

Humaneness and education, as it exists today, seem to be disparate and disjointed endeavours. Ideally, the objective of education should be to make us more humane. It should be a tool and process to help us explore more profound aspects of ourselves, unlock our potential, enhance empathy and make us more aware.

As it exists today, education seems obsolete that urgently needs reforms and redesign. Some core aspects of current education can be retained and enhanced - Reading, writing and basic arithmetic skills. But Beyond that, education is a journey of exploration. The journey of investigation has to be capable of creating a unique path for every individual - because we are all unique and cannot have identically overlapping ways. That would defeat the very purpose of exploration. An example would help. If you consider the subject of geography and culture - Why do we need to study them? For some individuals, the answer may lie in exploring the world's diversity. The differences in climate and people, culinary habits, and clothes fascinate them and kindle a more profound desire to know and delve into details. For others, it may be why it is so different. What causes the difference, and where did things diverge? The same subject may arouse curiosity about travel and how our body adapts to other food and climate. So the study of geography has to be multifarious and multi-dimensional.



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Humane Education -A New Paradigm

Every human being gets excited by different aspects of reality. Some may like abstract contemplations, and some may veer towards artistic studies. One size does not fit all. Potential and passions are aroused in different manners for different individuals. Not only are we different from each other, but we also find it quotidian to constrict our energies to a field of study. We are naturally created to venture into many areas of knowledge. As we study geography, we may meander into fashion—the modes of travel, history, culture, human nature, etc.

So the first tenet - humane education is multi-dimensional and broad in its approach. It does not restrict itself to just one domain of study.

Humane education also inculcates structured exploration and inquiry as a critical strategy for uncovering oneself. Exploration requires minimal spoon feeding. You cannot handhold a person while they are curious. You must give them the space to explore, observe, and tread their path. Discovering the world outside is a form of self-discovery. It is a junction between the unmanifest, and the manifested world that follows the 10-90 rule. Just give them a 10% push and allow them to explore the remaining 90%. This means - frequent interjections to mould them in an appropriate path and then letting them be.

Questioning, drawing conclusions, correcting oneself and evolving to a deeper understanding all by ourselves with minimal support from the master creates a humane experience within us. We become more empathetic, curious, creative and engaged with the world outside. We look at the world as an extension of our inner self. And that is the true purpose of humane education.

There is a massive divergence between where we are and where we should be. Only a dramatically different approach to education can bridge the yawning chasm. Education, as defined by the tenets above, has to be inclusive, diverse, minimalistic and focused more on building a mode of thinking and wondering rather than feeding information. Information and knowledge are available aplenty. So we do not need to replicate it in individuals mindlessly. A dramatic approach needs a disparate set of tools and methodologies. We need to overhaul and creatively destroy the existing paradigm of education.

How do we begin this journey?

First, we need to stop the standardization of learning.

Therefore, the amount of content and curriculum should vary from one individual to another. Everyone has their own learning pace, and one must respect varying tempos. Allow the individual to set their rate of growth. Challenge them, and ensure they do not slip into a comfort zone. Play the disruptor now and then, but otherwise, allow individuals to evolve.

Second, emphasize creativity, joy and experience.

Allow students to experience every subject. Let them develop a unique relationship with the field of study. Let the matter be a tool for them to explore their potential and talents.



One of the practitioners of Aashwasan narrated an interesting experience:

“I do remember my exploration of Mathematics. There was a time when my teacher unleashed my latent interest in mathematics. I went into a frenzy of discovery and creativity. Within a month, I submitted 15 project papers on diverse topics. One can unleash the rage of creation in any individual as long as one is willing to accept diversity and not insist on uniformity.”

One may need to overhaul the education infrastructure to make the new paradigm possible. Schools should shed their assembly line approach to education. Instead, they should showcase their diversity and creativity. The individual should be allowed more time to explore, and one should spend less time in the classroom. Instead, one should light the spark and allow the internal drive of a student to burst aflame.

These are some of the transformations we need to engender in the current vision of education. Ultimately education will have to be aligned with humanity and engender humanity. Else it is but a matter of time before it withers away.

About Humane Education: *Humane Education is an initiative founded by Aashwasan. It has been brought forth to spark a revolution in the educational system. It has been created to bring out humane qualities such as compassion, acceptance, assertiveness and the spirit of co-opetition bringing the experience of oneness. It brings to focus the importance of recognizing each child as an individual and ignite the spark of curiosity, creativity, imagination, innovativeness, togetherness and collaboration. Such a conducive educational environment leads to reduced bullying, abuse, crimes, reducing stress, emotional, psychological and psychosomatic problems in children, thus laying the foundation for a better society tomorrow. In the past 17 years, through techniques drawn from Aashwasan Science™ invented by me, this movement has created a joy of learning, humanised education, opened up teachers and students' minds in unimaginable ways and made them compete with themselves rather than with others.*

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