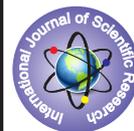


The Role of Newspaper in Enhancing Education



Mass Communication

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ABSTRACT

The newspaper, today, plays a vital role in human affairs. Its importance has not been diminished by the appearance of the radio or the television. Men no longer have travel to get information. The newspaper has become the main source of information about local national, and foreign affairs. Though the radio and television convey important news and messages quicker than the newspaper, they seldom give the details of an incident. The newspaper, on the other hand, gives not only more detail about a particular incident but it also contains more new items. This is greatly important today when political changes occur with rapidity unknown before. Besides, the newspaper is easier to carry and it could be read at any time during the day. Further, the permanence of the printed word helps one to refresh one's memory of certain facts and incidents reported in the past. This article will provide a comprehensive rationale for using newspapers as an effective teaching and learning tool in the college classroom as well as a set of reasons why media literacy is particularly needed now, at the dawn of a new millennium.

Introduction

Education has been recognized as the prime moving force in economic and social development. Adisehiah (1970 P.31) has rightly said, "No education means no development, little education means little development, more education means more development.

Education and development share parental features, one is the progeny and the other offspring". During the last decades International organization like UNESCO have been playing pivotal role in bringing about awareness on the importance of education and making it available to most of the people particularly in the third world. "Everyone has the right to education" proclaims the article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The development has many facts individual, social cultural, economic and so on. In all these developmental areas, Mass media can work as catalytic agents and help accelerating the pace of progress in the developing countries. The mass media, particularly print media should be given importance for its role. The educational functions of newspaper are discussed below:

1. Current Events Study and its analysis:

Newspaper describes and analysis current events of national, international and local importance. It presents socio-political and economic news with details to develop an insight into the matter among the readers.

2. Vocational Knowledge:

Newspapers bring out information about the job opportunity, discussion about production and consumption of wealth notices, advertisement of public and private sectors, rate of commodities and other valuable information.

3. Development of Socio-Political Consciousness:

The educative role of newspaper is to bring about proper knowledge and the socio-political awareness among the people. Articles related to health, fashion design and son on are also published to make the people/reader's knowledge up to date.

Newspaper is a powerful means to bring socio-political change and ensure better understanding of people about their rights and duties as citizens and act as the public platform to express views even against the Government.

Role of Print Media

Print media in our country is very powerful. People, especially, the students read newspapers for learning different aspects about life, art, culture and science of both home and abroad. Almost every newspaper has its own education page. In the page, they published

educational articles written by teachers, trainers, students, and experts. It also publishes different difficult explanations, questions and answers of secondary and higher secondary levels.

Some English dailies publish the techniques of teaching English language and grammar, while some scientific magazines scientific explanations and new inventions. Some dailies publish 'weekly magazines', which focuses mainly on the higher education. In addition, they publish the prospectus of different educational institutions.

Again, students as well as adults can learn good English from the English newspapers. They can read articles about a certain topic and enrich their language knowledge. Some newspapers have their "reader's forum". Through this forums they, try to enhance education and awareness in different areas of the country. The readers of different newspapers, who also work for it as volunteers, teach the deprived children in their free time. Sometimes, they provided books and related materials for slam children, who never got any chance to go school.

I know some journalist. They try to create awareness among the working children and adults. They do this either provoked by their own interests and sense of responsibility or assigned by the office. Besides, national dailies often organize some discussion meetings, workshops and seminars for students and professionals, which is very powerful to create mass awareness.

Role of Broadcast Media

As I said earlier, we are now in a state of "Media Expansion", we have lot of TV and radio channels and every day new channels are coming. Broadcasting media is the most common & popular media in our country. In the cases of developing countries implementation of education fully depends on appropriate use of broadcasting media technology. And the government as well as private organizations are using Radio and television for meeting these demands.

A significant result has already been achieved in the field of mass education by using media. All the TV and Radio channels present various educational programmes for the students. These programmes become very popular in the country.

The Importance of Newspapers in the Education of the Youth

A newspaper may be described as a document which is printed and published regularly and consists of news reports, articles, photographs and advertisements which are on large sheets of paper folded together but not permanently joined. Newspapers may be published daily, weekly or every fortnight. Examples of newspapers are the DAILY GRAGHIC in Ghana and the WASHINGTON POST in the

United States of America. Newspapers are very important in the lives of many people in the world. As a section of the Press, newspapers have the main aims of informing, educating and entertaining the public.

Newspapers in Education:

- Articles from newspapers give facts about current affairs which may not be found in textbooks in their schools.
- Students learn new or unfamiliar words, expressions and spelling which add up to their vocabulary.
- Newspapers provide topics that students may use in their conversations with their friends.
- The youth are educated on social, political and economic issues when they read articles in the newspapers.
- Newspapers educate both the youth and adults on the opinions and feelings of people in the world on various issues.
- Newspapers educate people about new inventions, discoveries and developments in Science, Technology, Health and Diseases.
- When students read newspapers, they learn about different styles of writing.
- Students who read newspapers regularly improve their reading in terms of fluency and speed as they become familiar with a lot of words.

Newspapers in the Information of the Public:

Newspapers provide reports on both local news and foreign news. They provide news on crime, natural disasters, wars, the stock exchange, sports, the weather and many other issues. These news are important in the lives of many people including the youth.

- Newspapers give information on current and existing laws, rules, regulations and bye-laws.
- The youth can easily obtain information on the problems facing their country and other countries e.g. food shortage.
- Through advertisements, information can be obtained from newspapers on **types of goods** one wants to buy and in **which shops** they can be located. These goods may be clothes, shoes, computers etc.

Newspapers in Entertainment:

The youth are very much interested in entertainment.

- Newspapers provide advertisement on entertainment, that is, various forms, venue, date and time.
- Some students read newspapers during their free time as a form of entertainment.
- The youth find crossword puzzles and quizzes in newspapers challenging and entertaining.
- Some youth also get a lot of fun from reading jokes, poems, comics and cartoons in newspapers.
- Although newspapers are **advantageous** in educating, informing and educating the youth, they also have **disadvantages**. Some newspapers, especially private newspapers, contain some articles that are not reliable and therefore not good or useful for the youth.

Conclusion

We cannot imagine a world without newspapers. In view of the great importance of newspapers, we suggest that all youth should be encouraged to read newspapers especially those written for the youth. Schools should also be encouraged to publish their own newspapers where it is possible. All the youth are invited to the educative world of newspapers. Let us cultivate the habit of reading newspapers.

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