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Education and changing needs of the country

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Abstract

Education is an ongoing process throughout the life. The human beings acquire the new learning and knowledge at every step in different spheres of life. That atmosphere related to learning situation is also an important factor for the learning of education. The education system should always be as per the objective, guidelines, requirements and within the limitations of the society. So the educational programmes should be designed and scheduled as per the requirements of the society. Since our country is the largest democracy of the world with its secular character. Therefore education should fulfil the national needs of the country.

Keywords: Education changing, human, education, national

Introduction

Earlier in our country, people used to spend a very simple way of life. Necessities of the people were limited and they used to live a very peaceful life. As not much of competition was there, people used to spend their spare time in spiritual thoughts. To a very great extent, concept of education was influenced by these spiritual thoughts. During the time, education through Vedas was being imparted in which much importance was being given to chastity, perseverance and independent thinking. Fundamental means of education were devotion, action and knowledge^[1].

Education is an instrument of change

We are living in the 21st century and this period is considered to be the greatest transitional period in the history of mankind. Today, we see various kinds of changes being taking place in all the fields. Such changes have taken place with such a pace and in such a limited period of time that human beings do not get much time to adapt themselves in changing conditions. Today, needs and requirements of human beings have increased a lot and education helps to a lot of extent in fulfilling these increasing needs and demands. All the changes taking place in the society or in all the spheres of life should be taken into account in education. It is necessary that education should have such programmes or policies which can prepare human beings for various changes^[2].

Education as a solution of problems

With the development, various kinds of changes have also brought various kinds of problems and tensions. An important role that education should play is to provide a kind of safeguard against all these tensions and problems. We are living in a technological age and to face various kinds of requirements, education plays an important role. Human beings can get the knowledge about the experience of other human beings through the means of education. Today life has become very complicated and to solve out these problems, proper solution should be provided to human beings. These solutions are being provided by the education. What kind of important role education plays in the life of human beings, can be measured from the fact that today there is no aspect or field of life which is not affected by education. With the advancement in science and technology our national needs and goals have been changing. So education must satisfy the national needs of our country. As such the following aims and objectives should be satisfied by the modern system of education because education is a powerful instrument of social change^[3].

- **Education and national objectives:** Transformation of the educational system is the need of the hour. So that education is related to life and to the aspirations of the people. Subsequently, education should become a powerful tool of social, economic and cultural transformation to fulfil national goals.
- **Education and productivity:** Self-sufficiency in food is the primary need of Indian because there can be no schooling with hungry people. So for productivity purposes, economic growth and full employment of young boys and girls is essential. The national income per capita should be raised through the introduction of science, education, work experience, vocationalisation and the like ^[4].
- **Social and national integration:** Education must lay stress on those forces which will inculcate social, national and emotional integration in the people. Effective programmes for the establishment of the “common school” system, social and national service, developing the 3-language formula, promotion of national consciousness and inculcation of democratic values are very important and should receive top priority.
- The cultivation of social, moral and spiritual values among school going boys and girls should become an integral part of schooling.

Education should create an atmosphere of modernization by developing proper interests, attitudes, skills and values of the young generation. It should also bring a radical change in the methods of teaching and training of teachers 5.

Education has always been a cornerstone of societal development, serving as the bedrock for progress and innovation. In the 21st century, the role of education is more critical than ever, especially in responding to the dynamic needs of a rapidly changing world. The evolving economic landscape, technological advancements, and social transformations necessitate a reevaluation of educational systems to ensure they are capable of preparing individuals for the future. This essay explores the changing needs of the country in relation to education, focusing on the shifts in skill requirements, the integration of technology in learning, and the need for lifelong education.

Shifting Skill Requirements

The traditional model of education, which emphasized rote learning and standardized testing, is increasingly becoming obsolete. In the past, the primary objective of education was to equip students with a broad range of knowledge and basic skills to prepare them for a stable job. However, the modern workforce demands a different set of skills, reflecting the complexities and uncertainties of contemporary society ^[6].

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

Today's job market values individuals who can think critically and solve complex problems. Critical thinking involves analyzing information, evaluating evidence, and making reasoned conclusions, while problem-solving requires creativity and adaptability. Educational curricula need to incorporate activities that promote these skills, moving away from mere memorization.

Collaboration and Communication

With the rise of globalized teams and remote working environments, effective collaboration and communication are essential. Students must learn to work effectively in diverse

teams, understand different perspectives, and communicate their ideas clearly. Schools should foster environments that encourage group projects, discussions, and presentations.

Technical and Digital Literacy

The digital revolution has transformed nearly every industry, making technical skills and digital literacy indispensable. Basic computer skills are no longer sufficient; students must be proficient in coding, data analysis, and the use of various digital tools. Integrating technology education into the core curriculum is crucial for preparing students for the future workforce ^[7].

Emotional and Social Intelligence

As automation and artificial intelligence take over routine tasks, human skills such as empathy, emotional intelligence, and interpersonal skills become more valuable. Education systems should focus on developing students' social and emotional learning (SEL), helping them navigate complex social environments and build meaningful relationships.

Integration of Technology in Learning

The advent of technology has significantly impacted the education sector, offering new ways of learning and teaching. The integration of technology in education can enhance the learning experience, making it more engaging, personalized, and accessible.

Blended Learning

Blended learning combines traditional face-to-face instruction with online learning. This approach allows for more flexibility and caters to different learning styles. Students can access materials at their own pace, while teachers can use classroom time for interactive activities and personalized support.

Adaptive Learning Technologies

Adaptive learning technologies use artificial intelligence to personalize the learning experience for each student. These systems can identify students' strengths and weaknesses, adjusting the content and pace accordingly. This personalized approach ensures that students receive the support they need to succeed ^[8].

Gamification

Gamification involves incorporating game elements into the learning process. This method can make learning more fun and engaging, motivating students to participate actively. Games can be used to teach various subjects, from mathematics to history, by providing a hands-on and interactive experience.

Virtual and Augmented Reality

Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) offer immersive learning experiences that can bring subjects to life. For example, students can take virtual field trips to historical sites, explore the human body in 3D, or conduct virtual science experiments. These technologies can enhance understanding and retention of complex concepts.

Online Learning Platforms

Online learning platforms have democratized access to education, providing opportunities for lifelong learning. Platforms like Coursera, edX, and Khan Academy offer courses on a wide range of subjects, allowing individuals to

learn at their own pace and convenience. This flexibility is particularly beneficial for working adults and those with other commitments.

Lifelong Learning

The concept of lifelong learning is becoming increasingly important in today's fast-paced world. The rapid pace of technological change means that skills can become obsolete quickly, necessitating continuous learning and reskilling ^[9].

Continuous Professional Development

Employees must engage in continuous professional development to stay relevant in their fields. Companies can support this by providing opportunities for training and development, encouraging employees to pursue further education and certifications.

Adult Education

Adult education programs can help individuals acquire new skills and knowledge, whether for career advancement or personal enrichment. Governments and educational institutions should offer accessible and affordable adult education opportunities to support lifelong learning.

Informal Learning

Informal learning, such as learning through hobbies, community involvement, or self-study, is also valuable. Encouraging a culture of curiosity and self-directed learning can help individuals stay engaged and motivated throughout their lives.

Intergenerational Learning

Intergenerational learning involves the exchange of knowledge and skills between different age groups. This approach can foster mutual respect and understanding, while also providing valuable learning opportunities for both young and older individuals. Schools, community centers, and workplaces can facilitate intergenerational learning programs. Challenges and Solutions While the changing needs of the country necessitate reforms in education, there are several challenges that must be addressed to implement these changes effectively.

Equity and Access

Ensuring equitable access to quality education is a significant challenge. Disparities in resources, infrastructure, and opportunities can hinder the effectiveness of educational reforms. Governments must invest in underfunded schools, provide financial assistance to low-income students, and ensure that all students have access to the necessary technology and support ^[10].

Teacher Training and Support

Teachers play a crucial role in implementing educational reforms. Providing adequate training and support for teachers is essential to ensure they are equipped to teach new curricula and integrate technology into their classrooms. Professional development programs, mentoring, and collaboration opportunities can help teachers adapt to the changing educational landscape.

Curriculum Reform

Updating the curriculum to reflect the changing needs of the country is a complex and ongoing process. Involving stakeholders, including educators, industry experts, and

students, in the curriculum development process can ensure that it is relevant and comprehensive. Regular reviews and updates are necessary to keep the curriculum aligned with current and future needs.

Assessment and Evaluation

Traditional assessment methods, such as standardized tests, may not effectively measure the skills and competencies required in the modern world. Developing new assessment methods that evaluate critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and other essential skills is crucial. Formative assessments, project-based learning, and portfolios can provide a more holistic view of student progress and abilities.

Policy and Funding

Implementing educational reforms requires strong policy support and adequate funding. Governments must prioritize education in their budgets and policies, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently and effectively. Collaboration between policymakers, educators, and industry leaders can help create policies that support the evolving needs of education. Basically education was knowledge of reading writing and arithmetic, as our foreign rulers needed babus and clerks. Next in of education was to obtain information and general knowledge. Basic education was needed to make our youngsters craftsmen and skill labourers. Vocationalization of education produced an army of jobless doctors and engineers. Modernization aim of our education created a changed in our cities and towns. People without the knowledge of computer are called illiterates. Today we have to make our students physically and intellectually honourable "citizens of the world".

Conclusions

The large population of India is diverse in nature. It represents different communities, cultures, classes, categories, castes and tribes with their individual identity. The developmental objectives of these groups cannot be ignored but these objectives must revolve around the nation aim which is the basic and fundamental need of the country. Education is a powerful tool for addressing the changing needs of the country. By shifting focus towards critical thinking, collaboration, technical skills, and emotional intelligence, integrating technology into learning, and promoting lifelong education, we can prepare individuals for the challenges and opportunities of the future. Addressing the challenges of equity, teacher support, curriculum reform, assessment, and policy is essential to create an education system that is responsive, inclusive, and effective. Investing in education is investing in the future, ensuring that individuals and societies can thrive in an ever-changing world.

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