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Education for Personality Development - Modern Trends

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Abstract:

UNESCO prescribes the learning position to continue throughout one's life because, there is a constant aspiration for progress and perfection, which in turn governs the rhythm and law of self-development. Freud has advanced the theory that personality is influenced by the tripartite entity of id, ego and super-ego. The interaction of these in adulthood needs defense mechanisms that are provided by one's ego. Education is the breeding, bringing up and rearing of one's physical and mental capabilities. Education evolves through culture and is dependent on the practice of transmitting knowledge. Education helps in overcoming handicaps, achieving greater equality and acquiring wealth and status for all. In the present day, education has been demarcated into two distinct streams as that of formal and non-formal. Coming by education needs fortification in communicative skills, especially through the universal link language, English. The present state of abysmal levels of versatility can be overcome by taking recourse to programs as the one devised by PRICE - Philip Rajaiah Institute of Continuing Education Pvt. Ltd., an organization with a quarter century standing. In accordance with Thiruvalluvar's dictum, the essence of true knowledge can be assimilated from information that one comes across from every possible source. Education being an all pervasive force helps develop personality to the farthest extent possible.

Personality

The very first principle of the 21-point program for global strategy in education, as stated in the report of the UNESCO is that, every individual must be in a position to keep learning throughout his life and that the idea of life-long education is the key note of the learning society. There is a constant aspiration for progress and perfection, a thirst for progress and a zeal for self-perfection, which should govern the rhythm and law of self-development. Constantly progressing helps one to remain perpetually young and constant progress comes by perpetual education.

The personality of an individual is a combination in totality of all the decisions that one makes throughout one's life and the memory of the experiences which have been the outcome of such decisions. Personality can also be defined as the enduring personal characteristics of an individual. Sigmund Freud has advanced the theory that personality is formed through the interaction of id, ego and super-ego. The adult personality according to Freud is the outcome of the interaction of this tripartite personality. The id allows us to get our basic needs met and id is based on the pleasure principle. In other words, id wants immediate satisfaction with no consideration for the reality of the situation. As one grows and interacts with the world the ego factor begins to develop. The function of ego is to meet the needs of the id taking into account the constraints of reality. The super-ego develops during early adulthood as a result of the moral constraints placed on one by parents and society and is generally believed to inhibit the biological instincts of the id. Defense mechanisms are employed by ego in order to satisfy the needs of id and super- ego.

Education

The word 'education' as derived from the Latin 'education' refers to 'a breeding, a bringing up, a rearing. Education can be imparted in both formal and non-formal settings. Education is the

evolution of culture and is dependent on the practice of transmitting knowledge. The proliferation of compulsory education in combination with population growth has impelled the UNESCO to calculate that in 30 years time there would be more people receiving formal education than the numbers totaled in human history so far. Education is the means of overcoming handicaps, achieving greater equality and acquiring wealth and status for all. It has been held that long before children begin school they tend to show significant differences in personality. An individual's personality is the outcome of heredity in the form of inherited temperaments and environmental factors such as the behavior of parents and cultural expectations. One of the most critical determinants of success for both individuals and society is education. Jackson, (2011) as held that individuals who are highly educated earn more, are healthier, and are more likely to contribute to civic organizations, whereas individuals with lower amounts of education are more likely to commit crimes, suffer unemployment, default on loans and be incarcerated. Hence education can be associated with economic growth and progress and be considered as one of the main sources of prosperity. Education leads to the accrual of information that helps problem solving and also contributes to independent thinking. Education has the capacity to instill in one the capability to not only acquire and retain information, but also to propagate knowledge and skills for the benefit of future generations. A teacher is one who unstintingly shares knowledge without any expectation of gratitude or reward. This is the reason that the profession of teaching has been and is held in such high esteem.

Present Trends in Education

In modern times education has been demarcated into two distinct streams as that of formal and non-formal. Formal education pertains to pedagogy where children up to the age of 16 are taught through classroom instruction, in a face to face atmosphere with a teacher. At the age of 18 when the individual enters the portals of higher education, the entire system of imparting knowledge undergoes a sea change from personalized instruction to self-acquirement of knowledge through the process of andragogy. It is at this stage that an individual comes to the cross-roads of acquiring knowledge in a formal atmosphere such as a college or university or in a non-formal atmosphere such as distance education through correspondence and the internet.

In the present day, time management becomes crucial in ensuring one's progress academically and financially. Many a time there is need for a person to further educational prospects even while earning their livelihood. It is not everyone who can come by a university education. It is said that only 20% of our countrymen in the present day have that privilege (Census 2011). The avenues of education are always open to everyone who strives to stride forth with intent and purpose. The background and inherited qualities should not be allowed to obstruct the path of progress. The main impediment to one's academic progress in the present day, happens to be a paucity in communicative skills. The diversity of India and its plethora of languages compel one to recognize the importance of the universal link language English. We should remember with gratitude, the great service of Macaulay, who through his insistence of English in the Indian education system has given us a unifying force through English, which would help us communicate effectively, not only with our own diverse countrymen, but also with people across the globe.

Language skills in personality development play an integral role and needs to be fortified with care. At present, our schools are imparting knowledge of English as a subject for 10 to 12 years and then the student continues to grapple with the subject for two more years in college. In spite of

various efforts, the versatility of the users of English including those highly educated is found to be abysmal. One may ask what the remedy is. The institute PRICE - Philip Rajaiah Institute of Continuing Education Pvt. Ltd., with a quarter century standing, has through extensive research designed a 90 class curriculum for imparting knowledge of English. Starting from the letters of the alphabet, the student is enabled, on completion of the program to read and comprehend a National newspaper such as The Hindu and also be able to write letters and other instruments needed for a well-informed existence.

The one component that is sure to enhance communication and understanding is the universal language English. Acquiring adequate skills in this component will help a person not only stand in good stead in his/her social environs but would also aid furtherance in one's academic attainments. When one submits a PhD thesis or gets a research article published, apart from the substance of one's subject one needs to present one's thoughts in well-chosen expressions to enable easy and aesthetic comprehension. The other components for personality development are also come by, by widening the horizons of the mind through education. Education instills discipline of both body and mind, gives patience and perseverance in the pursuit of knowledge and instills in the mind a sense of integrity, straightforwardness, sincerity, hard-work and humaneness.

Aristotle has said, that words and expressions get better authenticated when they are spoken by accredited personalities. We know that immunization through polio drops is not only beneficial but also a must. This concept when propagated by a popular star like Rajinikanth, got so firmly entrenched in the psyche of the masses that today the country proudly boasts of the success of polio eradication. Thiruvalluvar has said, "*eporul yaarvai ketpinum apporul meiporul kanbatharivu*". In other words, the essence of true knowledge is to assimilate information from whichever source it may come from. In order to develop one's personality, one needs to assimilate knowledge from every available source. Knowledge may be got from books, palm leaf manuscripts, edicts in stone, learned discourses or even simple conversation. The inter-change of ideas can happen at any part of the day or night, throughout the year all through one's life. One can be educated by the aged, a child or inanimate objects or even in dreams. To limit the hours of education during the day and during the year, to organize education on the idea of finishing it one day, to bifurcate education into curricular and extra-curricular courses, to regard studies as work and games as mere play and pass-time, to give exclusive value to reading, writing, reasoning and eloquence, and to regard all else as secondary or mere decoration are tendencies inimical to conception of life as education.

Education is an all pervasive force which helps develop personality to the furthest extent possible ensuring that one has 'the will for the great discovery should be always there soaring over one, above what one does and what one is, like a huge bird of light dominating all the movements of one's being.

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