



Life Long Learning – the Need of the Hour in the Changing Times

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LIFE LONG LEARNING – THE NEED OF THE HOUR IN THE CHANGING TIMES.

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YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO SET ANOTHER GOAL OR TO DREAM ANOTHER DREAM.C. S. LEWIS`

ABSTRACT.

Lifelong learning is the ongoing, voluntary and self motivated pursuit of knowledge for either personal or professional reasons. Therefore, it not only enhances social inclusion, active citizenship, and personal development, but also self sustainability, as well as competitiveness and employability. In the 21st century we all need to be lifelong learners. The role of lifelong learning have been increase in India and other parts of the world, since time and we all need to concentrate on the lifelong learning and The Delors Report created by the Delors commission in 1996 which proposed an integrated vision of education based on two key components “learning throughout life and the four pillars of learning, to know, to do ,to be and to live together which is considered as a milestone in the rapid growth in the information Age .Man tends to change and he needs to adapt to the growing fast economy as it is building information and an investment in knowledge is the need of the time. We all need to equip ourselves to move ahead in the fast paced economy. This paper discusses the growing need of lifelong learning and is importance relating to the perspective of India and its effort to improvise reforms to inculcate the spirit of lifelong learning in our society.

The term lifelong learning evolved and created by Leslie Watkins and used by professor Clint Taylor in 1993.life long learning has become a key component of a fulfilling career and a satisfying life. Lifelong learning makes us less averse and more adaptable to change when it happens.

Lifelong Learning can enhance our understanding of the world around us, provide us with more and better opportunities and improve our quality of our life .It is a key component of a fulfilling career and a satisfying life.74% of Americans adults consider themselves lifelong learners.

KEYWORDS-Delors Report, Faure Report, Unesco Report, ,UGC guidelines ,OECD.

INTRODUCTION

ANYONE WHO STOPS LEARNING IS OLD, WHETHER AT TWENTY OR EIGHTY.ANYONE WHO KEEPS LEARNING STAYS YOUNG.FORD.

The world around us is changing at an unprecedented rate .lifelong learning is an indispensable tool for every career and organization in this growing technological world .we Indians are also should adopt the concept of lifelong learning into our curriculum and see that we are also marching ahead towards Agenda 2030.

The concern for the improvement of education had been at the top of India's development agenda since independence. Several commissions were appointed to develop education policy in India. University Education Commission (1948-1949), the Secondary Education commission (1952-1953),the Education Commission(1964-1966) and the National Commission of Teachers-(1983-1985).

India has also started its own initiative to lifelong learning way back in 1964-1965 through Indian Education Commission. The role played by UNESCO and European Commission. In 1996 publication of the learning the treasures within, memorandum of lifelong learning 2000.International Conference of lifelong learning in Mumbai 1998, and n Hyderabad in 2002.Erasmus Mundus programme.UGC guidelines on lifelong learning 2010.The first formal recognition of lifelong learning came in 1966 when the education commission made the following observation "Education does not end with schooling, but it is a lifelong process. Educators who engage in lifelong learning act as an example for their students because the practice what they teach.

The entire education system has to be based on capacity building comprising five components: research and enquiry, creativity and innovation, capacity to use high end technology, entrepreneurship and moral leadership .the most beneficial lifelong learning skills are creativity, problem solving, critical thinking, leadership communication, collaboration, information management, and adaptability.

India having the third largest education system in the world, but a report suggests that still there are about 304.11 million non literates in the country.

Faure Report 1972 this report refers to the individual as unfinished divided and incomplete. Education therefore must be directed towards the development of the complete man.

Delors Report 1996 which describes about the four pillars of Learning.

OECD the organization for Economic Cooperation and Development 1961 is an international organization which hopes to build a better future for all.

UNESCO, UGC, NATIONAL POLICY ON EDUCATION 1986

Seven famous people who have been lifelong learners were Walt Whitman, Frank Lloyd Wright, Walt Disney, Arnold Schwarzenner, Benjamin Franklin, Shaquille o Neal, James Franco.

NEED FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

“The only thing that is constant is change “ HERACLITUS.

“Education is not the amount of information that we put into your brain and runs riot there ,undigested, all your life. We must have life building, man-making, character-making assimilation of ideas. If you have assimilated five ideas and make them your life and character ,you have more education than any man who has got by heart a whole library..... If education is identical with information, the libraries are the greatest sages of the world and encyclopedia are the greatest Rishis.”Quote by Swamy Vivekananda.

Finland is the first country to encourage lifelong learning and include their teaching curriculum around the eight key competencies as recommended by European Parliament like

communication in the mother tongue, communication in foreign languages, introduce mind mapping in classrooms ,digital competence, learning to learn, social and civil competencies, sense of initiative and entrepreneurship, cultural awareness and expression,

Most people associate learning with formal education at school, college and university. However, lifelong learning is about creating and maintaining a positive attitude to learning both for personal and professional development. Lifelong learning can enhance our understanding of the world around us, provide us with more and better opportunities and improve our quality of our life. Today's increasing globalization and rapidly evolving technologies are a basic need to learn and to improve with the growing changes lifelong learning teaches man to move ahead according to the necessity and cope with intellectual mind to be ready to face new challenges in the world.

Use of available media, Use of public library, use of self learning habit, in service education and training in different technical fields, Curriculum reforms can bring about a drastic change in the method of education and to foster the tools of lifelong learning it has to be done so that we are not lagging behind the said ultimatum of intellectual progress.

The advantages of lifelong learning are

Educators are guides to sources of knowledge, people learn by doing, people learn in groups and from one another, Assessment is used to guide learning strategies and identify pathways for future learning, educators develop individual learning plans, educating lifelong learners, initial training and professional development are linked ,people have access to learning opportunities over lifetime.

The Global Sustainable Development Goal 4 seeks to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities to all.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The constitution of Kothari commission was to develop the education system and aim at productivity in science, work experience, vocational educational activities .developing essential skills .spiritual values and social activities were suggested by the commission. Jacques Delors report was taken from a line in one of the parables of La Fontaine titled “The Ploughman and his Children, which calls learning a treasure(learning –the treasure within).India endorsed the World Declaration of Education for all(EFA) adopted by the world conference of Education at Jomtien (1990)Thailand during March 5-9 and accepted the declarations of the fifth International Conference on adult education.(CONFINTEA V) India has endorsed the Dakar framework for action after the world education forum in Dakar.

The Hamburg Declaration on Adult Learning. In this summit the leaders took a pledge to see that women and men are given equal opportunities in every sphere of life and it the sole aim to survive and to meet the challenges which lay ahead .Adult education is the key to 21st century which is a powerful concept for fostering ecologically sustainable development. Adult education denotes the entire body of ongoing learning processes, formal or otherwise, whereby people regarded as adults by the society to which they develop their abilities, enrich their knowledge ,and improve their technical or professional qualifications or to meet their own needs and those of their society. The representatives of governments and organizations participating in the fifth international conference on adult education have decided to explore together the potential and the future of adult learning, broadly and dynamically conceived within a framework of lifelong learning. These concepts pose a challenge to the existing practices because it calls for effective networking within the formal and non formal systems.

DATA ANALYSIS

According to the Human Development Report India ranks 128 of 177 countries. But still the literacy rate is higher in India.

Average human knowledge is doubling every 13 months, and IBM predicts that in the forthcoming years the volume of information will double every 11 hours.

UNESCO LIST OF COUNTRIES BY LITERACY RATE

COUNTRY	ADULT LITERACY RATE	YOUTH LITERACY RATE
CHINA	96.4%	99.7%
SRILANKA	92.6%	98.8%
MYANMAR	93.7%	96.3%
India	72.1%	86.1%
NEPAL	64.7%	86.9%

The average pupil ratio for all India is 42.1, implying a teacher shortage and moreover the expenditure allocated to education was never above 4.3% of the GDP FROM 1951 TO 2002 IN India despite the target set by the Kothari commission 1964 was 6%.The survey conducted by the NSSO which mentions that poor rate of percentage of children studying in primary schools is 36.8 in India.

The Sergeant Scheme was also proposed by the British to enhance 100% literacy in the country but India only just crossed 74% level by the 2011 Census. UNESCO aims at education to all and every year September 8 is celebrated as the international literacy day to focus on the importance of learning.

SUGGESTIONS

The National Adult Education Program launched in 1978 encouraged lifelong learning in India. The Government of India expanded the scope of continuing Education program by developing it as a Lifelong Education and Awareness Program. ICT enabling techniques should be adopted for getting lifelong education in India. Gender disparities should be reduced at all levels poverty and other sanitation issues should be improved. monitoring and evaluation programs should be conducted to meet the objectives of lifelong learning. Policy should be made to launch lifelong learning in to all the universities in India in accordance with national education policy 2016. India should take into account the four pillars of education as suggested by the Delors report. UGC guidelines on lifelong learning in the 11th plan also has to be implemented all over India. Suggestions in the National Education Policy 2016 should be given prominence to achieve 100% literacy.

RESULTS

Knowledge is becoming more valuable these days. Intellectual capital will always trump financial capital, said by Paul Tudor Jones, a self made billionaire. The real evidence of the growing emergence of lifelong learning can be seen in the present day by seeing into the concept of self driving car launched by Google X and its founder Sebastian Thrun and GM spending one billion on their acquisitions. SWAYAM- MOOC India online platform which was launched in August 2014, 2016, and fully in 2017 was also successful in bringing online learning platform and make more access to digital information to all people. On September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted 2030 AGENDA for Sustainable Development with 17 sustainable development goals and 169 associated targets.

Richard Feynman portrayed a love for solving difficult problems and he is well known for deciphering the problem of the o-rings which cause the explosion on the challenger space shuttle in 1986. Even till today people remember him for his love for learning.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To develop lifelong learning in India there many initiatives started in India to develop lifelong learning. They are UNESCO institute for lifelong learning DPEP, SSA ,RMSA ,RUSA .Open systems `NIOS ,IGNOU, State Open Universities, Dept of Adult Education Centers, NGO Azim Premji Foundation, ASER, Prathan.

LIMITATIONS

There is still lot to be done and still reforms need to be done, but there are certain

Impractical policies in the field of lifelong learning, India has one third of world poor children, Lack of multiple channels of learning, Adequate resource support, Poor quality f professional training Lack of work culture, Lack of financial resources in financial support to lifelong learning Lack of follow up studies, Lack of monitoring and evaluative programs, Limited institutions offering lifelong learning.

CONCLUSION

We need to seriously take up the issue relating to lifelong learning as the future belongs to the lifelong learners, as it is already laid down in agenda 2030 we have to improve the quality of primary education and secondary education for all with equal access to higher education and gender equality and youth and adult should be educated in lifelong learning and develop relevant skills for work with the aim of global citizenship education for all. Universal access to health care services and improving decent work conditions and overall economic development. India still faces the challenge making the sizable population literate.

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