

## **EXTENSION EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING**

**Prof. Dhananjay Lokhande, Ph. D.**

*Professor & Director, Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension, Savitribai Phule  
Pune University Pune-411007. Email Id: [dhananjay.lokhande5@gmail.com](mailto:dhananjay.lokhande5@gmail.com),*

### **Key Words: -**

*Extension, Community, Lifelong Learning, Higher Education, Lifelong Learning Centre, Education.*



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### **Introduction:**

Extension is not only third dimension in Higher education but it is also equivalent or more important component in Higher Education system. India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru stated that "An University stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for progress for the adventure of ideas and for the search of truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards even higher objective".

In 1961, University Grants commission, New Delhi published report on General Education. It mentioned that, the interest and opportunities and demands of life are not limited to any few subjects one may elect to study. They cover the entire range of nature and of society.

In 1964-66 the Education commission (Kothari Commission) observed the role of University as 'The image of the University as a closed community of scholars, creating and disseminating knowledge and perpetuating it own type is a thing of past. The walls which divide the 'gaon' and 'town' have crumbled and life of the University and that of the community can be virtually linked for their mutual enrichment.

In the pre-independence and post-independence period the Government of India appointed number of committees and commissions to suggest appropriate changes in the educational policies in the views of political & social change. After that UGC has also made changes in policies accordingly for the upliftment of the society as far concerned as Extension component.

Nowadays our society is passing through crucial period. There are several types of problems as Socially, economically, educationally, etc. Our educational system inculcates social values, morality, character building towards students. Student community are aware about themselves as well

as nations problems. They know the principles of secularism & values enshrined in the constitution of India. This will be helpful to solve the nations problems & also for national integration.

The objective of University mentioned in the Maharashtra University Act, 1994 as 'The objectives of the University shall to be disseminate, create and preserve knowledge and understanding by Teaching, Research, Extension & services and by effective demonstration and influence of its corporate life on society in general. Empowering the community is the focus area in it.

### **Extension Education:**

The dictionary meaning of Extension is stretching, enlargement or protraction. It means to reach out or to spread out. But in the context of education, it means extending knowledge and thereby the benefits arising from gaining it to the wider community. Extension Education is social oriented education. Extension is one programme and is the process to develop as their own. Extension means to improve the standard of living through extension education individual development, family development, village development can be happened.

Extension education, according to Dr. Ensminger, the well-known American agricultural extension expert, is an education extended to those who need or desire it. It is interest and need based and flexible, short term or long term. Extension education is a two-way process between the expert/s and the people, an individual or individuals in groups, having problems which need to be overcome through an educational process of discovery. It could cover issues involving values, ethics, rights (such as human rights, women's rights, children's rights) empowerment, conservation and improvement of environment, poverty alleviation, child development, observance of small family norm and population education, income generation or improvement in productivity, provision of reading facilities through (mobile) libraries, obtaining/imparting knowledge and skills for application, attitude necessary to face life and its challenges, and creating an ambience for a 'Learning Society'.

Extension work and outreach activities mean not only extension of cognitive knowledge. It denotes promotion or learning avenues in the adjoining local community, which will be mutually inter-linked with field programmes of all disciplines of studies and action for change. Through extension, relevant knowledge, skills, and values are transmitted to the person (s) or a community.

### **Objectives of Extension Education:**

As far as India is concerned, community development programme is involved in extension education.

- Constant and continuous development of the society

- Development may be physical, economical and social and will be on individual and cooperative base.
- To use new technology for improving the income.
- To develop rural development and responsible citizen.
- To change the people attitudes toward high standard of living.

Through extension education, people will get scientific and authentic information. They will get training and guidance to solve their problems.

### **Lifelong Learning:**

UNESCO has organised five international conferences over the last six decades. In the report of the educational commission (1964-66) observed that education does not end with schooling but is a lifelong process; the national policy on education in india-1986 (modified in 1992) considered lifelong education as the cherished goal of the educational process which presupposes universal literacy, provision of opportunities for youth, housewives, agricultural and industrial workers and professionals to continue the education of their choice at the pace suited to them. In the year 1976 UNESCO General Conference was held at Nairobi. "The term 'lifelong education and learning', for its part, denotes an overall scheme aimed both at restructuring the existing education system and at developing the entire educational potential outside the education system; in such a scheme men and women are the agents of their own education, through continuous interaction between their thoughts and actions; education and learning far from being limited to the period of attendance at school should extend throughout life include all skills and branches of knowledge, use all possible means, and give the opportunity to all people for full development of the personality; the educational and learning processes in which children, young people and adults of all ages are involved in the course of their lives, in whatever form, should be considered as a whole.

Lifelong Learning is known as LLL as the Lifelong, voluntary, and self-motivated. In Harper Colins Dictionary, the meaning of LLL is it is the provision or use of both formal and informal learning opportunities through our people lives in order to foster the continuous development and improvement of the knowledge and skills needed for employment and personal fulfilment. It shares mixed connotations with other educational concept like Adult Education, Continuing Education, Training, and other terms that relate to learning beyond the formal education system. It means to create ability for continuous lifelong development of quality of life.

### **In the Lifelong Learning –**

- Educators are guides to sources of knowledge
- People learn by doing
- People learn in groups and from each other
- Assessment is used to guide learning strategies and to identify path way for future learning.
- Educators develop individual lives learning plans
- Educators are lifelong learners, Initial training and ongoing professional development are linked
- People have access to learning opportunities over a lifetime.

### **Characteristics of Lifelong Education**

Shak (2009) has enumerated the following characteristics of Lifelong education:

1. Education covers the entire lifespan of individuals.
2. Knowledge is held to be related to life situations.
3. The different stages of life and knowledge are to be vertically integrated.
4. The different aspects of education, related to the different aspects of life, are to be horizontally integrated.
5. Education in to develop in the learners a positive attitude towards learning.
6. Learners are given freedom of choice in where to learn their subjects of interest.
7. Diversification of education provision is stressed.
8. Entry-exit, re-entry opportunities are provided for all kinds of qualifications and experience.
9. It is required that teachers receive special training based on Lifelong education concepts.
10. Learners are given a share in the management of the educational enterprise.
11. Education is to be forward looking and optimistic of societal improvement.
12. The value of a peaceful world community is developed in learners.
13. It is assumed that equal opportunity is provided for all who want to learn.
14. The limitation of educational resources is overcome through maximum utilization of facilities including places of work.
15. All types of teaching methods and educational technologies are encouraged, particularly experimentation with the effectiveness of self-instruction.
16. Relevant legislation, such as for paid educational leaves is recommended to support education throughout life for teachers and learners.

17. The aim of education is to lead to an improvement in the quality of life for the people in a community.

In the XIth Plan Guidelines on Lifelong Learning and Extension (2007-2012), University Grant Commission clearly mentioned that ‘the Government of India put forward the idea of expanding the scope of the Continuing Education Program by developing it as Lifelong Education and Awareness Program (LEAP). This may be partly influenced by the global discourse on Lifelong Learning and partly due to the socio-economic changes taking place within and outside the country.

In the University Set-up there are several social oriented units such as NSS, student welfare Board of Extra mural studies, Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension, (formerly known as Department of Adult & Continuing Education & Extension) etc. There are several departments in the University, they can also do extension work in the respective subjects; for example, economic department will find out the economic condition of the community and help the community to raise its economic status. History department students will understand the importance of National History, cultural heritage etc. Social work department will see the application of the theories of social work & methods of social work. Students from chemistry department will apply the knowledge of chemistry to the community, Botany students will help the community to apply the scientific knowledge through meaningful programmes. Student can locate the aspects & application of Botany. Law students will aware community regarding Social Legislations. Any University Department will conduct innovative extension programmes. University should start Lifelong Learning Centres at community level & as well at college level.

As far a Higher Education is concerned Lifelong Learning Programme should be developed as a Discipline. Programme like M.A. in lifelong learning should be executed for emerging demands of society. Lifelong Learning directs attention to skills, knowledge, information as well as personal competences. With the teaching programme there is a need to develop Lifelong Learning Centres (LLC) at University, college, and community level, through these centres, activities like teaching, research and extension should be run. Participation of students, Teachers and Community people is essential for strengthening lifelong learning centres. Work experience projects should be allotted to the students and teachers. Senior Citizens should visit lifelong learning centres and share their experiences for motivation. College teachers are from different disciplines; they do not know the basic concepts of lifelong learning, professional social work, extension education. So it is essential that it should be included in the orientation and refresher courses under respective faculty. Interaction

with NGOs will be helpful for sustaining LLL. Weightage should be given to college teachers at the time of assessment of their work. The LLL centres would be a common place for communication of Community people, Universities and Colleges. College students would visit and work at LLL centres once in a week by rotation.

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