



EDUCATION IN THE CULTURAL CONTEXT

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Abstract

This paper tries to describe Gandhiji's thought with the help of Education and Culture. This paper describes the meaning and concept of Education and Salient characteristics of education. Education is a process of modification of natural tendencies of an individual. This paper also tries to describe Meaning and definition of culture and Education is an instrument of cultural change. This paper tries to discuss the Role of the B. Ed. Program in Transmission and Advancement of culture with the help of various ways.

Key words : Education, Culture.

"Education is the natural, harmonious development and progressive development of man's innate powers."

The concept of education is like a diamond which appears to be of a different colour when seen from different angles. Like the proverbial elephant and the blind men, everybody i.e. an artist, a biologist, an educator, a farmer, a merchant, a moralist, a philosopher, a psychologist, a religious preacher, a sociologist and a statesmen, a student and a teacher seems to have his version of education, which is influenced by his own outlook on life and his experiences in limited field.

In brief, concept of education has different meanings on account of the following factors:

Cultural setting, Economic set-up, Geographical considerations, Philosophical thought, Religious moorings, Political philosophy and system & Sociological thinking.

All these singly or in combination of one or more factors exercise their influences on the aims, contents, organization, discipline and methods etc. of education.

Salient Characteristics of Education

Education is a process of drawing out the best in child and man-body, and spirit. Education is a process of modification of natural tendencies of an individual. It is a process of self-realization. It is a deliberate process. It is a tri-polar process involving the interaction of the educator and that of the child in social setting. It is a psychological and sociological process. It is a life-long process.

'By education I mean all round drawing out of the best in child and man-body, mind and spirit' Gandhiji's thought convinced that without character, vocational efficiency had no meaning.

Education has mainly two aspects, the cultural aspect which makes a person grow, and the productive aspect which makes a person do things. Both are essential.

Meaning and Definition of culture

"Culture is an attitude of mind, an inclination of spirit and those who yearn for it, wish to have a vision of greatness, sit in the presence of nobility, see the highest reach and scope of the spirit of man,"

"Our art and literature, our law and history belong to the mainstream of our culture. Every Indian student should get to know the main outlines of the history of India, which is not a mere chronicle of date and defeats, of follies and failures. He should know the lives of the heroes who express the

spirits of our civilization, the seers of Vedas, the Buddha and Sankara, Ashoka and Akbar. A habitual vision of greatness is the way to cultural growth."

Swami Dayanand considers culture as "acceptance of truth and abandonment of untruth."

Culture and Education

Education can and must bring about the fine synthesis between change-oriented technologies and country's continuity of cultural traditions. The curricula and processes of education must be enriched by cultural content in as many manifestations as possible; children should be enabled to develop sensitivity to beauty, harmony and refinement. Education and culture are interrelated. Education is the part of culture has the twin functions of conservation and modification or renewal Education is conceived as a systematic effort to maintain a culture. In its technical sense education is the process by which society, through schools, colleges, universities and other institutions, deliberately transmits its cultural heritage, its accumulated knowledge, values and skills from one generation to another.

Education is an instrument of cultural change. Education imparts knowledge, training and skill as well as inculcates new ideas and attitudes among the students.

Role of the B. Ed. Program in Transmission and Advancement of culture

The B.Ed. program must accelerate the impact of the essential aspects of culture which prevails in the society. It must be linked with the school and society. It should conserve and modify culture through the following:

Curriculum and cultural values, Methods of teaching, Co-curricular activities, Personality of the student teacher, B.Ed. syllabus and cultural values, Synthesis of moral and spiritual values with scientific values, Staff cooperation, Collaboration of school and B.Ed. College. Collaboration of B.Ed. College and society & Emotional integration with school and society.

Role of the Teacher in developing cultural aspects

A teacher has to play an important role in enabling his pupils to adjust themselves to the cultural situation, and encourages the students to adopt a cultural approach and create cultural situations. Teacher should suggest books on cultural thought, T.V. and film shows may be arranged on the subject. And most important is teaching should be closely related to life.

**Conclusion**

Education can play a vital role in strengthening cultural integration. It is felt that education should not only aim at imparting knowledge but should develop all aspects of a student's personality. Without improvement, the society will stagnate. Education is not only to reflect the social conditions but also to improve them. With the advancement of science and technology our ways of are also undergoing tremendous change. If we would not cope with the present advancement there would be 'cultural lag'. So education must adapt itself to the changing conditions. In short, the students should be taught to get inspiration from the inspiring past, to live in the dynamic present and to face the challenging future.

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