

Where do we lack in imparting Education to Children?

(This article is an initiative of NECT/CSQ Global in the Service of Younger generation. Mr. N. Adiyapatham, Chairman, of the Trust and former District Educational Officer states the critical issues and the strategies to be adopted any importing education to children).

It is an analytical study of the issues identified among the school going children (6-18)

Let us focus some of the issues that disturb us:

- Do classroom transactions shape the child at the desired level?
- How do the children misbehave with others?
- What is the need of the hour for the youngsters?
- Why is there some times disturbing atmosphere prevail in the School premises?
- Who is responsible for the occurrence of Sexual abuses?
- Are we really concentrating on moral education?

To address these issues, there needs a field study on the actual problems and suggest suitable solutions to contain such evil practice prevailing among the school going children.

Certainly there are pucca classrooms with sufficient infrastructure facilities in most of the elementary schools. Similarly the Government and Private owners of the high and higher secondary schools are providing better facilities for educating the children. It is true a few schools are lacking the required facilities for which the government is taking relevant steps to fulfill the condition laid down in RTC Rules to their renew recognition.

Our curriculum is good and the syllabus and Text books are designed in accordance with the principles laid down in NPE 1986 and NCF 2005. The T.N. Govt. has revamped its school syllabus under the name "Samacheer Kalvi" (Common Standard of Education) since 2010.

As per RTE norms, Well trained teachers are posted to coach the children and the performance of the children is evaluated term wise through continuous and comprehensive Evaluation and recorded in the cumulative

record. There is periodical monitoring of the Educational Officers at all levels for ensuring good quality education.

It is evident that the state Education Department and CBSE schools run by MHRD is able to produce more than 85% of passes in X & XII Public Exams. It is also noted that the pass percentage is ever increasing at the public Exam level. It is surely an admirable task of the teachers and the administrators of the school Education Dept., governed by both the state and central govt. Schools.

But, then, where do we lack? Off late, there has been several cases of mis behaviourism reported by the administrators among the school going children. In the recent past a series of incidence like a student slapped a teacher, a teacher beaten reports of sexual harassment by the teacher or by the students with the girl children in their school, attempt to rape a girl child by her school seniors, Few school children unknowingly or unknowingly are indulging in smoking, drinking drug addition, child trafficking view pornography films are reported to discriminative etc., concerned authorities and through the media. Such naughty children are only 5 to 10% in a class. But they are to be modified.

Even some teachers involve in problem creating activities like sexual abuses slapping the child racial discrimination sometimes parents also hastily act and aggravate the problems even on small matters forgetting that they are the real managers for the child and spoil the normal functioning of the school. Most of the problems arise from the children who are slow learners, drop outs and who are hailing from weaker sections and disadvantaged group of children. There needs separate study on all such problems and issues to arrive at a pragmatic solution at the earliest.

In the background of the aforesaid problems we need immediate action plan for eradicating this evil practice. Undoubtedly we have been successful in improving the mental ability of every child in all classes up to school education level under various managements. But we cannot assure that and ethical values are nurtured in the minds of the school going children. In spite

of well constructed curriculum and well trained teachers with better amenities for the class room transactions, we are unable to ensure value education to all children in all schools. There may be variation from one school to the other school. But mis behaviourism is prevalent among the student community. It is reported that some boys attend the classes after taking liquor and disturb the classmates and the class teacher. In another area it is sexual assault of a girl student by a student of her class mate or a student of the same school. Some times in human behavior of raping of under aged girl children by adults of their own school. In one case a boy quarreled with his fellow class mate and later on the victim died in the hospital. I am particular of highlighting local social problems leading closure of the school. The clumsy behaviour of the teenage school going children in the age group of 13-18 is the problematic children to be dealt psychologically.

It is time to think on student problem of indiscipline in the school and find remedial measures to curb such evil behavior among the student community. We must nip in the bud and act immediately. Otherwise it will become social problems. Parents, teachers, educational Officers must sit together, and arrive at a solution to protect the younger generation from moral degeneration and deviation from ethical values. It must not be sitting and discussing and presenting a report to the government for execution of their proposals. There should be an action plan meant for the child, parent, teacher school administrators educational Officers to be executed in scheduled time frame.

On behalf of the trust and as an experienced teacher and educational administrator, I wish to provide the following suggestion and recommendations to contain such problems in the school education system and for the betterment of the student community for active consideration of the authorities of education providers of the state and central government as detailed below.

- a) In all schools, Moral education period should be conducted regularly at least 2 periods in a week in all classes from Std I to XII. There should be a separate specially trained teacher

preferably psychology studied person for handling the class. He should be accountable for failure of modification of behavior of any erring child in his class.

- b) Specific syllabus and text book shall be prepared by experts in education psychologist law enforcement authorities. The book provided to the children shall include highlighting moral stories, citizenship training, Road sense rules, the way of helping others, respect to elders, narration from rural parents, social problems, importance of social service., tolerance, respect to other sex, teaching good and bad, awarding exemplary character, awareness on sex education, teaching of physical education, yoga practice, health and hygiene etc.,
- c) For each class the syllabus content can include moral and ethical values along with building general knowledge concept according to the age level of the children.
- d) Evaluation of the performance of the each child can be done along with regular class work and Exams so that the children are trained in inculcating good manners and becoming a responsible citizen of this country.
- e) There should be a separate compulsory subject paper entitled VALUE EDUCATION with practical on social activity, Comprising moral education 30%, Physical Education 10%, Yoga 10%, Health & hygiene 10%, General knowledge 30%, Project work 10% as weight age marks. The eligible marks shall be in grading system like average/good/Excellent. If the boy fails to secure this grade along with regular present subject marks, let him wait for another quarter to pursue his studies.
- f) Such students should be given remedial coaching by the V.E. Teacher and a counselor be appointed for psychological study of the problems of the child identifying the reason for not attaining minimum level. Even then, the morality of the particular child is not improving,

then such child should be dealt in separate school run by government only in pursuing his education. He should be mainstreamed only when he satisfied behavior with the other regular school student.

- g) There should be compulsory monthly parents teacher meeting to deal with any problems arising out of indiscipline in case of any student, reasons for slow learning, containing abnormal behavior of any child, identifying problem children and correction procedures for mending their mis behaviourism.
- h) Recently a case is reported that a boy of class 10 attempted to rape a girl student of class 7 on seeing pornography from the laptop/Cell phone and when in the girl refused for sex, the quarrel lead to death. Now who is responsible for this in human act? Is it not the duty of the parents to look after what the child is doing? If they have watched him properly at home, he could have mended his behavior and the tragedy could have been avoided. Hence there is a necessity that every child in the age group of 6-18 are to be watched by the parents in their home and the teachers have to monitor the behavior of the child during school hours. They shall continue correction method both in their home and in school till the child becomes morally and educationally sound.
- i) The public should first consider that all teenage children as their own children and advise them and guide them whenever they find such children in suspicion in their vicinity. They should report to the police when the notice any mis behaviourism noted in the public place or any other area. If we do not care their flaws, the younger children will spoil their life themselves and allow them for their moral degeneration of the future generation.
- j) The govt. should advise that the law enforcement authorities should have a mechanism to watch through CCTV Cameras in vulnerable places and linkages ages to the Police station so that immediate

action is taken in any eventuality. They should have direct phone connections to every Educational institution in their area. They can even conduct awareness campaign on child protection and avoidance of child offences.

- k) The Govt. may change the provision in the juvenile justice Act so that the no. of crimes is reduced and all the children are guided in the right direction.

As the proverb goes, "Bend the twig and the bend the tree". I humbly request the elders of this country shall continue to take responsibility to guide the younger children so that they grow into a well bred man in our society.

- N. Adiyapatham.

(Pl. log in your response at nadiyapatham@gmail.com)