Changing Trends in Education

Dr. Parveen Rani | Principal, Baba Kundan Rural College of Education, Ludhiana.

ABSTRACT   *The globalization of the world market and erasing of socio-cultural barriers, the world is becoming a global village. Moreover, the neo policies of liberalization and privatization of Government of India have given birth to diversified sectors of economy. The infrastructure, manufacturing, communication, service and other fast growing sectors are changing the country to knowledge economy leading to demands for efficient, vibrant, dynamic and qualified knowledge workers. This has shifted the focus of education from pure to applied sciences and sciences to engineering and technology. Today's Indian youth is more focused, target oriented and well versed with upcoming needs and accordingly opts for the type of education which is demand driven, job-oriented and unbiased for gender. Viewing the importance of this changing education trend, various non-conventional, technical and non-technical courses are being introduced in general educational institutions. The curricula of these courses are being designed keeping in view the demands of world of work.*

Introduction -

Education Sector in India is never-ending sphere, which is growing at a steady speed. Since the time of its inception, education sector has been given an utmost importance for the growth of the nation and the people. In the past, traditional courses like medicine, law and other subjects were considered the top most courses by prospective students, but now times has changed and the students are seeking for other unusual courses options like telecommunication engineering, automobile engineering, radio jockeying, news anchoring, event management, content writing, and other courses which are the most sought after courses. Not only this, but there also innovative mode of learning courses, like e-learning, distance learning, interactive CD ROM, and other modes of learning. Thus, this has helped in teaching students who are sitting far away in rural areas, provides cost-effective courses for students, and makes the students well-versed with the curriculum. The widening of courses and the changing trends in education sector has created a broader choice for students to decide their career as per their core interest and aptitude. The benefits of having such unconventional courses are not restricted to students, but are also beneficial for the colleges, educational bodies, corporate and nation at large.

New trends in education:-

Online or e-learning: Online Education is fast becoming a major preferred mode of education among students. Enrolling to regular courses is increasingly getting highly competitive in India; so online education and distance education has come as a wonderful alternative and several students opt for this. As the term itself suggests, online education means web based learning, but there is no universally accepted definition. So, the methods used for implementing online education may differ from institute to institute. Some online courses may require students and teachers to meet from time to time for physical lectures or to conduct laboratory experiments while some may not require this. This can vary depending on the course which one opts to take up. E-learning scope in India is immense. There are several universities and other educational institutes that offer online education facilities to their students

Benefits of online learning:

1. Convenient and flexible learning
2. Ease of accessibility
3. Wide range of options
4. Students control study time
5. Sufficient time to absorb material
6. Money saving or cost effective
7. The Most Up-to-Date Content at Much Lower Cost
8. A Better Fit for 21st-Century Businesses

Distance education:- Distance Education courses are very popular in rural India. One of the main reasons for this is the provision that one can get degrees from various renowned universities from anywhere in India. Distance education is given through correspondence courses, where the student and the teacher are separated in time and space and sometimes both. Distance learning is doing a wonderful job by enabling the less advantaged sections of society have an opportunity to get educated. There are different types of distance learning options available to students. Some of them are postal correspondence courses, interactive CD-ROM courses, pocket PC/mobile learning course, telecourse/ broadcast course through radio or television and synchronous or asynchronous internet courses. Just like online education, in distance education too, students will not have to relocate to new places or make any changes in their existing work. All they need to do is find out about some good distance education providing institute, get enrolled and get a degree. The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is the premier institute for providing distance education in India. This university is one of the most recognized names in this field and at any given time there are 1.4 million students enrolled in various courses. Some of the other institutes that offer distance education to students include:

1. Acharya Nagarjuna University Center for Distance Education (CDE) Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

2. Alagappa University Directorate of Distance Education Sivanagar, Tamil Nadu

3. Annamalai University Directorate of Distance Education Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu Skill Based Learning

The notion that children learn better through hands-on experience is far from novel. Dating back to the days when you would spend years being trained as an apprentice, learning from experience has always been considered a more effective tool than books. The best learning comes when you couple the two. However 2015 will feature the emergence of a different type of practical learning, one that is outside the classroom. This learning comes when children volunteer to make a difference, and taking away an experience through it. Effectively walking away from the process with tangible and transferable skills that can help them in their academic studies but also in their social and professional interactions. One example of this is the KIDS-CAN program.

Grading System:

In the current era, the Indian universities as well as school boards are changing their trend by adopting grading system in education from the traditional system of absolute marking. Grading system is the major change in the Indian educational system. The New Scheme of Grading has been introduced with the aim that:

It will minimize misclassification of students on the basis of marks.

It will eliminate unhealthy competition among high achievers.

It will reduce societal pressure and will provide the learner with more flexibility.

It will lead to a focus on a better learning environment Operational

It will facilitate joyful and stress free learning.

Problem Based Learning

In regards to tertiary education, problem based learning is gaining popularity in Australia. Students are given a real-world problem then they work together to find a solution to this. In Australia, nursing programmes have begun to embrace this style of teaching and learning because it challenges the students to work as if they're dealing with real problems they'll encounter in the workplace. Teachers find it invaluable because students learn more with this method.

Learning with Technologies

Another view found all around the world but also heavily used in Australia surrounds the use of technologies as the key to students improving their learning abilities and their marketability. Within the realm of technologies, teachers encourage students to innovate, bringing them full-circle into the 21st century where survival and stability rule.

Constructivist Learning

According to Dimitrios Thanasoulas of Greece with relation to philosopher Giambattista Vico, humans only understand what they construct. This concept runs on the idea that students create their own learning environments, actively participating in the knowledge they ingest. Creating your own learning involves making mistakes with no pre-set agenda in place. Constructive learning is not stable so many educational systems reject it.

Competency Based Education

Competency based education says that regardless of the length of time it takes for a student to complete a course, the student completes it based on what they know already. The only factor in determining how or when the student completes the course is the mastery of knowledge within the subject

Vocational Training

Whether students are seeking a specialized higher education or a specific skill in order to further a career path, vocational training has become a more popular avenue and view of education in general. Often used by governments to train displaced workers, it can be a valuable source of study for anyone wanting to specialize in areas such as various types of medical technicians or even graphic arts.

Semester system

Educational system all over the world has never been consistent over the year. Through advancement and exposure to new concepts, educationists investigate possibilities to teach texts in various feasible manners. According to Myron Tribus (1994), there are innumerable proposals/suggestions for reforms and changes in educational system and there are infinite number of good ideas and research results. The target is not just to pick one of them but rather it is to have comprehensive attitude and approach within which to bring to action many good works known to us. Introduction of semester system can be said to be the product of these investigations. A semester system is an academic term. It is division of an academic year, the time during which a college holds classes. It also might be applicable in the schools and universities. Usually, a semester system divides the year in two parts or terms. In India this six-month system is generally followed. In schools we find the year divided in between two (often three) major examinations in and around the vacations. The central universities in India have been long following this from quite some time. At present, the under graduate colleges in Assam too have been familiarized with the semester system. We find that most nations of the world today are constantly switching onto the semester system.

Conclusion

From the above discussion it can be concluded that several changes have been emerged in the field of education. These changes are considered as somehow positive which makes the learning feasible and globalized. . The increasing use of information and communication technology has brought changes at all levels of education system leading to quality enhancement. Traditional forms of teaching and learning are converted to online and virtual environment. The semester system, grading system, vocational education, online learning, skill based learning and distance education are some prominent changes in the educational sphere. The above mentioned changes have brought revolutionary change in Indian education system. India is a developing nation and it has been expanding in every fields. Education saw an essential change gradually after Independence. Development of education in India brought about a transformation and the concept of education got modified.. India got well-known educational institutions such as the IITs, IISc, IIMs, NITs, AIIMS, ISI, JU, BITS, and ISB. The higher education system of India is the third largest in the world, after China and the United States.

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