



Importance of Educational Institutions in Social Awareness

Abstracts :

The present research article states the importance of educational institutions in the social awareness of the people by guiding and alerting them for the various social issues and challenges that leads to conflict in their ideas and beliefs.

Keywords : *Education institutions, Social Awareness*

Educational institutions are the places where the exchange of knowledge and information takes place between the learner and the educator. These educational institutions can be schools, colleges, etc.

Social awareness can be defined as the awareness of the difficulties and challenges that are faced by the people of various communities and societies. These problems are an alert to the people living in the society who undergo through diverse challenging issues that hinders their growth and development.

Introduction:

India is a nation with diversified cultures, customs and traditions. People belong to different caste, creed, community and religion that possess their own traditional ideologies.

Corruption, child marriages, women related issues, caste based system, poverty, hygiene and sanitation, pollution, women safety, etc. are some of the current social issues which the whole of nation is facing due to poor or lack of education. Education is the key which leads to affect the social structure of a nation.

The present education system correlates to these social issues which have their own remedies and solutions which can be eradicated right from the base by the precautionary steps that can be taken up by the educational institutions.

The solution for each and every social issue is being imparted right from the beginning when primary education is imparted by the educational institutions. A learned individual is a gem to the society whereby the individual positively contributes towards the growth and development of the society.

Social Issues and Challenges

There is need of social awareness among the present generation to protect and preserve the dignity at global level. Some of the issues and challenges that the nation is facing today are:

1. **Hygiene and Sanitation:** It is seen that maximum of the population of the nation carries a mobile phone but still there is no facility for toilets and sanitation. Due to lack of toilet facilities many people are seen using public areas for toilet. Moreover, the garbage is disposed off in open in residential areas where again the problem of hygiene takes place. Though the government has been providing facilities for proper dispose of garbage door to door, people are not making proper use of it. All these lead to health issues and pollution too.
2. **Women's Safety:** The social issue of women safety is increasing day by day. Often it is seen in news that various parts of nation are facing the challenge of women safety and security. Women are not safe anywhere, whether it is school, home, college, office and so on. Women are being restricted within the four walls of the house for the sake of safety and security. Due to lack of women safety, they have a fear of moving out at night and at some places even in the day time. There arises the need of proper, quick and efficient security and judicial system in order to ensure the safety of women in real sense.
3. **Pollution :** Every now and then we may come across the challenge of Global Warming which has basically caused due to the effect of pollution. This pollution is everywhere- i.e. air, water, land, space and noise. Not only the present human world is effected due to this pollution but along with this

many other creatures like the insects, birds, animals, etc are getting extinct due to the hazardous effect of pollution. Moreover, due to the pollution the scarce resources are also diminishing day by day as they are not being efficiently utilized. All the natural resources like the water and air are to be purified by taking necessary steps in order to have a pollution free and healthy environment.

4. **Juvenile Crimes** :Children from socially and economically poor background are found committing crimes due to lack of facilities. They commit crimes from a very early age as they are not being taken care of by their parents, the school, the society, etc. As the basic needs of these children are not fulfilled they start fulfilling it through the means of crime. Mostly they do it to fulfill the needs of the family as they are in poverty and have less income sources. Also it is seen that peers play a different role in such type of juvenile crimes. So, there arises the need of proper education so that they can learn and earn to fulfill their basic needs atleast.
5. **Literacy**: Though many awareness programmes are being undertaken, the number of literates is not upto the expected level. The ratio of school going children of girls is less when compared to boys. This is basically due to social myths such as gender discrimination, lower income, etc. The level of illiteracy is also high due to defects in the education system and its scheme. There is inefficient management in the implementation of policies and schemes formulated by the government due to which the benefit of all these policies and schemes doesn't reach to the grassroot level. Moreover, government alone cannot play a significant rule in uplifting the level of education whereby the contribution of each and every educated individual can help to improvise the poor education conditions.
6. **Poverty**: Poverty is one of the biggest social issue of the nation. Poverty is basically caused due to lack of income and the individual is not even capable of meeting the basic needs like food, clothing , shelter, education and so on. There is wide disparity of income among the various classes of individuals leading to make the rich- richer and poor- poorer. Various schemes and policies are being formulated by the government for the purpose of reduction in poverty and bringing equality among the various class groups.

Child Labour, Child Abuse, Caste System, Terrorism, Organ Trafficking, National Integrity, Corruption, Water Shortage, Road Safety, Poverty, Intolerance, Peace and Harmony, Child Trafficking, Population, Farmer Suicides, Human Rights, Unemployment, Drug abuse, etc are some of the social issues and challenges which are to cured at the earliest in the interest of the nation.

Importance of Educational Institutions in Social Awareness

Educational institutions are the places where the learners approach the institutions with the intentions of gaining knowledge, skill and understanding which can be utilized for the formulation of self growth and development. However, these individuals live in society wherein they are also expected to contribute towards the betterment of Society also. For this, there is a need of social awareness among individuals which can be transmitted to them only through the means of education.

- **Hygiene and Sanitation**: Educational Institutions can promote the benefits of Hygiene and Sanitation to the students' right from the base. For example, the use of dustbins, use of toilets, washing of hands and all the good manners related to hygiene, etc can be taught even to the kids of pre-primary session.
- **Women's Safety**: The undertaking of pledge by the students in the educational institutions promotes the concept of women's safety and security. The laws, rights and duties of women can be taught and discussed as well, to acknowledge and ensure that the proper and quick actions can be taken up in the interest of women's safety.
- **Pollution**: The problem of pollution is so challenging that it cannot be resolved in a day. So, steps like Grow more Trees, Do not waste Resources, Save Energy, Fuel, etc. The importance of these resources can be conveyed to the society and the need of Preservation of the scarce resources should be transmitted to the present generation.

- Juvenile Crimes: Children should be given free and compulsory education so that they become independent enough to have their own livelihood. Educational institutions can provide free education, scholarships, etc to these needy students so as to stop such crimes.

Thus, necessary and effective steps can be taken up by these educational institutions that may lead the nation to attain the following:

- Becoming Global Citizens
- Promotes national growth and development
- Educational Institutes serves as the pillars of the nation
- Leads to increase in and understanding of the spiritual, ethical and moral values and beliefs with logical thinking.
- Education results in ideal citizens
- Transmit national culture
- Literacy
- Wisdom
- Earn a livelihood
- Empathy
- Contributes towards society and communities
- Develops friendship and social bonding ⁴
- Helps and guides in the socialization of individuals
- Leads to protection and preservation of Cultural Heritage.
- Reformation of Beliefs and Attitudes
- Education encourages the spirit of competition
- Education also contributes towards the building up of moral and social values. ⁵
- Develops logical thinking among the individuals for broad thinking
- Helps the individuals for developing personal adjustments
- Leads to training among individuals to live in family and society
- Builds up respect for one another irrespective of caste and class.
- Development of knowledge, understanding and skills among individuals.

Conclusion: Thus education by educational institutions nurtures the growth and development of the nation by imparting the knowledge and information as per the needs and aspirations of the society. Besides, educational institutions also help the individuals for self-growth and development that contributes towards social, economical, cultural and political development of the country. Educational institutions help to develop national unity and integrity by the celebration of various festivals and occasions, that leads to development of co-ordination, co-operation, mutual understanding.

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