

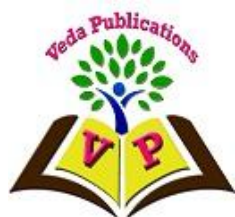
INCULCATING CREATIVE THOUGHTS AMONG THE STUDENTS

Neha Girish Kaushik

(Lecturer in English, Sheshadripuram college, K.S. Town, Bangalore.)

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ABSTRACT



Education being one of the fundamental rights of every citizen is provided free and compulsory to all the children of 6-14 years. There is a need to provide quality and value based education in the present scenario. Hence a need for value and skill based education. Rabindranatha Tagore once opined that true education is that which develops our mind, body and soul. But the present education system stresses on only physical development and not on intellectual and spiritual development, hence there is a need for cognitive thinking and skill based education. The modern education system suppresses the cognitive thinking of the students as they learn the curriculum of the course only for the grades and certificates. They don't have the urge for knowledge and hence inculcating creative thoughts among the students is very important.

Keywords: *Fundamental Rights, Value and Skill Based Education, Cognitive Thinking, Curriculum, True Education, Inculcate.*

INTRODUCTION

“The supreme art of the teacher is to awaken joy in creative expressions and knowledge”-

Albert Einstein

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character- that is the goal of true education”

- Martin Luther King Jr

In the present scenario creativity is suppressed by the traditional education system of our country. This is the chief reason for the lack of creativity and innovations among the students. This is because students simply sit and listen to the teachers. The teacher centered education system does not provide any provisions for the practical and field work and the students are not allowed to think in a free and creative manner. The above two quotes stresses on the need for teaching in a creative manner as it is one among the basic requirements of modern world. There should be a unique abode of learning like the Shantiniketan schools of Tagore, which were close to Nature and learnt their lessons amidst Nature, as Nature is the greatest teacher which teaches life lessons and which has served as an inspiration to many poets.

Apart from that the teachers should adopt teaching aids like flash cards, flip charts, pictorial aids, overhead projectors and telling stories to the students wherever necessary, discussions, debates to help the students for being curious and help them to think in a creative way. In this modern age of complexity and turbulence one has to develop the capability to think, plan and execute. The digital technology and globalization collude together to create a new environment of complexity which demand new ways of thinking. Inculcating, imbibing creative and life skills in addition to the knowledge is very crucial and vital to face the future challenges.

CASE STUDY

As mentioned above the traditional method of teaching is teacher centered where the students learn their lessons sitting and restricting themselves to the four walls of the classrooms. Our education system is modeled on the western system of education where machine made lessons are designed in such a way that it is a burden to the students

rather than life lessons. This type of education system only creates clerks, who are restricted to the four walls of the classrooms seeing the letters, hearing the abstract lessons and missing the perpetual flow of the ideas from Nature. Because of which the child's creative thinking is hindered as it stops to think intensively and creatively.

A famous English poet William Blake in his poem criticized this type of education in his poem, 'The School Boy'

“But to go to school in a summer morn,-
O it drives all joy away!
Under a cruel eye outworn,
The little ones spend the day
In sighing and dismay”

The poet criticizes the system of school education because it drives away all the joys of the child, and the child learns its lessons whole day in the classrooms with the feeling of sadness and dismay, sighing for the strict rules imposed by the teacher in the classrooms. This is very true to this day also as this method of teaching injures and forcibly spoils the mind of the child, since the lessons learnt are not with the feeling of joy, eagerness and active senses.

Ivan Illich, modern critic in his book 'Deschooling Society' criticizes the ineffectual nature of institutionalized education. And he emphasizes on the self directed education which is supported by the intentional social relations in the informal arrangements.

Illich argued that the use of technology would support the goal of creating a good educational system if decentralized webs are created. He opined that a good educational system serves three purposes like providing access to all the resources at any time, empower all the teachers and learners and lastly furnish them with an opportunity to make their challenge and issue known to the public

“A good educational system should have three purposes: it should provide all who want to learn with access to available resources at any time in their lives; empower all who want to share what they know to find those who want to learn it from them; and, finally furnish all who want to present an issue to the public

with the opportunity to make their challenge known”

The MOOCs, though a new concept is very popular among the students because of its wide range of merits all over the world. It offers a wide variety of online courses for a mass community of learners, who have the urge to learn. Out of the online courses, recently ‘Life Skills MOOC’ course is offered by IIT, Kanpur to enhance the life skills of young engineers but courses for enhancing creative thinking among the students are not yet offered in India. Because this is very essential for meeting the requirement and challenges of the future. Even though offered, the learners should be involved in it to inculcate and imbibe them in their life.

Efforts should be made to include some art films related to the curriculum of the course, this creates interest among the students to learn and some sessions of lectures should be reserved for analyzing the film and reviewing it. Along with the teacher the students should also participate in the discussions so that they could think independently in a creative way.

Curriculum should be designed in such a way that it should be relevant to the present society but the lessons which we study are dull and painful based on the western model, say for example a student is taught the history of Europe which is useless because the Indian society is different from the European society. The curriculum of the course is designed in such a way that it is dull and painful while studying and when learnt it becomes useless paving way for unemployment to the individuals. The burden of the curriculum makes way for problems like stress, tensions and pressures which in turn hinders the thinking capacity of the child. Let this be illustrated with the best example of a scene from the famous film “3 idiots”, there is a scene where Rancho attends the funeral ceremony of his classmate Joy Lobo, who was unable to bear the pressure of the course curriculum died by hanging himself in his hostel room. In the funeral ceremony Rancho questions the Director of the Institution, DrVirusahastrabuddhe about the corporate education system and shows him that how much pressure engineers face when they study. He shows the Director of the Institution

that pressure is murder. This is very true today as the burden of the curriculum increases stress, pressure and tension affecting their hindrance in both physical and intellectual growth as a result the child is unable to think on its own.

There are many barriers for creative thinking among the students few among them are prejudices of the students, stress, lack of self-confidence, lack of proper guidance, ego, pride, inferiority complex, self criticism and the environment in which we are born and brought up. Chethan Bhagat in his article ‘The Great Indian Psycho-Therapy’ expresses the same theme where he is of the opinion that the present education system hammers out our individual voices and kills our natural creativity making us servile and slaves of our course materials. No subject teaches us imagination, creativity or innovation. We just pass on the information to different individuals without having any other questions about the subject. He illustrates this by giving the example of the 28 states of India. “For example, we ask: how many states are there in India? Answer: Twenty eight. Correct. Our education system has only informative questions and lacks questions like, how is a country divided into states? What criteria should be used? Thus the trait of servility is inculcated by our education system”.

The barriers to creative thinking could be overcome by building confidence among the students, giving them proper guidance and directing them in a proper way, asking questions and encouraging them to think independently.

In ancient education system or in the Vedic education system there was the practice of adopting the Moukika (which literally means oral recitation) and the Chintana (which literary means to think) methods while learning. Similarly there was the practice of Swaadhyaya (which means self study) the self-study method of learning had three purposes and was believed to teach three basic things like self-identity, self-power and self-duty. As a result of this there was absolutely no need for learning creative thinking, moral values and life skills as separate courses because they were part of their curriculum but today there is a need for all these courses due to the transitions in the educational system.

CONCLUSION

A transition is needed in the current education system where the curriculum of the course should be designed in such a way that it should create interest and joy to learn among the learners. If we need to encourage the students to think in a creative way then it is very necessary to create a feeling of urge for knowledge in them, and this is possible only when the curriculum of the course encourages them and should not burden them or hinder their thinking due to stress, tension or pressure. Secondly some other literary genres like films, storytelling methods should be included in the curriculum and some sessions should be reserved for the discussions or for conducting quizzes. Thirdly there prevailed Gurukula system of education in our ancient education system which were natural schools i.e. the schools which were very close to nature and the students learnt life lessons, they learnt every art of life essential for their living so they never learnt extra courses like creative thinking, moral values and all such courses separately as they were part of their curriculum but modern education system fails to do so there is a need for a transition in the curriculum and there should be some lessons on these life skill courses to avoid teaching them separately. Fourthly even if MOOCs include some creative thinking courses, the involvement of the learners is very essential and in any online courses it is very difficult to trace the involvement of the learners and hence it cannot be guaranteed that MOOCs or the online courses can serve their purpose in inculcating creative thinking among the students. Finally some self study courses should be taught to the students to help them to think independently and to think in a creative way. Creative thinking and thinking skills are one of the essential requirements of modern world so it is very necessary to teach the students to think in a creative manner but it is only useful if they learn it and follow it in their life by inculcating it in their life.

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