

HOLISTIC EDUCATION IN PARENT'S VIEW: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The educational process is a very complex process which includes various philosophical as well as practical issues. The process influences an individual and the society. If an individual is to be produce for a complex society, there is a need to have holistic education. The holistic education is an approach having an inclusive pedagogy. It is also very necessary that the stakeholders should have an awareness of the need of such educational approach. This paper aims at knowing parents'-one of the very important stakeholders- belief about the need of holistic education as well as their views about today's educational scenario. The research work will add a new dimension to the vision of teachers, policy framers and the

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INTRODUCTION

The educational process is basically a holy endeavor. We have many objectives of education, but the moral excellence should be the prime goal of this education. Character building and humanity development should be the mark of scholarship. Education should deal with the material world, but it also should develop or enlighten the Atmic core of an individual. The individual worth should have a far greater importance than that of material wealth and social standing. Thus, education has multi damnations but at the center of it is a being- a human. On the other hand the field of education has a vital role to play in the life of an individual as well as the society at large. To plan education for such multiple

roles, to need have a very compound approach. The holistic education is the only approach to education which provides a wide range of opportunity to a being-The Whole.

Holistic education is the has key words says Miller (2005), "holism, holistic, inclusion, spiritual, interconnected, humanism and connection." The above terms clears the concept and the working pattern of the holistic education. UNESCO (1996) elaborates, "a holistic, integrated and a humanistic education retains the essential meaning of quality: the discovery and development of the talents of every individual, the full flowering of the human potential, learning to be a complete human person. After all, educare, the root word of education means the

bringing forth wholeness within each one of us (1996).”

This conceptions shows that the holistic education treats a human being with an integrated way as the being is also has a set of complex quality. The Mother says, “Education to be complete must have five principal aspects relating to the five principal activities of the human being: the physical, the vital, the mental, the psychic and the spiritual. Usually, these phases of education succeed each other in a chronological order following the growth of the individual ; this, however, does not mean that one should in replace the other but, that all must continue, completing each other, till the end of life” (NCTE, 2004).

Ideally, the holistic education is the only approach which envisions the development of the complete human qualities. The field of education in its journey has passed many new concepts, approaches and pedagogical issues. It has become the most spread field in present era. When any field, becomes such wide, it needs to be reflected in terms of its general conceptions. This conception encompasses the meaning, purpose and functions of the field, as well as its place and status in the ongoing life of the individual and the society. It is also mandatory that the philosophical foundations –social, affective, spiritual, material- are to be revised and rethought with a maintained universalized impact. The issues related to the education are to be analyzed time to time. The stakeholders’ need and feedbacks are to be analyzed. This will make the process more qualitative and fruitful.

This paper is an attempt to investigate the one of the very important stakeholder’s –parent’s beliefs and views on the holistic education in today’s educational scenario.

OBJECTIVES

1. To know the perspective of parents about education.
2. To know the parental views about the need of the holistic education.
3. To know the satisfaction and threats about today’s education.
4. To know parents’ views on holistic education availability and quality.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The study aims at knowing the parent’s beliefs about the holistic education and about the ongoing system of education, the instrument employed for the study was a semi structured interview. The sample was carried out keeping in view the objectives to be investigated. The study was about the parents of government schools of Jamnagar city. Fifty parents were the sample for the study that was selected by the random stratified method of sampling in a purposive selection method.

The data for the study was collected by the investigator with the help of school information department. The data were analyzed by the qualitative method of analysis. The interpretation was done with a meticulous content analysis of the data to make findings and suggestions.

RESULT AND INTERPRETATION

The present study deals with the investigation of parental views and beliefs about the holistic education and the present education system of government schools of Jamnagar city. The parents of various socio-economic status were interviewed and the findings of the study are interpreted and put here in the form of points which are drawn out with the qualitative method of analysis.

- The parents have great faith in holistic education.
- They want to inculcate values among their children.
- The parents do want their children to become a true human being.
- They also have a strong belief in multi skilled education.
- There is a great dilemma found between holistic education and the traditional education system.
- The parents also have confusion about the merit based entry levels in higher studies and in job recruitment.
- There is a clear contradiction found between the holistic education v/s today's education pattern.
- They find no place of the spiritual aspect in the evaluation process.
- The parents of the upper socio economic class have a strong belief of not having schools providing such facilities.
- The parents are also not satisfied with the teacher quality for holistic education.

- There is a very less space for holistic approach in school curriculum and co curricular activities.

DISCUSSION

The very important stakeholder of the education is the parent. Having great faith in holistic education, they are not getting schools for such education. The outcome of the study clearly shows the dilemma of parents. Quantity of marks in formal evaluation is more important than that of the quality of education. There is no space to provide an inclusive education. The philosophy of holistic education is not implemented. The major reasons for it is the need for holistic education has not risen in the so called market. The job availability and entries in the job look for good human being. For getting the admission in higher studies, formal evaluation marks in quantity is the only scale through which the education is measured. The faith in holistic education and the need for it has emerged.

Miller J. (2005), synthesizes holistic education as an approach that encompasses three main principles, :“connection”, “inclusion”, “balance”. Thus, holistic education has a very important role of formal evaluation and curriculum, but it has equal importance of human quality inculcation. It is the need to develop an integrated education process where the humanism should be at the center of all process and philosophy.

The holistic education deals with wholeness. It never allows any fragmented approach to education. The wholeness here interpreted in words

of Rone Miller (1991) , “ The whole person, wholeness in community, wholeness in society, a whole planet, a holistic cosmos”. Thus, the term has a very wide meaning. It is time to have reflection on it. The parental views show their clear dissatisfaction and confusion. The educationalists and visionaries have framed the curriculum and the objectives in this reference. But the question arises is of its implementation.

Education policy, mark of scholarship, measuring educational outcomes and the blending of concept and practice is to be drastically needed to be rethought. As holistic approach to education deals with the whole, it is time to make parents and other stakeholders to be free from the dilemma and confusion. If the holistic education can revive the human worth and has a potential of cosmic wholeness it is time to create *ATIMANAS* as Shri Orobindo Ghosh suggests.

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