

## Education



**E**ducation gives us an understanding of the world around us and offers us an opportunity to use that knowledge wisely. Irrespective of race, creed, and gender, education makes it possible for people to stand out as equal with all the other persons from different walks of life. Overall, education is the platform that makes it possible to defeat all barriers.

“Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never  
cease to grow.”

– Anthony J. D'Angelo.

“Education is the key to success in life, and teachers make  
a lasting impact in the lives of their students”

– Solomon Ortiz

Knowledge is an ocean – we cannot reach the depths of, nor cross the breadths of it. Man, since evolution, has been learning through Experience. Man has been using knowledge to improve the quality of life and to have every

material comfort imaginable. Man seeks more knowledge, to control the environment and the universe. Knowledge is the single most powerful, hereditary phenomenon that influences human behaviour and thinking patterns. Knowledge is the very basis of Education. Every generation teaches the next generation how to live.

Learning and teaching are the two principles of education. In Vyasa's Mahabharata, Subhadra listened, 'how to enter the Chakravyuha'. However, she was sleeping for the rest. Abhimanyu who was awake in the womb of Subhadra, gained the knowledge of entering the Chakravyuha, but not how to escape. He was killed in the war, later. This example elucidates that learning and education begins in the womb; known as 'Garbha-Sanskar'. The environment around a seed plays a big role in its destiny – imbibing good values in the foetus is of paramount importance. Post birth the mother takes the responsibility of imbibing values with which the child live, for the rest of the life.

Even during the Victory Over the Obstacles nonsensical gaggle between the mother and the baby, the baby is learning, blooming, being educated. The powerful bond between the two is due to the mother's feeds, is good for the mental growth of the baby. Further, it increases the resistivity of the baby.

When a calf is born, it is given the 1st thick milk of the cow within twelve hours to get resistance power against diseases.

While growing, the children need their parents around them, to guide, protect, teach, help, nurture and

love, however the times have changed and it will be hard to find parents who give time for their children.

During the growth period, children need their relatives with them. They get love from grandmother, grandfather, uncle, aunty, siblings. The child is being educated through playing, talking with him. But now-a-days, joint families are no more in cities. The children don't get the love of granny-grandpa, uncles and aunties.

Even parents don't have time for the children, as they are working. Therefore, a child is kept in a crèche, since the age of six months or a year. After spending 2.5 years in a crèche, the child goes to a nursery. After climbing steps like play group, Junior K.G.

Literacy Rates in Post Independent India

Year	Rural			Urban			Combined		
	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total
1951	4.87	19.02	12.1	22.33	45.6	34.59	8.86	27.15	18.32
1961	10.1	34.3	22.5	40.5	66.0	54.4	15.35	40.4	28.31
1971	15.5	48.6	27.9	48.8	69.8	60.2	21.97	45.96	34.45
1981	21.7	49.6	36.0	56.3	76.7	67.2	29.76	56.38	43.57
1991	30.17	56.96	36.0	64.05	81.09	67.2	39.29	64.13	52.21
2001	46.7	71.4	59.4	73.2	86.7	80.3	53.67	75.26	64.83
2011	58.75	78.57	67.8	79.92	89.67	84.1	65.46	82.14	74.04
+ % in 2011 over 2001	26%	10%	14%	9%	3%	5%	22%	9%	14%

F =Female, M = Male

Source: Census of India, Office of Registrar General, India.

It can be seen that still there is scope for improvement in the literacy rate. Today we are in knowledge driven age and literacy is the first stage to achieve greater knowledge.

Top 10 states according to literacy rate as per 2011  
Population Census

Sr. No.	Name of the State	Persons Literacy rate (%)		
		Rural	Urban	Total
1	Kerala	93.0	95.1	94.0
2	Lakshadweep	91.8	91.6	91.8
3	Mizoram	84.1	97.6	91.3
4	Goa	86.6	90.0	88.7
5	Tripura	84.9	93.5	87.2
6	Daman & Diu	81.4	89.0	87.1
7	NCT of Delhi	81.9	86.3	86.2
8	A & N Islands	84.5	90.1	86.6
9	Chandigarh	80.7	86.2	86.0
10	Pondicherry	80.1	88.5	85.8
<b>India Average</b>		<b>67.8</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>73.0</b>
<b>Maharashtra</b>		<b>77.0</b>	<b>88.7</b>	<b>82.3</b>

**Source:** Hand Book of Social Welfare Statistics available on <http://socialjustice.nic.in/writereaddata/UploadFile/HANDBOOKSocialWelfareStatistic e2018.pdf>

Senior K.G. enters school at the age of five or six. The heavy school bag is put on the back from K.G., as a part of the system. The child's physical, mental growth should be natural, but it is artificial and unnatural. Do we get the desired effect? When we were children, we didn't know about the school till the age of five. We went to a temple as nursery (Balwadi). There used to be a teacher, teaching us songs. We ate Tiffin's and came home. It was really a pleasure. We used to drink water from the tank of the school from 1st to S.S.C. and even in the college. We never took water bottles to the school. Today the children have to bear the burden of water bottles right from nursery. So, when we think of the changing situation and educational atmosphere, we have to think, 'have we done development in the field of education or not?'

One thing is clear that in last few decades, there is increase in the literacy level. According to the 2001 census

the literacy level nationwide was 64.84%. It has become 74.04% in 2011 census. It has increased by 10% in ten years. It has increased in all the states. There is an increase in female literacy also. There is total increase in primary, secondary and higher education. But is this real development in education?

## Education Condition of Maharashtra

- ❖ Number of primary schools nearly 75,000
- ❖ Number of secondary schools – nearly 21,000
- ❖ Higher secondary schools / colleges – nearly 7000
- ❖ Number of S.S.C. students – nearly 17 lakhs
- ❖ Number of H.S.C. students – nearly 14 lakhs

## Higher Education

Maharashtra State: Specialization wise number of universities  
(based on responses) Position as on 2016

General	Agriculture	Fine Arts	Language	Medical
23	4	1	1	5

In our childhood, if we behaved wrongly or gave wrong answers, the teachers used to punish us. They used to tell us to kneel down, beat us with a wooden scale, giving the lessons not to misbehave and study properly. The students were afraid of the punishments. Now-a-days, it is said that teachers should not beat the students or punish them harshly. It is correct to some extent.

It was said in the olden days that we get the education only by beating '*Chhadi lage chham chham, Vidya yei gham gham.*' Today the situation is changed.

The society has come to know the importance of education. Many facilities are available, so there should be

change in the style of education. But today, a teacher doesn't dare to punish, for the mistakes due to the anger of the parents and probable actions against him. If the teachers, students and parents don't trust each other, how will the students acquire good values? Who will stop the student from going on a wrong path? We should consider these facts while thinking of punishing a student or not.

Long ago, the children were sent to the teacher's home to study. Rich or poor, they all stayed there. According to the tradition, they wore the same type clothes; worked together, milking the cows, keeping the premises clean, collecting wood from the forest, fetching water from the river, cooking etc. There was no discrimination. After the work was over, the teacher (guru) taught them different types of arts; gave them knowledge in the shade of trees. The stress was on morality. But today, on opening through the books, we find nothing about morals and morality. Today this tradition is no more seen.

In the *Gurukuls*, the students used to be self-dependent and expert in different branches of knowledge. *Gurukul* was a type of residential school. The reflection of society was seen in the *Gurukul*. 'How people live? What is poverty and what are the problems of the poor? The Prince, Son of the Prime Minister and Son of the Army Chief were exposed to these questions.' On taking over the administration, they tried to solve the problems.

What picture is seen today? Today, the children of ministers, M.P.s and M.L.A.s study in foreign countries to get degrees. But they are not bothered about the soil they belong to. They are not interested in the life and problems of the poor. They become leaders like their parents. But

they are not attached to the country. As a result, their decisions are not accepted by the people.

People are not satisfied. These leaders don't get the support of the people. Their wave-lengths are not matching. As a result, both – the leaders and the common people suffer. Today there are discriminations in education. There are different fees for different schools. The children of rich, affording the best school get better input. Today fad of going to English medium schools has increased a lot. The fees of the English schools having the best facilities are very high. It is quite difficult to get admission there. The children of poor people go either to Government schools or schools run by religious institutions. They lack– facilities. Because of this difference, there is discrimination between the rich and the poor. Poor are regarded as 'sub-standard'. This discrimination between the rich and the poor has an impact on the overall development of the society. It is really very essential to change this picture.

Another aspect is being self-dependent. In today's education system, children go to school, Colleges to become graduates. A student with a higher degree boasts that he cannot prepare tea. Is this the thing to be proud of? If you have to depend on others for smaller things, what is the use of such degrees? It is very unfortunate that doing heavy physical work is regarded as non-prestigious. A farmer toiling in a field is in-fact a person who produces food-grains for us. But he has no status in the society. A worker in a factory also does not have any status. Every one participating in the production of goods; by hard physical work should also have respectable status. The work may be of any kind, we should respect it. It is necessary for good social health. Education destroying this discrimination,

may lead the society on the path of development. In the principles of management science, one important thing is always told that a human being is more important than a machine. To educate a person means to make him literate and responsible. He should know the responsibility of the work given to him. If a person has learnt driving, and knows his responsibility as a driver, and if he can repair an old car properly, drives it neatly, it is advantageous to others, than a person who is careless about his responsibility and may commit an accident, of a costly car like Mercedes-Benz, within first 2 kilometres.

Education should make a person responsible citizen. The aim of education is not to make a machine of a man but to make a human being out of a student. Before educating a person, we should decide whether a person is capable of a certain type of education or not. You may ask, “Why I am telling you the things in the past.” We can’t say that the mythological stories are true, but there is philosophy encrypted, in the myths. The myth of *Amrut Manthan* (churning of ocean of milk) states, 14 different jewels came out. *Lord Brahma* told the Gods and Demons,

*“Let the jewels go, wherever they want. If you try to stop them and try to become their owner, then you won’t get any advantage but you will have to face the consequences of it.”*

It means behaving as per the divine wish, is advantageous to all. Recently, there was a famous movie called “Three Idiots”. This movie tells the same principle. If a person feels, his son should become a doctor or an engineer, and the son is interested in some other things, the son should be allowed to do what he wants to pursue. Sometimes a person becomes a doctor but prefers acting



and becomes a good actor. A person becomes an engineer, but prefers photography. We see many such examples in the society.

Everyone should get the education, as per their choice. But today, there is a competition for the admission in the fields, minting money. As a result, many Colleges of Computer Science and Management Science are established. Many Computer and Management degree holders coming out of the colleges are jobless. This attitude of taking only degrees doesn't help.

It is most unfortunate that during the past few decades it has been found that when a new Education Minister assumes charge of the portfolio, he considers himself as Seasoned Educationist and makes certain policy changes which create a long-term impact on the students. E.g. The decision taken by the Government relating to the annual assessment of the students up to 8<sup>th</sup> Standard. The school authorities were directed to promote all the students irrespective of their performance. This has in fact ruined several generations. Now after a lapse of several years the Government is reversing this decision. Education is not a field where any changes are effected without having a pilot project and its proper assessment. A survey carried by a well-known organization has revealed that even the students promoted to the 8<sup>th</sup> standard do not have basic and fundamental knowledge of the subject that they have studied. These raw students further continue their education journey without much clarity and the process continues.

Even at the higher educational institutions by and large the quality of teaching is of the kind less is better. From the newspaper it is observed that even at the highest

educational qualification, readymade theses are available in the market. The academicians are involved in this task.

Here, I am tempted to take a dispassionate view of the developments that have taken in the field of education over the past three decades. No doubt there is a socio-economic development and the higher education has reached the rural areas. However, in the process of expansion the aspect of quality of education has been lost.

In the process of expansion and development due to paucity of resources the higher education has been left to the private sector of which profit is the motive. These organizations are collecting huge donations and higher fees. These private colleges by and large provide amenities but getting devoted and knowledgeable teachers is a big problem. In order to avoid high costs these colleges are engaging teachers on hourly basis and are not being paid adequately. These visiting teachers are not available to sort out any problem of the students as they are not accessible. Some of the private colleges are not even making salary payments regularly for months together which also affect the moral of the teachers.

Even we do not have good teachers per requirement of these colleges. Several colleges are being run without having a Principal to head it. A new system of awarding rating to the colleges has been put in place. However, numbers of colleges are not approaching the NAAC authorities for this purpose.

Here it will be worth noting that there is a mismatch between the products turned out from the higher educational organizations and the product the industries and the businesses requires. This is mainly because there

is little interaction between the industries/ businesses and the academicians. The syllabuses of numbers of courses are not revised for pretty long time which leads to mismatching. I therefore feel that there should be periodical interchange between the academicians and the industries and businesses executives. This will also help for solving the employment problem as well as the industry and business will get a product which they need not groom right from the scratch.

The technical students do pay industrial visits as a part of their curriculum but they do not get input as to how to make maximum use of such visits to understand the field level working. In the process it becomes a sightseeing tour. Off late, the Government has taken a decision that for certain professional courses like engineering, architecture etc. there is a provision of 6 months internship on the lines of medical education.

Today the subject of reservation in education is talked about a lot. To create confusion and noise on the point of reservation has become common. For the development of the society, the foundation of equality is required. Everyone in the society should get equal opportunity and justice. According to me, the poor, neglected, deserted sections of the society should be supported at the school level to make them capable. Their needs should be fulfilled. They should be made capable. Then, through the medium of reservation, they should be given admission for higher education as per their ability. It may be advantageous to all. It is easily possible. But in reality, the reservation is given on different factors. Creating eligibility by increasing capability is ignored. This spreads discrimination in our society.

The other fact is that of donation. There is commercialization of the education on a large scale through donation. If student gets admission for a particular course by giving donation, irrespective of educational qualification, then it is injustice to the student having merit and qualification. The rich easily gives money and the poor takes loan for donation. Money has become a means to get education. Let us think, 'whether this is good?' Because when an average student gives donation for getting a degree, then the attitude is to earn money through degree. One says, 'My father has spent 25 lakh rupees for my medical education, why should not I get it back?' In the process of earning extra money, this person misguides the patient to do unnecessary tests, hospitalisation and increases the unwanted expenditure on the treatment. Lastly the patient on being fit thanks the doctor, unaware of the fact that the doctor has taken extra money.

One advocate charges Rs. 100 for some legal work and the other lawyer asks for Rs. 1 lakh for the same work. What is the difference in their work? The tendency of looting people on the basis of competence is increasing. We call it a 'white collar crime.' It is against the principles of education. It is said in the *Bhagvad Geeta* that the knowledgeable persons should not misguide the ignorant people. Suppose person is seriously ill, the doctor must tell about the seriousness of the illness to the patient or his relatives. But if a patient is not ill, yet telling him, that his illness is serious is deceiving the patient. Patients and his relatives trust the doctor. It is doctor's responsibility not to breach the trust. Deceiving the patient is breaching their trust. The responsibility of taking the people safely to the other shore lies with the boatman. Who will save the people, if the boatman is trying to sink the boat in water?

The society should be benefited from our knowledge. If it is not so, then it is a disgrace to the knowledge.

Knowledge is ever increasing. Similarly, we should also add more to our knowledge base, to be up to date. This need training. But the percentage of people, who update their knowledge, after taking a degree, is very low. People are neutral regarding training. Due to specialized training a person becomes up to date; gets the information about new researches, changes in the field and the service improves.

Therefore, such training programmes are arranged but the employees are not interested in it. They ignore it. This is a tragedy. The training should be effective, otherwise same thing will be repeated again and again and the society will not develop in a real sense. It is necessary to felicitate the praise worthy people, as the educational level of the society goes up. Due to this the successful people get fame and are encouraged. But the unsuccessful people also should be encouraged, based on their attempts. Many great personalities were unsuccessful in their lives, at the beginning but with many attempts, they could overcome their failures and became successful. It is the duty of the society to share such examples and encourage the failing people.

We have made the life of the students too busy. In the morning, a student somehow manages to sit in a school-rickshaw, van or bus with a heavy burden of the school bag. Through pollution, traffic jams reach school. The subjects are taught one after the other in 5-6 hours.

In the evening the student reaches home, losing the opportunity to have learnt ten more subjects in the time,

which is wasted in going to and coming from the school. Besides this, the students have to join, tuitions, exams of schools and boards, C.E.T. exam and others. Therefore, students think education is not for getting knowledge but is useful for getting employment. The importance is given not to the knowledge, but to the marks. Hence short cuts like notes, guides, expected question sets and others have gained value. This is unfortunate.

In the first letter to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru – the then Prime Minister, after India achieving the independence, Late Veer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar had written that the Government should ensure that the compensation to the Teaching staff and the Scientists should be handsome as the teachers mould the future citizens of the nation and the scientists take the nations to newer heights. However, if we see the today's situation it is too miserable.

Those people who really have a desire, to teach, should become teachers. People prefer being teachers, because teaching is a safe, easy and risk-free job with a good payment for the Government aided institutions. The private sector institutions do exploit the teachers. These people may not be able to teach in reality. They may not prepare good students. There should be a system to monitor this. In the past, the society was known for the, 'teacher' relation. The teacher was respected due to the students. Today this is not seen in any field. Today if a student becomes famous, nobody mentions his school or teachers. Meaning either the teachers are no more influential or the teachers are no more capable. Even the educational institutions whether High School or College they do not keep a rapport with their students once they leave the school on completion of their studies. In fact, if

such a rapport is maintained it will be beneficial for the institutions for generating resources for their developmental projects.

A person should become knowledgeable. At the same time, the different factors of the society should be made aware of their rights and duties. Today different types of people work in the society. But there is no system to train them about their rights and duties, for example, the maid-servant in our house also needs the training about her rights and duties. How much payment she should get? As per law, what things should she fulfil? These are the few things, for which she should get trained. It is necessary to avoid exploitation on both the sides. A driver should know about the traffic rules. Driver should be given training for the precautions while transporting the goods, from safety point of view, for transporting inflammable goods like petrol, gas, about the capacity of his vehicle. If goods, more than the capacity are loaded in his vehicle, he should have the right to say 'no' for transporting overloaded vehicle. This can happen only through training.

There is one more aspect of education – the research. Education and research should go hand in hand. Research is necessary for development. But it should be useful for the people and the society. For example, 'if I do research on why a dog's tail is not straight and why it can't be made straight' and get a degree of Ph.D., all the money spent on the research will go waste because such research is of no use to the society. The money spent on the research is of the society; hence the society should get the benefits. In short, research should be of some use.

The experts should control the selection of hypothesis, its progress and avoid useless research.

Unfortunately, it is not happening. Once I had an opportunity to be present at the presentation of one Ph.D. student. The student was presenting the thesis before submission, at that time only 2 or 4 persons were present and only one person asked him a few questions. That student might have got Ph.D., but I saw that the experts were not at all interested. The pre-submission viva has become a ritual and the suggestions for modification are being given without even having a courtesy of going through the synopsis. The research is useful only when it reaches the people. Otherwise the research and its expenditure are of no use. The digestive and nutritive values of the fodder can be increased by processing fodder with urea. This research got Ph.D. But in reality, farmers don't use this method. It is the tragedy of this research. People don't follow such researches if such researches don't reach them effectively. Therefore, the money spent is wasted. Many times, it so happens that the research of a kind is going on and people's needs are different. As a result, such research is of no use.

Research should be for the welfare of the people. If we have a look at the research titles of some of the theses approved there seem to be little relevance to their applicability at the society level. Even at the university level, there is no mechanism to ensure that the valuable suggestions made by the researchers are put up to the relevant stakeholders for appropriate decisions for their implementation on conducting the cost benefit studies. At the same time, it should be on the basic level. Is there any research to find out how much cooking gas is needed for a family of two? If it is proved that a gas cylinder for a family of two will last for 3 months. Then it will become easy to take decisions regarding the distribution of cooking gas. It may be beneficial to the society. After a certain period,



educational syllabus is changed. Is it researched as to how the syllabus should be? Do they seek people's opinions? Do they think on the opinions? In short, if people's opinions and needs are taken into consideration, then the research is useful. It is necessary to think about research in this way.

Lastly, the most important point in education is that of education regarding morality. Today, after opening any book from schools and colleges, we see nothing written about morality. Only morality can take a society on right path. As *Narendra Maharaj* says, 'Live and let live' or *Sadguru Vamanrao Pai* says, 'the world should be happy,' likewise the thought of well-being of the world should come through education. If we behave properly, follow the discipline of life and then the society will be thinking morally, caring for all. The importance of education will be understood. But unfortunately, there is no morality in the system of education. Nobody follows the ethics of morality.

It is not decided as to, who will earn how much money. We see the buildings, erected by the educational institutions by buying vast lands at a low cost. They take heavy donations and construct these buildings. The founders of these institutions make money by exploiting teachers, professors and students. Unfortunately, we have to say that these are the factories of education. I feel, there must be a syllabus for morality from the primary to the highest level of education. Likewise, courses on patriotism, ethics, Education positive things, good values should be included. Teaching our duties, towards the society also should be taught. The thought of sacrifice, welfare of the next generation should be taught. *Dronacharya* gave the knowledge of *Bramhastra* to his most beloved disciple *Arjuna*. *Arjuna* knew about the destructive power of the

missile. He was responsible enough not to use it. But *Dronacharya* gave the same knowledge with blind love and faith to *Ashvathama* his son. *Ashvathama* used it thoughtlessly creating havoc, and eternal sufferings for him. It is necessary to create morality in the society. The education should be used for the welfare of the society, not to cause damage to the society.

## **Conclusion**

It is high time that the Government takes review of its current education policy right from the Jr. K.G. to the highest academic degree of Ph. D. and constitute various committees for different stages in education and the policy be made available on the Website in the public domain for their views. On hearing these views take a rational stand on education, irrespective of cost of the same and save the future generation. The sole objective of the final product coming out of the education system should be to make civilized citizen who can be gainfully employed for his livelihood.

## **Nice lines from lecture of Ratan Tata in London**

- ❖ Don't educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be happy. So, when they grow up, they will know the value of things not the price.
- ❖ Eat your food as your medicines. Otherwise you have to eat medicines as your food.
- ❖ The one who loves you will never leave you because even if there are hundred reasons to give up he/she will find one reason to hold on.

- ❖ There is a lot of difference between – human being – and – being human. A few understand it.
- ❖ You are loved when you are born. You will be loved when you die. In between you have to manage....
- ❖ If you want to walk fast, walk alone...! But if you want to walk far, walk together ....!
- ❖ Six best doctors in the world:
  - 1) Sunlight      2) Rest              3) Exercise    4) Diet
  - 5) Self-confidence      6) Friends
 Maintain them in all stages of life and enjoy healthy life....
- ❖ If you see the moon ...  
 You see the beauty of God...  
 If you see the Sun...  
 You see the power of God...  
 And  
 If you see the mirror....  
 You see the Best creation of God...  
 So, believe in YOURSELF....
- ❖ We all are tourists and God is our Travel Agent who already fixed all our routes, reservations and destinations.  
 So, trust him and enjoy the “TRIP” called “LIFE”.



## Quotes

“Education gives us an understanding of the world around us and offers us an opportunity to use that knowledge wisely.”

“Irrespective of race, creed, and gender, education makes it possible for people to stand out as equal with all the other persons from different walks of life.”

“Overall, education is the platform that makes it possible to defeat all barriers.”

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

– Benjamin Franklin

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

– Malcolm X

“The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.”

– Aristotle