

HUMANE EDUCATION

A REVOLUTIONARY APPROACH TO LEARNING

"We learn despite our education" said Mark Twain and this remains true of most educational endeavours today. This statement rings a bell in many hearts and triggers varied memories of one's tryst with academics, the most important part of education in most societies.

Education is meant to be a medium of learning about oneself and one's world. It opens creativity, brings out compassion amongst individuals and inculcates a sense of awe and respect towards nature and the universe. It opens our mind, stimulates our senses, brings about a shift in our thinking, and frees us from the obsolete and paves way for creation of the new. In a nutshell, education can open us to ourselves and equip us with boundless avenues to breathe our dreams into reality.

In our society, education in many cases does exactly the opposite of what it is meant to do. Competition instead of co-operation, parochial instead of ecumenical, content instead of process of learning, rote thinking instead of creativity, a closed mind compartmentalized into rigid silos instead of open free flow mind, intolerance instead of compassion are all manifestations of the education system today. According to a survey in schools, only 15% of the students attain distinction; another 70% fall into a bracket of average to mediocre; and the rest are bracketed as failures; 90% of the Gen X do not associate their education with what they do for a living. More and more children are showing the signs of early stress, anxiety, eating disorders and suicide. And these stressed children grow up to be stressed adults with psychological, psychosomatic and physiological challenges.

Most of these conflicts are inflicted on the society and young individuals because of the fundamental discord between education and



learning. Learning is an experiential, creative and empowering process. Individuals who learn through experience are invariably more positive and enthusiastic, feel included and are extremely motivated, exhibit compassion and eschew negativity. The objective of Education is to enable individuals to learn through experience and for this to happen, what is taught and how it is taught has to change.

Education has to be holistic and has to include all aspects of a teacher. A teacher who is compassionate invariably reflects this sense in her teaching. Similarly a passionate teacher induces passion through his teaching. It is this sense of passion students connect to and get inspired with. What teachers exude the students connect with and experience. Teaching devoid of experience becomes a mindless exercise and can become a source of stress for the teacher and the student. The experience of what is taught depends on the state of being of the teacher, the students and the subject matter. Every subject demands a unique approach and method. When done the way it deserves, the experience of learning can bring about a dramatic shift in the core sensibility of students. Students empowered in this manner revel in exploring their own uniqueness, consider making a difference to the world around them in the way they can and more importantly value the diversity and uniqueness in others. Such humaneness forms the basis of purposeful endeavours students engage in, not only as youngsters but as students of life as adults. A

purposeful human being values life, values the contribution of others and is compassionate in his approach. Cooperation flourishes and the focus is more on how to enlarge the pie rather than just sharing it. A shift in focus can have dramatic implications on a system. Even a small change if sufficiently deep can have a viral impact on the society.

Aashwasan brings Humane Education to spark a revolution in the learning experience and ignite the spark of imagination, creativity, innovativeness, humaneness, togetherness and collaboration in individuals. It brings out human qualities such as compassion, acceptance, assertiveness and respect as an expression of connecting with oneself and others, and rekindles the spirit of co-operation to experience oneness with the world. Through unique science methodology drawn from the tools and techniques of Aashwasan Science™ brought forth by Ms Rashmi Aiyappa, the Humane Education movement is here to create joy of learning, bring human aspects into the process of learning, open up teachers' and students' minds and make them compete with themselves rather than with others. Such hopeful breakthroughs have been witnessed in schools, colleges and other institutions of knowledge where in many cases, bullying came down dramatically; classrooms became a space of exploration and learning; teachers became compassionate and flexible to students' needs, students' inclination towards true learning increased, stress levels in students saw steep reduction and focus increased multi-fold on themselves, and the institutions could recognize a new wave of inquiry transforming the space of learning.

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