



CREATING THE CREATORS

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Abstract

The teacher who provides a learning environment where a child can learn by himself/herself and doesn't impose his/her own theories, philosophies or ideas on the child is a real teacher. Our present educational system is focusing on teaching rather than creating. The focus needs to be shifted from teaching to learning, from teacher to child, from reproducing to creating. We are preparing a work force which can react, to some measure, to the external situations but is totally unaware of its inner self, its potential, the miracle it carries in itself. We have to shift our focus from the standardized model of education where certain values and concepts are taken for granted and we blindly keep on following and transferring them through generations. We the teachers, as a part of this standardized system, give very little opportunities to our students to imagine. Education has to be more Personal. We cannot follow the age old system because they were the best but we have to change and let our students choose what is the best and what will be the best for them. The present paper focuses on the loop holes of present system of education that blocks and systematically destroys the creative capacity of children and an attempt has also been made in the paper to present some ideas which can be implied to help foster creativity.

Keywords: Learning Environment, Standardized System, Creative Capacity

To quote Thoreau "Best Government is that which governs the least" and the same goes for a teacher that "Best teacher is one who teaches the Least". The teacher who provides a learning environment where a child can learn by himself/herself and doesn't impose his/her own theories, philosophies or ideas on the child is a real teacher.

Creativity

Creativity is the act of turning new and imaginative ideas into reality. Creativity is characterised by the ability to perceive the world in new ways, to find hidden patterns, to make connections between seemingly unrelated phenomena, and to generate solutions. Creativity involves two processes: thinking, then producing. If you have ideas, but don't act on them, you are imaginative but not creative.

"Creativity is the process of bringing something new into being. Creativity requires passion and commitment. It brings to our awareness what was previously hidden and points to new life. The experience is one of heightened consciousness: ecstasy." – Rollo May, The Courage to Create

Importance of Creativity:

The world needs more and more compassionate creativity to solve difficult problems confronting us. Creative people do not have answers, but they habitually question the status quo and think about alternatives and improvements. They discover and invent possible answers. They habitually ask better questions. They have optimism. When combined with empathy and compassion, creativity is bound to be a force for good.

Economic Orientation

We have to realize and accept the fact that children are not machines to reproduce the feeded material, rather they are thinking, rational and above all creative beings that can absorb as well as create the huge sea of new knowledge. Our present educational system is focusing on teaching rather than creating. The focus needs to be shifted from teaching to learning, from teacher to child, from reproducing to creating. Our educational system is more oriented economically i.e. it aims mainly to make a child economically independent. Although it is an important function but we have to reconsider the fact that the educational system we

are following was basically structured for a different time, for the intellectual, culture of the enlightenment and in the economic circumstances of the industrial revolution. We are trying to meet the future by doing what they did in past and thus alienating millions of our children who don't find any purpose in the education they are being provided.

Life Zones

Now we are in a totally different age and hence change is inevitable. But to bring the change or to accept the change, we have to leave our Comfort Zone, the things we are habitual to or comfortable in doing. The zone that follows this comfortable zone is Learning Zone. This is the area that occupies the space where we learn new things by travelling, going to school, through books and much more. This zone is followed by the most critical zone 'The Panic Zone or The Magic Zone'. This is the zone where we have to face the unknown, the zone where nothing is familiar or known to us, the zone where we have to believe in ourselves and bring our creativity into play.

This zone has been termed as the Panic zone because we fear to enter this zone, we have the fear of the unpredictable and we are emotionally attached to our comfortable zone. This creates a situation of tension as we are torn between the emotional tension and creative tension both of which drag us in opposite directions.

Killing the Creativity

Our educational system is by and large responsible for it. In our present system of education we don't help the children to believe in themselves. We don't give them a chance to come up with new solutions. Most five year olds are totally confident that they can draw, sing, and dance. Tragically, within three or four years this child, if she is typical, will experience a crisis of confidence. She will no longer feel competent or creative. As teachers, we are often partly to blame for the diminished inclination to be creative as children become socialized and aware of their own limitation. As they grow up we teach them that there is only one possible solution to a particular problem and that is provided in the book and this provides a concrete proof of our education system as an Unintentional Killer of Creativity.



A research study claims that it took a sample of 1500 kids and asked them for different solutions to a problem. It was a longitudinal study. In the sample of Kinder Garden kids 98% of them showed extra ordinary power of creative thinking .But the same sample studied at an age of 8-10 years and 15-17 years showed remarked deterioration in this capacity and the most probable reason was that they have gradually become educated. The study shows that as Human Beings we all have this creative capacity but it deteriorates as we grow up being educated in this system which provides readymade solutions to the problems.

Recognizing the Miracle

Our system of education is anaesthetizing our children. To be aesthetic means to be alive, to be responding to our inner environment and the reverse means shutting down our senses, leading oneself towards the inner self. We are preparing a work force which can react, to some measure, to the external situations but is totally unaware of its inner self, its potential, the miracle it carries in itself. As Dalai Lama has rightly quoted “To Be Born At All is A Miracle”. The miracle has already taken place and it is up to us how we use this miracle. We have disembodied our children only as Minds without an inner self.

The Standardized Model of Education

We have to shift our focus from the standardized model of education where certain values and concepts are taken for granted and we blindly keep on following and transferring them through generations. There is a huge gap between the real life situations and modals being taught at school. Our life is unpredictable especially the life of our future generations. In this fast changing scenario we can't predict how life will be in next 6-7 years and yet we claim to teach our students about their future. We need not to teach them to apply the readymade solutions to the known problems rather we need to equip them with tools to create the divergent solutions for new, unknown and unpredictable problems. Again the problem is that our system is least fit for incorporating failures or mistakes. There is no place for such things, because there is no space for originality and experiment. We inculcate a big fear for the word FAILURE. What we forget is that failure is the first step to success. We have to develop in them a feeling to accept failures, to overcome it and to learn from it to create a new solution.

The Power of Imagination

We are different from other living creatures. Of course Language is one feature which distinguishes us from other creatures but some of them can imitate our words and understand our commands. But there is one capacity that we as human beings have been endowed with and which no other living creature has and that is The Power of Imagination. This is the most unimaginable irony that we ourselves are curbing this distinguishing feature of ours, the power of imagination, through our system of education. In many cultures some families and most schools use a lot of negative behavior management. If children grow up in a highly controlled environment with too many prohibitions, only a small percentage of them manage to persistent and retain their natural power of imagination. Most of their neurons and thinking habits that would have developed to

make a creative mind have been pruned. Their natural tendencies to be adventuresome, experimental, imaginative and creative become suppressed. We as teachers, as a part of this standardized system, give very little opportunities to our students to imagine. We provide them with books, with all the probable questions and possible answers and thus shutting out their doorways to creativity. We systematically destroy this capacity of creativity and imagination through our present system of education.

A New Approach

Our System of education and our approach towards children needs a never before approach because our kids have to live in a future where they have to face problems like never before. They will have to choose the career that never existed before. They have to think divergently in a ‘never before’ manner. They have to imagine the unimaginable. Training only the mind, stressing only on Science subjects, with an excuse that we are in a scientific age, will no more work. Arts have to be given an important place. We have to develop them aesthetically. Children have a vast appetite for learning and we have to exploit this innate capability to its maximum.

Education has to be more personal. Although the Economic, The Cultural and The Social Functions of education are important but its Personal Function cannot be ignored at any cost. Education is about people and this needs to be emphasized through our system as a whole. We cannot follow the age old system because they were the best but we have to change and let our students choose what the best is and what will be the best. To quote John Dewey

“Every Generation has to Rediscover Democracy”

Conclusion

Teaching is not synonymous to delivering. We have to focus on teaching learning process as a whole. A major solution to the aforesaid problems can be brought about by actively engaging the children in their learning, by making them a active and responding member of the whole programme, by actively involving them in teaching themselves in groups. Learning in active groups is a key to opening the doorways of creativity and imagination.

Fostering Creativity is the need of the hour because in present times and the future ahead Creativity is as important as Literacy and the best part is we don't have to do much because Students can construct their learning themselves.

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