4.5 Objective of Education
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Abstract

In his speech at the valedictory function of the Moral Capabilities workshop for the M.Ed students, Prof. Takwale emphasizes the objective of education. Education should aim at personal development. He speaks of the need for inculcating value system through education so that values form a compass to give direction to the worthy goals that education provides. (By: LA)

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"I am really very happy to see that classes could be conducted like this. And if the classes could be that enjoyable, playful. I think joyful learning is getting implemented… We are aware that the system of education is undergoing quite radical changes. What are those changes? For example value education – can values be taught that way? We had always laughed about value education… But the Baha I Academy has found out different ways of sharing ideas, views, values, discussion about right and wrong, ethics, and morality. All these ideas are not part of the curriculum usually. Why not ? Possibly we have not paid attention to that. Because things such as what is right or wrong are not asked in question papers. You write what is written in the book or expected by the examiner, but this is not the way you behave in real life situations. So how to remove these differences? I think that is the whole issue, and we are very much impressed by the Baha'I Academy's work.

… What is the objective of education? The objective of education is not just content mastery but also personality development of the individual… It is an objective of education as one has to develop oneself: but one is not a single individual—he is a part of the community, society, culture, and whole nation. And when he is a part of the community, society and so on, should education not be linked to all these factors? And therefore comes the idea of having one module where you learn a number of tricks and things and how you think about it, raise the issues and problems, sharing, trying to understand what is right or wrong – and certainly use that in servng people. So a service component comes in. Rightly said, a ship without a compass doesn't have any direction. A compass will give you direction, but will it give goals? Possibly not. But what about the goals? Goals should be given by education, goals are to be achieved through the process of education.

… If I have a lot of knowledge and learning which I do not use or even if I do so, it does not affect anybody, except giving a certificate to somebody, what is the value of that education ? … So the objective of education is development, or education for development, knowledge of development. And if the final goal is development, how can you achieve sustainable development? … So the content should not be the goal of learning. It should be something different…

I want to make a reference to the Happy Hippo Show… There was a problem with the boy in the Show. We have realized very well, the situational aspect, their career, and work, then there was not free time for parents. And grand-parents are there; they can give time but they are separated. … In what way you will build up the career and character of your child. Again the home upbringing has some sort of value system. … what kind of family do we have ? We have Victorian families where a top man says something and nobody will utter a single word. Just now also you can go to a family and see if the father says something nobody utters a single word … There is also an approach that an elderly person knows everything, has interest in child's mind and therefore whatever he says or orders is for the best interest of the child. .. But is the approach to be transmitted in the same way, or now it should be in a different way because today's children are brought up in a different way? They are children of the information society, not the feudal society, not the industrial society… They see through the television and through discussion amongst them and they know so much about the world; possibly at our age at that

time we knew very little. Now suppose… if he feels that somebody is dictating to him this is somehow a wrong value system he is picking up…

Ultimately I do believe education must get linked with development of the society. The development of society is a very complex phenomenon. Development – the way in which we like to develop in India – or village or might be in these cities – will be completely different from the development in America or any other country. Development may be different bout the directions of development are almost the same – through education, through technology, through knowledge, and through the process of empowerment … Every system is a part of the social education system … and if we are transforming ourselves into a knowledge society or information society, education must become professional education or education based on such principles and processes which lead to the knowledgeable society.

… There is a movement of open educational resources. … So if there are Eklavyas, they can have the best resources available and indefinitely learn any quality and nay standard. They can have the best quality material available. This open educational resources movement is coming out of the goodness of so many people, most importantly …so many resources are available. Some are trying to make this in the form of multimedia. Self-instructive and quality way of learning. You find a number of teachers are doing a task, and once they are successful, a very good simulation is made and basic concepts are explained in beautiful ways that every student understands. Then they just put it on the website and say this is for everybody … Now this is the way of integrating knowledge, creating some new resources, through cooperative learning and cooperative working, in which not only a few persons participate but thousands of people across the world are participating. This is a new phenomenon never known earlier. Now if these two phenomena you take together then you will find that you can build a completely a new system, a different system of education. I think this is what is coming up. And it has no earlier parallel; it is a completely different system… that will serve the sustainable development of the community…