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## A STUDY ON IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION FOR NATION BUILDING: INDIAN CONTEXT

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### ABSTRACT

**T**hrough this paper an attempt has been made to highlight education as a vital factor for nation building and national development. The long-term target of building societies which are structurally able to create and maintain peace has gained considerable currency. Human capital development is something that must exist or happen for development of society and nation. Nations stay together when citizens share enough values and preferences and can communicate with each other. Homogeneity amongst people can be built with education, teaching a common language, building infrastructure for easier travel, but also by brute force such as prohibiting local cultures or even genocide. School and instruction framework might be a basic and key stage for country building. In the meantime, the politicization of the instruction framework and in addition the related way of schools and outer strengths may add to the destabilization of the part of school in country building. Education is

*regarded by many as the foundation for national social, economic, political and human development. It is an effective instrument of positive change in the society and a fundamental social institution for transmitting basic knowledge including values, norms, skills and culture to the younger ones in the society which forms the basis of a nation.*

**KEYWORDS:** Education, Nation Building, National Development, Role.

### INTRODUCTION :

“There cannot be a firmly established political state unless there is a teaching body with definitely recognized principles. If the child is not taught from infancy that he ought to be a republican or a monarchist, a Catholic or a free-thinker, the state will not constitute a nation; it will rest on uncertain and shifting foundations; and it will be constantly exposed to disorder and change.”

-Napoleon I, 1805

The rapid spread of public education across India since colonial rule is one of the most dramatic examples of institution-building in the history of India. When India became independent in 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru stressed the importance of the task that lay ahead of ending poverty, ignorance, disease and inequality of opportunity for building dream India. Education as a means of social transformation plays vital role in this regard.

The main focus in the concept of nation building refers to the socio-



political cohesion of a state in terms of society. Nation building is a multi-step concept which has become a catchphrase in the past ten years. Nation-building is a comprehensive approach, which usually is intensified after the decision to end a conflict (no matter in which way, be it victory, defeat, armistice, peace accord). In a narrow interpretation it refers to the “restoration of law and order in the absence of government authority, the reconstruction of infrastructure and security forces, and the facilitation of the transfer of power from the interim authority to an indigenous government.”

In a broader view, nation-building is a strategic task, which might cover,

- + Support for modern forces within an entity,
- + Creation of a certain educational level
- + Promotion of women,
- + Improvement of the societal role of women,
- + Support in creating modern infrastructure,
- + Support for a democratic landscape of political parties,
- + Support for free elections and support of a freely elected government,
- + Peaceful regime change from inside.

Nation-building in Indian context can also be termed as the process whereby a society with diverse origins, histories, languages, cultures and religions come together within the boundaries of a sovereign state with a unified constitutional and legal dispensation, a national public education system, an integrated national economy, shared symbols and values, as equals, to work towards eradicating the divisions and injustices of the past; to foster unity; and promote a countrywide conscious sense of being proudly Indian, committed to the country and open to the continent and the world.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:**

The late African theologian, Kwame Bediako talked about the discipline of the nations in terms of: The conversion of the things that make people into nations—the shared and common processes of thinking; attitudes, world views; perspectives; languages; and the cultural, social and economic habits of thought, behavior and practice. It should be noted down that Education is the prime factor in development of right thinking, right attitude and right kind of behaviour and values among citizens who builds a nation. In general sense Education includes knowledge, skills, values, benefits and habits of a group of people which are transferred from one generation to the next through storytelling, discussion, teaching, training or research.

(Macious & Gerber, 2005). Ololube and Egbezor (2012) describes education as the process by which children, youths and adult learn abilities, attitudes and other forms of behaviour which are of positive values to the society in which they live. Education is a mobile treasure that travels with an individual throughout life enabling one to grow and develop, so that he or she is empowered to achieve his or her aspirations. Education is therefore a valuable investment in the production of human capital resources of any nation. Education is concerned with the process of building, training and developing the inborn potentials and capabilities of the individual learner so as to make him or her useful member of society. It is a systematic process that influences people’s knowledge, skills and attitudes and transmits and develops the cherished cultures, values, skills and attitudes of the community. This development enables learners to become functional adults who will take care of themselves and their families and contribute to nation building. So, it is important to study different aspects of education that helps citizens build the community, society and nation.

**OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:**

Present paper has been prepared for the purpose of depicting role of education in building the base of a nation.

**METHODOLOGY:**

This paper is based on secondary data and Information that has been sourced from various books, educational journals, government publications, newspapers etc. and research is descriptive in nature. Hence, This study employed a qualitative research design. This type of design has been used to enable the researchers to obtain and interpret information, and its meaning and the experiences contained therein, from a relatively broad perspective. In particular, materials that evaluated the role of education for nation building were used.

**IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

The basic purpose of education is to create skill and knowledge and awareness of our glorious national heritage and the important achievements of human civilization, possessing a basic scientific outlook and commitment to the ideals of democracy, nationalism, pluralism, secularism and peace along as the cherished goals enshrined in the preamble to the Indian Constitution. Education includes investments for development of capital or raw materials i.e. human beings upon which nation building depends, furthermore it includes activities and processes that produce vocational and technical education knowledge, skills, health or values (social, economic, moral and spiritual) among citizens. Education is the foundation for building an appropriate balance and critical mass of human resource base and providing an enabling environment for all individuals to be fully engaged and contribute to goals of an organization or a nation.

Education teaches people how to utilize the power of diverse thinking styles (analytical and intuitive) so that they achieve holistic best practical solution. It takes human resources to organize and rationalize the contributions of other factors of production before a result oriented productive goal can be achieve in any socio-economic setting. Therefore Education is about supporting cum investing in human capital, coaching, training, internship and human capital management for nation building.

**EDUCATION TO AID NATION BUILDING:**

Fundamentally, education is that intangible factor of the production that brings human intellect, skills and competencies in the playing effective role in the process of nation building. Education increases human knowledge, enhance skills, productivity and stimulate resourcefulness of individuals leading to human capital development. It aims to prepare people for playing their societal roles with a systematic, sustainable and strategic approach.

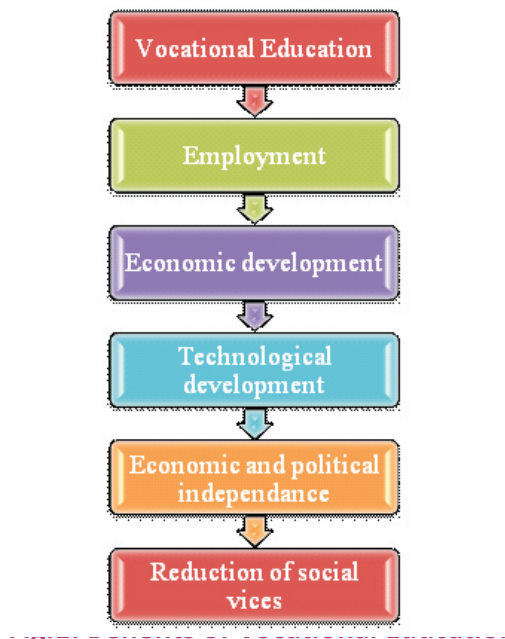
As our education is based on well defined aims of creating a socialist welfare state educational activities provide support for upcoming activities for the attainment of preset goals of our nation. Education enables human capital to make desired and enduring impact on the organization of nation.

The process of nation building to be strategic, dynamic, responsive and result oriented to the extent that it achieve social and economic goals education enables effective participation of citizens in this process through its two significant aspects i.e. Vocational and Value aspects of education.

**• Vocational Education and Nation Building-**

Vocational Education can greatly aid nation building process as it develops the mental and physical qualities of people thereby increasing their skills, knowledge and attitudes required for utilizing the natural resources needed for economic development of the nation and for self-employment. In consonance to the above assertions and visions, vocational education helps in achieving the following:

- + Full employment for the youths,
- + Technological advancement and economic development,
- + International economic and political independent,
- + Reduction of crime and social vices.



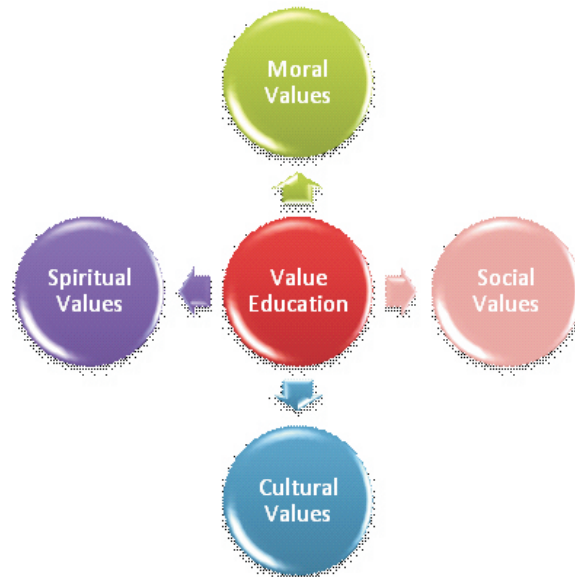
#### • Value Education and Nation Building-

Morality and spiritualism are the essential components of education. Values are essential in all fields of education, religion, politics and society. For restructuring of society and nation, value based politics and value based socialization and economic processes are highly essential. For making a good society as well as nation education inculcates following values:

- + Moral values: Morality is the ability to judge between right and wrong based on societal acceptance.
- + Social values: It means social norms in respect to individual behaviour, conduct, duties and responsibilities towards others which provides stability and uniformity in the society. Respect for human dignity, social equality, good manners, patriotism, kindness, social responsibility, dignity for labour, peaceful living, sacrifice and cooperation are prerequisite for building a good nation.
- + Cultural values: Cultural values are those values which can help to conserve and preserve our culture. It contributes for building society in a positive perspective.
- + Spiritual values: It emerges mainly from moral values such as truthfulness, right conduct, peace, love, non-violence, honesty, trust etc. In this context the Kothari Commission of 1964-66 may be referred which recommended the necessity of developing spiritual values through curricular and

co-curricular activities in students.

Education thus, helps person to take part effectively in developmental process and acquire potentialities to continue nation building activities.



**Fig.2: Important aspects of Value education for nation building**

#### **WOMEN EDUCATION AND NATION BUILDING:**

Women education is a catch-all term for a mind boggling set of issues and civil arguments encompassing (essential instruction, optional, and tertiary and wellbeing training specifically) for young lady and ladies. Denying the young lady tyke access to instruction suggests making her a useless individual from the general public. Obinaju (2014) considers instruction to be basic right of all independent of the individual's condition. Training has been depicted as the most vital part of human advancement, a key to an effective living, particularly young lady kid instruction (Micheal, 2011).

Women instruction incorporates territories of sex uniformity, access to training and it's association with the mitigation of destitution, great administration, which are significant fixings in country building. Training is a standout amongst the most basic territories of strengthening for Women Education is vital to advancement and change of the country's welfare. It is an effective 'equalizer', opening ways to all to lift themselves out of neediness. The following are the parts of ladies training to country building:

**Neediness Reducing Effects:** Girl-youngster training can essentially add to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. While two of the objectives relate straightforwardly to instruction, training likewise decreases neediness, advance sexual orientation correspondence, bring down youngster death rate, secure against HIV/AIDS, diminish fruitfulness rates and improve natural mindfulness (Mordi, 2008).

**Enhance Health and Nutrition:** According to Kiki (2010) instruction extraordinarily benefits individual wellbeing especially for young lady youngster, it significantly influences conceptive wellbeing inoculation rates. Training might be the absolute best preventive weapon against HIV/AIDS. On the off chance that the issue of HIV/AIDS is defense in a specific nation, the constrain and financial

development will be influenced. Again through the attention to ladies instruction, the rate of HIV/AIDS will be diminished to the barest least and this will have positive effect on country building.

Decreases Inequality: Education diminishes ignorance that is one of the most grounded indicators of neediness. Just when young ladies are given chance to be taught they can similarly contribute as their male partner in country building process.

### HIGHER EDUCATION AND NATION BUILDING:

In 1947 while addressing the convocation of the Allahabad University, Late Jawaharlal Nehru, first Prime Minister of India said, "A University stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for the adventure of ideas and for the search for truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards higher objectives. Universities are places of ideals and idealism. If the Universities discharge their duties adequately, then, it is well with the nation and the people."

In 1964 the Ministry of Education of the Government of India appointed a Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. D.S.Kothari to advise the Government on the national pattern of education and on the general principles and policies for the development of education at all stages and in all aspects.

The Commission set out the following functions of the Universities to work as an agent for nation building in the modern world -

- To seek and cultivate new knowledge, to engage vigorously and fearlessly in the pursuit of truth and to interpret old knowledge and beliefs in the light of new needs and discoveries;
- To provide the right kind of leadership in all walks of life by helping the individuals develop their potential;
- To provide society with competent men and women trained in all professions who as cultivated individuals are inclined with a sense of social purpose;
- To strive to promote equality and social justice and to reduce social and cultural differences through diffusion of education;
- To foster in the teachers and students and through them in the society generally, the attitudes and values needed for developing the good life in individuals and society; and,
- To bring the Universities closer to the community through extension of knowledge and its application for problem-solving.

### CHALLENGES IN BUILDING NATION AND EDUCATION AS MEASURE:

Societal, political and economic instability lead to the collapse of the state. Episodes of sustained violent conflict in which national, ethnic, religious, or other communal minorities challenge governments to seek major changes in status, may also cause state failure. Education broadens one's outlook inculcating values of tolerance, co-operation, brotherhood and non-violence which serves as remedial measure against those social evils restricting the pace of nation building. It helps to face challenges of,

- ✦ Dilemma of efficiency, legitimization and participation,
- ✦ Dilemma of social justice aiding a peaceful welfare economy,
- ✦ Dilemma of reconciliation and confidence building among people.
- ✦ Challenge of maintaining Quality of life, that is, the material well-being of country's citizens.
- ✦ Challenge of maintaining co-operation among the ethnic or religious composition of country's population or leadership.

### CONCLUSION:



For nation-building, both, the beginning and the end are important, since the beginning might bear already the solution or the obstacles to solve a conflict. When beginning is considered it is worth mentioning that the Indian nation successfully solved the problem of rehabilitating some ten million people, the biggest in human history - who had been uprooted from their hearths and homes in the wake of partition of India during 1940's. We willed India into a Unified Nation State by integrating over 550 and odd 'Princely States', covering 48% of India's territory and over 80 million people within barely 18 months of independence in 1947. India has sustained a democratic and civil libertarian polity since its inception. As per end part is to be considered mention may be made of Dr. Sarvapali Radhakrishnan when he stated, "The development process in India slowed down because of the division of thinking among the Indians. Collective thinking is very essentials for all developmental processes. It is because of brotherhood, tolerance and strong social values that the Japanese people are able to achieve highest profile in the world even though they were once destructed by two atom bombs." Role of education is significant for rebuilding the nation so that everyone should be conscious for the realization of true values not only for the societal development and nation building but also for their own personal development for a balanced personality. For this, transfer of skills from personal to social and vice versa are to be given due emphasize for its desired impact on development of nation.

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