written by scholars which are truly reliable and authentic available at research centers and university libraries.

Necessity of Newly Framed System of Education

There is a dire need for a well-planned and sequenced use of education system to develop co-curriculum, extra-curriculum and life skills apart from curriculum in an in-depth and integrative way, and allows each individual to realize more on:

- clarity in relying independent thoughts
- effective use of mind and inherent intelligence
- active engagement of others sociably
- appropriate emotional expressiveness
- comfort and self-confidence in speaking while interacting with others including strangers etc.

Findings and Recommendations

In the current education system it is found that it is trying to bring the heterogeneous students under the common system alike. In this system, the less brilliant students are not able to meet or compete with the high brilliant ones and to take advantage of the existing corporate education system. Besides the current education system has not framed or planed up to the standards and expectations of the less intelligent learners in the present high tech society.

It is also found that the fast and slow learners. There is a basic need to bring changes in the existing system of education and make it more practicability and easy accessibility to an average student. It is also noticed that there is an urgent need to improve the quality of education and practicing on the part of the students and self-involvement learners more effectively and to make them understand the concepts easily. In this current system of education that is required to upgrade keeping in view of the standards and needs of the students who are less intelligent. The slow learners should be enabled in order to make them to cope up with the existing system. On the basis of the above findings, it is recommended that the students' skills should be improved and the current system of education should be changed and framed so as to fulfill the needs of the educationally backward students.

It is also recommended that the professional education particularly medicine and engineering should be made available to everyone. It is also recommended that the learners should think independently and positively. It is also recommended that the current system should enhance the curiosity and enthusiasm towards quality of education among the slow learners. The less intelligent students should be identified and special treatment should be given to them so as to reach the high standards and achieve equal opportunities like that of the fast learners. It is highly recommended that the same syllabus should be framed at SSC and +2 level education though out the country more over all the boards of education which are working in different states should be brought under CBSE. It is also recommended that the teachers who are working under state boards should be given proper training so that they will be able to teach the same syllabus in the pattern/passion to achieve targeted goals of education.

Conclusion

On the basis of the above findings, it is recommended that the students' skills should be improved and the current system of education should be changed and framed so as to fulfill the needs of the educationally backward students.

Thus, there should be a Newly Framed System of Education to develop co-curriculum, extra-curriculum and life skills apart from curriculum in an in-depth and integrative way, and allows each individual to realize more and more.

Bibliography

- Bain, Ken. (2004). What the best college teachers do. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
- Deci, E.L., & Ryan, R.M. (1985). Intrinsic motivation and self-determination in human behavior. New York: Plenum Press.
- McKeachie, W. (2002). Teaching tips: Strategies, research and theory for college and university teachers (13th edition). New York: Houghton Mifflin.
- O'Reilley, M.R. (1998). Radical Presence: Teaching as contemplative practice. Portsmouth, NH: Boynton/Cook.
- Palmer, P. (1999). The Courage to Teach. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Ryan, R.M., & Deci, E.L. (2000). Self-determination theory and the facilitation of intrinsic motivation, social development and well-being. *American Psychologist*, 55, 68-78.
- W. B. Yeats, *Autobiographies* (1956), p. 12. London: Macmillan.