

Community & Elementary Education
Course-507
SOLVED ASSIGNMENT-1

1. Explain the socio cultural components that influence the education system and the influence of community on the cultural development of the learners.

Ans. Education of any society has direct correlations with its sociocultural factors. The process of education evolved in its social structure, social norms and values system. School is one such creation of human society to transfer the existing cultural content from one generation to next generation. In informal setting, socialization is a process through which community transact or educate their members about the norms and values of the society.

Traditionally, education provided by religious institutions like Christian missionaries, Islamic Madarsa, Buddhist monasteries and other religious organizations. These institutions have the proselytizing feature and they inculcate their religious ideals. These are not limited established religions, each community transmit their norms and values. In this process of education and socialization, we also transmit the biases and differences of our society- i.e. hierarchy, stratification and inherent inequality. The dominance of elite culture, gender disparity and other sociocultural features also transmitted to the younger generations. Pierre Bourdieu, French sociologist, viewed education perpetuate the culture of dominant class, this phenomenon he called 'cultural reproduction'. Similarly, Paulo Freire observed the teaching process, teaching method and language makes a difference between oppressors and oppressed. Major roles of school today School as moral authority, preparing people for an occupation, school should not subservient to the community's dominant class.

Influence of community on the cultural development of the learners.

School and community interface plays a crucial role in the cultural development of the learner by including the local culture into the various aspects of school activities as it provides an instant value to the knowledge as it shows communities and children that their own knowledge and beliefs are actually something worth. It also generates

higher self-esteem in children of their own cultural identity, lower level feeling of inferiority and self denial which is very helpful for the overall development of personality. Indigenous knowledge is not necessarily restricted to traditional knowledge but it should be understood as indigenous way of transmitting new knowledge. We need to find innovative ways on how to transmit our indigenous knowledge to new generation if we don't want to loose it. So you as a teacher can provide a platform to promote the wealth of the traditional knowledge in the form of story, folk tale, belief, practices and legacies by inviting religious leaders of the different ethnic and tribal communities. This way school and community interface help in reviving this traditional culture in today's context and help the children in getting to know their culture.

As a teacher we should know about the cross cultural understanding of the community where the school is. This can be done through

- Exploring the diverse aspects of the variety of culture in the community.
- Understanding the characteristics and practices that comprise a culture and there by strengthening cross-cultural tolerance and appreciation of difference.
- Avoid the bias, preconception and myth. Equip the child with the necessary knowledge and skills for their adult life.

Cultural perspective of education inspire the teachers and students to collect folk song, folk tale, riddles, local history, folk game and myths from the community which have rich learning potentials for the child' cultural development and overall personality development and it is a source of self -learning in the community by sharing experiences with others. The Community plays an important role in the cultural development of the child. The local culture if studied minutely reflects another realm of learning which can be foundation of institutionalized knowledge. The local history, its folk traditions, art, craft, etc. have immense educational potentials and can be used by teacher to make the teaching -learning process more enjoyable.

2. Describe the need of involving the community in school education. Discuss how the community can be involved in improving school education? Give at least five ways.

Answer: NEED OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The objective of community participation in education is to universalize education which means availability of schooling facilities to all children; getting all children to enroll and making the system responsive to retain all students. The goal of any kind of activity that attempts to involve community and parents /families in education is to improve the educational delivery so that more children learn better and are well prepared for the changing world. Participation of the community is a means to increase the mobilization of the financial, human and material resources required to make the educational system efficient.

Participation is also necessary to adopt education to the needs, problems, aspirations and interests of all sections of population especially weaker sections. Participation is also essential for the democratization of education especially in the perspective of achieving equal opportunity. Participation is indispensable in order to avoid having the community become indifferent towards the education system.

The National Policy on Education (1986) and the accompanying Programme of Action called for an integrated and decentralized approach to developing school education systems with a focus on building the capacity of districts in planning and management of school education, particularly at elementary level. Community participation was regarded as a fundamental requirement for improving the entire education system and creating an appropriate framework for accountability at each level of administration. The shift took place from community development to community participation or empowering the people or the grass root democracy. It was emphasized in policy documents that the people need to have power in the decision making process. The community should be involved in the activities of schools, in the planning of school education at village/ward, block and district level.

How community can be involved:

Community involvement helps to raise a responsible child. It encourages parents/ communities to actively participate in their children's learning in schools by visiting schools to monitor hygiene and teaching/learning

process in the classroom, discuss pupils' performance with teachers and provide support to their children's quality learning.

Community can be involved through different ways:

- Participation in the surveys for out of school children, awareness building campaigns on issue of child labor, enrolment drives;
- participation in the school mapping exercise, location of the school, availability of schooling infrastructure like building, classrooms, toilet and drinking water facility;
- Involvement through the contribution of money, materials, and labour;
- Involvement through 'attendance' (e.g. at parents' meetings at school), visiting schools to monitor hygiene and teaching/learning in the classroom, discuss pupil's performance with teachers;
- monitoring the incentives like free text books, uniform reach to the students, monitoring the regularity and quality of mid day meal.

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