An Ideal Indian Education System

Introduction:

Education is an important activity in society, it gives an opportunity to man to understand the world around him and his place in it. In ancient times man was completely at the mercy of nature which was a complete mystery to him. The dark forces of nature were beyond the comprehension of man and to console himself he had to depend upon the existence of supernatural powers and this led to the growth of religion and superstition. The invention of tools, domestication of animals and growth of agriculture led to organization of society and along with this, developed social sciences.

Ideally speaking, it is through education that members of society, particularly the youth, come to understand the working of society. Education should enable the youth to improve the working of the society. Seen in this light, the purpose of education is not just to help students acquire degree and obtain jobs. If the society is not organized properly, jobs become difficult to acquire, degrees lose their meaning and education becomes a national waste as it is happening in many countries in the world today. Education, properly speaking, should develop a spirit of inquiry and rational thinking in the youth so as to enable them to understand the society and change it wherever it is found lacking.

Education System in India:

Ever since India attained Independence in 1947, we have been following, for inexplicable reasons, Lord Macaulay's system of education. This system has since lost its relevance to the changed socio-economic scenario in the country. As is well known, Lord Macaulay was an ardent champion of the British Raj. Therefore, it was natural for him to devise an educational system for India which would not foster real awareness and education.

The Current Education System in India:

It was essential for the Indian administrators to change this educational system. A different system more suited to the requirements of an independent progressive India has to be evolved. From time to time, seminars or symposia were held to discuss the question of educational reforms and suggest an ideal educational system. However, nothing much could be achieved in this behalf. Syllabi continued to be theoretical in nature, and irrelevant to the socio-cultural and economic contexts. Teaching methods and system of examination continued to be obsolete. The result was that our educational institutions and universities, Instead of being citadels of learning and enlightenment, became dens of unrest and frustration. Our students became irresponsible and directionless mob, out to destroy the very fabric of society. Instead of contributing to the progress of the nation, they became, to a large extent, a burden on the nation's economy and society.

An Ideal Education system for India:

It should aim to promote national progress, a sense of common citizenship and culture, and to strengthen national integration. It should call for radical reconstruction of the educational system and

for greater attention to science and technology, the cultivation of moral values and closer relation between education and the life of the people.

It should also focus on laying down of common system of studies for boys and girls; incorporation of science and mathematics as compulsory subjects; restructuring of the courses at under-graduate level; setting up of centres of advanced studies for post-graduate education and research.

Conclusion:

Education in India stands at cross-roads today. Neither normal expansion nor the existing pace and nature of improvement can meet the needs of the situation. The catalytic action of education in the complex and dynamic process of our country needs to be planned meticulously and executed with great sensitivity life in the coming decades, it points out, is likely to bring new tensions together with unprecedented opportunities.