



## HIGHER EDUCATION AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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### Abstract:

*The aim of education is to make human beings civilized. In the same way, the aim of higher education is to inculcate social responsibility among students. The present higher education system is lacking in this aspect. It is the need of the hour to correct it. Traditionally, Indian education stressed on the moral, ethical and social values. Tagore's Vishwa Bharati is an example of it. It is the model for other universities to follow it. Indian higher education is at cross roads. Many problems are arising due to globalization and liberalization. Hence, our teaching faculty has to be trained to enrich their skills of teaching. Teaching is not mere by transferring the information to the students. It is something beyond that.*

*Social services activities in colleges have to be increased to develop social responsibilities among students. Students should take interest in societal activities along with their studies. And in doing so the teaching community also has a pivotal role to play.*

### INTRODUCTION

Education aims at making us civilized human beings –conscious of our moral and social responsibilities. We must know the world in which we live in all its dimensions like physical , organic and social etc. Education must include the development of spiritual power and help to build a harmonious and self confident society. Dr. Radhakrishnan said, “It is the function of a university to build human beings, strive to rid them of their vanities and egotism and emancipate their minds from petty prejudices and narrow loyalties (“Saviddya Ya Vimuktaye”)

Globalization and liberalisation have brought the essence of “homogenous civilization”. The world is becoming uniform. Therefore, our higher education adapt itself to global civilization without losing cultural roots of the land Rabindranath Tagore's Vishwa Bharati aimed at producing civilized men to see the human race as a whole. It expresses longing for a new mankind, with universal vision of brotherhood filled with the moral power of love and spiritual unity. The environment here is conducive for higher education. Other universities should follow.

Higher Education in India today, is in a critical state, bloated in size and generally resistant to change. It is in danger of becoming irrelevant. The system has not been able to free itself from its colonial roots and identify itself with local needs and priority. Thus Kothari Commission report: says “Tinkering with the existing situation and moving forward with faltering step and lack of faith can make things worse than before,” is an eye opener. It is time to take a definite road. We are on the crossroad -blind folded.

From time immemorial, teachers have occupied an exalted position in the society. Are we qualifying to-day as teachers? There is rapid and direct erosion in the status of teachers. This is because of various reasons. Half- baked teachers are available for maintaining and sustaining the educational system. This has resulted in a bad social environment. The teacher-student integral relation has vanished. The sacred triangle-teacher, pupil and curricula is no more. Guardians are qualifying for their wards.

Our political leaders lack the “will to act”. General deterioration in the teaching sector will have far reaching consequences on our national progress. The primary and the Secondary education in our land

are in jeopardy. Unless the root is nourished, how one can imagine trees with branches, leaves and fruits with a green valley. Teachers have to play vital role for the proper academic function and environment. Teacher's education is fast becoming highly sophisticated and professional job. Unless teachers are given adequate know-how with regard to all programmes of social engineering, it will become useless. In fact educational system fulfill the constitutional obligation for shaping the destiny of a nation.

The students of today will become teachers of tomorrow and nation builders too. Teacher education programmes are vital for the success of "teaching-learning process". Teachers should be selected on the basis of performance in the class room and not before the Boards, the Commission or on the basis of certificates, which are awarded not necessarily on merit. Today, there is no 'information explosion'. The moot question, now is What to teach and how much to teach. How to teach is the most crucial question. Value based and research oriented education is an ideal for making student with self-confident personalities. Cultural activities, sports and participation in games are invaluable elements for character development. There is a need to reorient "teaching technology" on the basis of fast evolving concept of change. It does not matter how much a teacher knows in depth. It is his communicative skill, which really matters.

Vivekanand said: "Education, can unlock all ' for a progress "A nation advances in proportion to education and intelligence spread among masses" If India is to grow to her full potential as a strong, united, prosperous nation, a nation attuned to the highest ethical and moral values, true to the genius of her cultural and spiritual heritage; it is possible only through transformation and regenerative power of education only..... It can help India to grow into her full potential as a strong united nation with a strong moral and cultural values".

Teachers have, therefore, to play a vital, active and decisive role in fostering universal education and promoting and developing the values and vision in the society. They are engines of natural growth in themselves. A teacher must succeed in conveying the larger ideals of service to the community. They are to teach the importance of character, integrity, discipline, and the values of humanism to their pupil, so that our educational institutions become the nurseries, not only of good students but of good citizen as well.

Our universities and colleges should stress on social values. Students must imbibe responsibilities towards family, society and nation. Still, our curriculum in universities, is on British model. It has to be changed to the changing needs of society. Social changes have been taking place. So our teaching methodologies, curriculum have to change accordingly.

A modern country such as India which is in the process of rapid change has to see that the people bend their energies to the task of national emancipation. Students and the youth could be harnessed to accelerate welfare programmes. Students could devote a part of their time to constructive work such as organizing literacy campaigns. AIDs awareness, concern for environment etc. They can spread ideas of cleanliness, civic responsibility and the like. Such activities will prevent the unproductive waste of student energies in politics and will also mend their attitude towards society. They will realize the value of manual labour and ideas of social service and sacrifice, provided such ideas are be inculcated into their minds. As the famous American Philosopher John Dewey has stated, proper learning should involve the use of both hands and brain. In our country's history great teachers such as Basava have emphasized the Kayaka as a way of life. In our own time Mahatma Gandhi attached the greatest importance to the dignity of labour and called upon the people to devote part of their time to social service.

In order to make our students service minded and also to see that they might help implement our welfare plans, some think that social service must be made an integral part of the curriculum and students must be required to render social service for a stipulated period. It is also suggested that without social service degrees should not be awarded by the University.

In the end it is relevant to quote Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan: "Help the students to think rightly, make them feel nobly, let them do rightly, above all let them possess the spirit of compassion, (karuna), universal love and brotherhood so that we can live together in a global village as "brothers and sisters". In this context Rigvedic Wisdom says 'Let us burn our inner wisdom to remove the darkness of society- Let the noble thoughts come from all corners'. If the students are prepared on these ideals, they will not be only civilized citizens to serve the nation but also they will have the potential to save the disintegrating society. They will be able to face and overcome the challenges of terrorism, hatred, communalism and attempt to twist religion for political purpose.

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