EDUCATION: A CHANGE AGENT TO TRANSFORM THE SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

World of science, technology, business, industry and politics is growing rapidly. To keep up with these developments, the importance of synergizing our philosophy of education with the modern philosophy of education in terms of developmental needs of knowledge, skills and attitudes or upgrading the knowledge and skills is increasing day by day and consequently the demand of critical agents for specific purposes to satisfy various global needs of learners is rising. The entire society joining hands together can play a role to bring change. Society needs change agents question arises who are those change agents? The study revolved around searching those agents and the role they play to transform society. The findings of the reveal that there are three major pillars which effectively play the role of 'Change Agent'. Firstly, under individual influence sphere, one can identify and embrace a society appreciating and acknowledging technology (visual and print media) as a cardinal aiding agent in bringing up communication gaps. Secondly, social forces such as culture, valuing potential people, time and most importantly teaching community. Hillman mentions in his book 'The Change Agents' that culture is shaped by 7 mountains of cultural influence such as: media, arts, government, business, entertainment, family, education and Church and the third one is a teacher education acquainting, teaching learning community with modern developments in education and capacity building of the teachers. Together these three factors can transform the society as per global community.

Keywords: Education, change agent, society

INTRODUCTION

Living has a motive, and a reason to embrace. Whatever you are by profession, there is a sphere that you can lead and sway. Hillman's recent book, Change agent, and aids you to comprehend how you can be iconic change bringing element and why divine has laid this responsibility on the shoulders of men and women to be change agents in society and culture. He provides a detailed logical explanation so as to why USA is disoriented morally and what steps should be taken to cease the lost treasure. He compelled individual personalities to ponder on Gods' approach of empowering men and women as quoted in biblical biographies i.e. Moses, Daniel, Esther, etc. he also brings into focus, the modern day change agents and how they have molded culture and what must be done to broader the intensity and span of influence. Economic stability, Age, Social status is not vital to a change agent; Hillman shows you how you can be one, without modifying you at all.

Hillman mentions that "Culture is shaped by 7 mountains of influence" Media, arts, government, business, entertainment, family, education and Church. It is designed and shaped by a few power bearing leaders functioning at the summit if these mountains, and consequently, it requires that we should have immense influence at these Zenith shaping areas.

TEACHER EDUCATION: A CHANGE AGENT

Those institutes which foster teacher education are pioneer change agents in reorienting education to address sustainability. We reside in a world which is education oriented. They have the power and skills to bring a revolution in the operating educational system that can reshape the skills and knowledge of the upcoming generation. Teacher education institutes serve as key change agents in transforming society and educational trends, so ding that was possible. The aims of teacher education institutions are:

1. Educating new teachers as per the changing trends
2. Extend professional development for practicing in-service teachers, and keeping them up to date.
3. Development of teacher education development.
4. Carrying out research.
5. Updating and contributing to the text books.
6. Providing expert opinions to authorized national and provincial ministries of education.
7. Extending expert advices to schools on requests.
8. Certify and aware headmasters, school administrators and principals.

Owing to the wider influence in educational global community, the faculty members of teacher education institutions are perfectly entitled to be promoted as CHANGE AGENTS.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AS A TRANSFORMING AGENT

One of the cardinal steps or milestones of higher education is transformation of text book mentioned, written information into knowledge, and that knowledge into insight which then brings in wisdom. We are fortunate to have technology as a catalyst to speed up these colossal changes as we can do the sorting out of information and with cognition, collaboration and communication aiding us in carrying out the above mentioned process, the implications for higher education are enormous.

With the prevalence of the modern technology, work can be done at tips. May it be typing by voice dictation, or manipulating applications through voice commands, nothing is impossible. This is an enormous change from the manual mode to voice mode, the outcome is that we observe a profound pace of change, the impact is observed in organizations, as well as individuals. But the upgrading, and the gap amid the generations of technology is widening.

SOCIAL FORCES: A SOCIAL CHANGE AGENT

In addition to the tremendous upgrades in technology, two social forces drive change:

1. Increase in the value of time.
2. Recognition of the fact that IT is worth and is competitive differentiator.

The connotations of the society, in terms of participation and collaboration could be immensely dominating. While working on research is collaborative learning, we are all well aware of the non-cognitive effects of communication and vice versa. For example, delivering lectures using the audio visual aid alters the relationship development between the listener and instructor. Also, the absorption and insight development of the course content becomes easier. The many-to-many, asynchronous nature of the medium democratizes access and encourages student output.

The grounds of the non-cognitive benefits appear to be that learning with collaboration is a socially sound method to accomplish a goal which is of importance to the entire team. In addition, there is a social growth and participants develop intra personal skills, confidence, attitudes, and esteem. Retention is improved. If the power of technology can be harnessed to bring such benefits to society as a whole, it may engender a new era.

TECHNOLOGY: A TRANSFORMATION AGENT

High pace technology, undoubtedly has extended access to dot com whereby higher education can polish and enhance knowledge access which would upgrade better relationships. Alternatively, institutions can stay connected round the clock; information empowerment and compressed time utilization to perform tasks are positive add-ons

The higher education will be renovated by several factors, one of which is impact of consumers.

Consumers

Consumer audience is influential. One of the most magnificent transformations upon the advent of technology is the changes observed in consumer market. In plenty ways, consumers who are networked are beginning to drive IT.

Firstly, as technology is growing and becoming more prevalent among the masses, the students expect to spot them in their immediate environment frequently. The change can already be seen, as students behave as more perceptive consumers. A for example, schools which have enforced a policy of introducing compulsory computer use have seen students tend to be engaged diligently and they work hard to learn more. Employers comment that they are better groomed for their careers. The movement also implies that the slot entering colleges and universities will have grown up on computers and networks. The dynamic broad choices of Web pages for colleges and universities are early indicators of this trend. The dependency does not stop here, students look up for international and national institutions online and apply for them, seek tuitions online, consult experienced icons of fields and what not.

Getting Connected

Another profound impact seen is the sharing of content courses, lectures or instructional texts, etc. The sharing of content links together students from various backgrounds and educational communities, upholding them to the level of faculty experience and scholarship. The entire mechanism enhances student learning, coupling the sharing of content and perceptions.

The ability to stay linked open doors of opportunities, communication and interaction with peers and experts round the globe motivate students and stir uniqueness in their approaches. Cross-cultural awareness is a positive addition to incentive list.

Expanding Options

University and college students experienced broadening of options, in terms of learning, communication, opportunities and clarity of concepts. With the facility of online virtual courses, students can prefer to do private residential courses without losing the productivity of face to face communication and interaction. Those who have specialized learning approaches, can fulfill their pace and method by using technology.

Enables Re-thinking

One of the pioneer incentives offered by information technology is the critical enabling for reengineering. People are finding ways to optimize the technique of manual and financial investment, reduction in costs and improvising efficiencies.

Innovative ways of performing tasks are a blessing. Elongated procedures which demanded concentration, time and cost can now be accomplished within a few minutes flawlessly, without grammatical, calculation based errors. It also conserves time as it reduces the need of repetitive approvals.

Forthcoming, Pending Change

The change, revolutionary in measure is about to come in near future. Technology is going to be taken for granted yet the insight we are seeking for by acquiring knowledge, would be in our league.

FOCUSING EDUCATION AS A CHANGE AGENT

Education cannot solely be considered. It can't be restricted to a certain level. It is broad and widespread, taking into account the people enrolled in all kinds of institutions and those who have been through the process and are now embracing their knowledge. So diversity would prevail in terms of perceptions. Yet a consensus is seen developing on the root basics of education, priorities, expected outcomes etc.

Only when these fundamentals are elucidated, diversity is observed.

Regardless of the area of emphasis of different educationalists, education at all levels share four major characteristics. (1) they contain common guideline for action, (2) they evolve out of common concerns, (3) they are based upon a common set of assumptions, (4) projection of a desire to bring about the changes in spirit and latter.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

School Culture 'A Change Agent'

Education is not a ratifying process, lethal and traditional, but a learning-teaching relationship which unintentionally promotes social growth. In order to make educational deliverance more accessible and comprehendible for students with varying minds, we vividly need to understand student culture. For that, the system has to be subjected to multiple criticisms.

Schools are places where society is cultivated. Traditionally, a school incorporates in its routine, certain norms encompassing discipline, distribution of power, privilege and responsibility. They are merely a reflection of their values. Similarly those who are mounted as policy makers also incorporate their experiences into the steps they take or the policies they frame. Since there are variations in experiences and hence approaches. When there is a clash, the classroom cultural ground depicts conflicts, which is not meant to harm the healthy ambience, but it does overwhelmingly affect the process of conveying information.

Teachers' tools of dealing with students, gender, class discriminations, the subject chosen for activities and study, general classroom surrounding, timetabled and schedules, extracurricular activities and exam pattern, punishments and rewards etc. are taken into account when counting the merits and demerits of a school culture.

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