

STATUS OF LIFELONG EDUCATION IN INDIA

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Abstract

It is the basic right of each and every individual to develop his potentialities and innate capabilities to the fullest level possible. This aim can be achieved only by means of education. If a person could not receive education in school going age due to adverse environmental conditions and circumstances, he should not be left to his fate but be given opportunities to receive education in order to develop his all round personality. Education of the people is necessary not only to provide materialistic comforts to them but also for the development of all aspects in their personality. It is not only desired for the socio-economic growth and development of the society but for the development of man as well.

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‘A Handbook for Lifelong education Instructs’ (1980) illustrated the concept of Lifelong education in the words, “Lifelong education is a package of education programmer for adults outside the formal educational system aiming at providing more information and better knowledge and skills for improving their life, and also their earning capacity.”

Lifelong education , Adult literacy, Continuing Education, Functional literacy, further Education, Social education, life-long Education, Non formal education, Recurrent Education have almost the same meaning. In the present time of modernization & globalization, the Lifelong education is the only key to unlock the door to development in the modern era. Lifelong education is most appropriate term because all the other names have same limitations like the aim of adult and continuing education is not only to provide give the knowledge to make able the adult for writing their names as functional literacy and so on. For the development of any Country, What is the basic need: are the literate and progressive citizens of society? That is why C.A.B.E. (Central Advisory Based of Education) gave the name of social education to Lifelong education as this name is comparatively more comprehensive. So, in 1948, Education minister at the center, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad had assigned this name to Lifelong education. UNESCO (1974) defined the concept as, “The term Lifelong education denotes the entire body of organized educational processes, whether

formal or otherwise, whether they prolong initial education in school, colleges and Universities as well in apprenticeship, Whereby persons regarded as adult by the society to which they belong develop their abilities, enrich their knowledge, improve their technical or professional qualification & bring about changes in their attitude or behavior in the two-fold perspective of full personal development and participation in balanced and independent social, economic and cultural development .In the changing era, it is not possible to define arch & every concept of Lifelong education correctly as it also differs from country to country and place to place. It is also attached to the change in policy. So the maxim that should be followed should be ‘found out what the adult really need. The concept of Lifelong education has undergone changes through the ages. The literacy meaning of Lifelong education implies educational facilities to the adults who could not undergo a regular course of formal education during their school age.

Aims of plans in India

The first 5 year plan laid stress on social education & stated, “The concept of education, which was mostly confined to literacy was found to be too narrow to be able to meet the various needs of the adult. It was, widened to include, in addition to literacy the health, recreation, and home life of the adult, their economic life and citizenship training.”The second 5 year plan has explained the concept as, “Social education embodies a comprehensive approach to the solution of the problems of the community, primarily through community action, besides literacy it includes health, recreation and home life, economic activities and citizenship training.”The third 5 year plan observed, “As was stated in the first plan, social education implied an all comprehensive programme of community uplift through community action.”The fourth five year plan used the terms adult literacy and Lifelong education saying “Lifelong education will continue to be an integral part of the community development.”

Lifelong education for the effective development of India

“Mass illiteracy is India’s sin and shame; the literacy campaign must not begin and end with mere knowledge of the alphabets. It must go hand in hand with the spread of useful knowledge.” – M. Gandhi. Again he said” Literacy is not the end of education, not even the beginning and women means whereby men and women can be educated.” K.G.Saiyidain, “I have become increasingly conscious that now Lifelong education is a matter of life and death which can be ignored or postponed only at grave peril.” He further rightly remarked, “If

someone were to a literacy map of the world and color illiterate areas of the earth black, India will, to our shape, look like a dark continent. This is the state of things which makes me feel both ashamed and indignant- ashamed that a country which prides itself one of the oldest cultural traditions in the world, should have come to this pass and indignant because we have been content to put up with this blot on our reputation for so long.”The National Literacy Mission, (1988) has stressed the importance of literacy in these worlds, “Literacy is an indispensable component of human resource development. It is an essential tool for communication and learning for acquiring and sharing of knowledge and information a precondition for an individual’s evaluation and growth and for national development. It is the basic right of each and every individual to develop his potentialities and innate capabilities to the fullest level possible. This aim can be achieved only by means of education. If a person could not receive education in school going age due to adverse environmental conditions and circumstances, he should not be left to his fate but be given opportunities to receive education in order to develop his all round personality. Education of the people is necessary not only to provide materialistic comforts to them but also for the development of all aspects in their personality. It is not only desired for the socio-economic growth and development of the society but for the development of man as well. In fact, learning is a lifelong process. The reasons are-

- Education of adults is needed for enabling each and every citizen of the country to develop his potentialities and abilities to the maximum extent possible.
- Learning is life long process and is the right of every citizen irrespective of his level of age.
- There is so much important knowledge to be learned and it will take a life time to acquire.
- Knowledge becomes obsolete in this changing world.
- We must continually adapt to new conditions which require new skills and knowledge.
- Learning takes on significant in terms of a unique experimental context. So we can not learn certain things until we have been subjected to a unique set of experiences.
- In order to achieve growth, to realize our latent potentialities we must be continually involved in our intellectual development.

Swami Vivekananda said, “So long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every man a traitor, who, having been educated at their expense, pays not the least heed to

them... our great natural sin is the neglect of the masses and that is the cause of our down fall.”The store of knowledge in the world is very fast and socio-economic and political change is taking place to such a great extent that it requires well informed citizens and active responding on their part towards these changes. Moreover, age group 15- 35 has been considered as an important one in the national literacy mission which was created on May 5, 1988 and need to educate this group through Lifelong education because

- This age group is with high fertility rate so there is need to educate them on various aspects such as marriage, family planning, health, child rearing practices, nutrition, diet, immunization of children etc.
- This age group constitutes major portion of work force of country in both organized and unorganized sectors whether it is agriculture or industrial field.
- This age group is energetic and can be mobilized in nation reconstruction for development and social change.
- Our national goals and objectives of different welfare programmes such as universalization of elementary education, preservation of environment, energy resources, women and child welfare, upliftment of weaker sections, national integration can be fulfilled only by Lifelong education.
- This age group should be given further opportunity for their education as they are just at threshold level of age group 6-14 which is provided free and compulsory education.

In brief, the need of Lifelong education can be justified on the following grounds-

- For eradicating illiteracy.
- For economic development of the country.
- For developing awakening among masses regarding national programmes and policies for social welfare.
- For universalization of elementary education.
- For up gradation of vocational skills and technical know-how among people.
- For developing population awareness and appreciation of small family norms.
- For conservation and proper utilization of natural resources.
- For protection and improvement of environment.
- For the success of democracy.
- For eradication of social evils.

- For developing awareness regarding health and hygiene, nutrition and diet, child care, immunization of children.
- For developing understanding and awareness of customs and traditions of different people and geographical areas.
- For communal harmony and national integration.
- For developing international understanding.
- For removing blind faith in superstitions etc. to live as a united group.
- For developing mental awareness.
- For developing vocational efficiency.
- For developing moral awareness.

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