



STUDENT'S PERSONALITY CAN BE DEVELOPED THROUGH WORK

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The students are asked to sit in a circle. The teacher sits among the students. Amidst a friendly atmosphere, he begins to narrate thus.

Life full of a variety of works is enjoyable, and life without work is miserable our great scriptures also put forth the maxim; "Work is worship"

In brahmacharya, the first stage of life in Aryan civilization, students used to live in a hermitage. They were required to perform all kinds of manual work for living and learning. Education was related to the life of the pupils, and there was no dichotomy between the world of learning and the world of work. It was education of life, for life and through life.

Our great modern educational philosophers like Tagore, Aurobindo and Gandhiji too have deplored the ineffectiveness of bookish education and put emphasis on the role of manual labour in education for all-round and harmonious development of personality of students.

A Group Inspiration Class is an innovative method of teaching that consists of three steps:

- 1- House Activities
- 2- School – Based Programmes
- 3- Community – Based programmes

House Activities

1. House cleaning

The students clean/sweep their rooms twice every day (morning & evening). Each student sweeps the floor around his bed very neatly. During my daily visit to the House, I look into the cleanliness of the dormitories, room arrangement and neatness of the space near individual beds and encourage students with praise and inspiration. During their three years' stay in my House they develop the quality to hold the broom efficiently and to take delight in cleaning their surroundings. In addition, every Sunday morning they also clean every nook and corner of the room in cooperation with each other.

2. Surroundings cleaning

Every Friday, as a part of “Shramadna”, the students are entrusted with various types of manual work. They clean the corridor, front side and back side of the dormitories and also the drains. I also work them, and set an example, rather than just issuing orders.

3. Bathroom and latrine cleaning

My inmates least depend on the sweeper for the cleaning of the lavatories. They never get piped water, as there is an acute shortage of water on our campus. Still, they clean these places by cooperative effort. Sometimes, they may also have to clean the vomit and stool of the sick students, but they never wait for the sweeper, nor hate this work. I feel utmost satisfaction and highly praise those inmates who perform such duties.

School-Based Programmes

1. Various programmes are held in our Vidyalaya such as mass campus cleaning, Shramadan, dining hall cleaning and washing, tree planting (digging up of pits, planting of saplings, watering, etc.). our Principal and teachers actively participate in these programme. We work and enjoy together.
2. The S.U.P.W. section of our Vidyalay is actively performing and organizing various activites during school hours and also at other times. These include caning of chairs, chalk and candle making, needle and wool work, applique work, paper machine, cooking, plantation and watering, “Meena Bazar”, etc.

Once upon a time, a mischievous boy sneaked into a rose garden to pick some sweet-smelling roses. He looked at rose and saw a small dark insect seated on it absorbed.

His curiosity got aroused. The inset looked very happy. It started flying. The boy followed the insect stealthily. The small insect flew up to the top branch of a tree. The boy too climbed up the tree. There was a golden nest with thousands o little shiny rooms. There was a buzzing sound. The little insect he had followed made a funny little dance encircling the nest and sang a song. After a little while, thousands of his friends followed him in flight to the rose garden. Now, the little boy climbed down the tree into the garden and watched what the other insects were doing. He saw them seated on many rose flowers. He thought they were trying to steal something from the flowers. He decided to watch the golden nest every day.

The next day he brought his binoculars, and sat on a nearby branch and observed what was happening inside the golden nest. A large-sized butterfly was trying to invade into the golden nest. There was al lot o noise and confusion in the nest. Efforts were on to push the butterfly out. But only dark insects were busy in the fight. In the larger rooms, golden insects

sat relaxing. During the fight, a part of the nest got damaged. A golden liquid started dripping. The boy stretched out his palm and collected a drop. He licked it up. It was very sweet. He immediately understood it was honey, and he was observing the activities of bees in a beehive. The dark insects were bees. Meanwhile, the fight was going on. A large number of black bees smothered the butterfly with honey and gave him a sweet burial. Then the dark ugly bees repaired the damaged nest very quickly with some sticky substance.

It was a bad day for the poor bees. A tall and fat bear came that way. The boy hid himself and saw where the bear was going. The bear stopped below a tree. It noticed the drops of honey on the floor and looked up. It extended its large arms and tried to grab the honeycomb. It was too high for him. He jumped high and caught hold of a fistful of the honeycomb. Thousands of dark little bees attacked the bear. Unmindful of the attack, it kept eating the honeycomb with relish. As the attack persisted, it left the place, licking its palm of one hand and driving away the stinging little bees with the other.

The next day the boy was glad to see the beehive well repaired. He saw an attractive big golden bee loitering inside a large cell. She seemed to command a lot of respect. Many dark bees were dancing in attendance on her. The boy guessed it might be the Queen Bee. In another royal room one fat handsome bee, as golden as the queen, but not as attractive, was found. He was found eating some sweet bread all the time.

Every day the boy spent half an hour on the tree watching the happenings in the beehive. A few weeks passed by. The attractive queen bee had gained a lot of weight in the meantime. She was obviously in a family way. Many bees were attending on her. In another room dark ugly bees were dragging out the fat handsome bee. He was pushed out of the beehive. The little boy climbed down to see if the fat bee had flown away. On close observation the bee was found to have very small and ineffective wings. He could not fly to the nearest rose garden or finding his food. The next day he was found dead.

The next day there was a grand celebration in the beehive. Many little bees come into being. The moment they were born, they were frisked out to the distant corners of the beehive. The young mother was prevented from harming the new-born bees. The ugly little bees attended on the young ones and fed them with great care and love. They tidied the rooms, repaired the damaged holes with something, and rushed in and out. They never seemed to take rest.

Suddenly the Queen Bee fell ill. There was commotion in the colony. All the bees appeared to be restless. But one ugly bee went into the nursery and identified the Princess and

brought her to the special chamber. Again there was a great celebration. They were obviously pleased to have found a successor for the dying Queen Bee.

Children, did you like the story of the bees? Now let me tell you some facts about the bees. The dark ugly bees you heard of are called servant bees. They live only for a period of 45 to 55 days. But they start their hard work right from the third day of their birth. They collect honey from flowers and make wax and honey bread too. (From this wax candles are made.) a worker bee sometimes flies as much as 14 km. to collect a drop of honey. The male bee, who is unable to collect his own food, is called a drone. In a beehive nearly 80,000 to 100,000 bees live. If there is a shortage of honey, by instinct, the servant bees know and each one dies, leaving enough honey and honey bread for the Queen to survive the drought.

Dear children, I learnt a great secret from these unattractive servant bees. How long you live and how you look never matters as long as your work is good and meaningful to the community.

Community – based Programmes

Our Vidyalaya is a part and parcel of the larger village community in which it is established. We undertake various community development programmes throughout the session, such as basti safai, community tree planting programme, social service in the Govt, dispensary during immunisation programme, etc. I actively participate and guide the students in these programmes. These programmes have been giving an opportunity to students to develop a relationship with the community. These also diminish their egoism and develop their personality.

To assess the long-term outcome these personality-building activities, some queries are made to the students. In answer to my queries, Master Pradeep Seth, Class VII, says he helps his father in his agriculture activities and other household work during vacations. Master Thabir Kumar Meher, Class VII, says he sweeps the floor of the house and washes the utensile when his mother is ill during vacations. Master Nihar Ranjan Sahu, Class IX (son of a landlord), says at times he works with servants and daily labourers in the house and in the field during holidays. Students also say their parents are happy with the change of attitude towards manual work. Sometimes their parents also tell their neighbours and relatives that Navodaya Vidyalaya has changed the work attitude of their sons.

I strongly believe that this Vidyalaya is making a deep impact on the hearts and minds of students and creating a better work culture and developing dignity of labour among them. It will bring socio-economic change in the society in the near future. If all educational

institutions inculcate such values (dignity of labour), then the dream and vision of our nation-builders will be realised.

सन्दर्भ ग्रन्थ सूची

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