

English for the New Millennium

Unit ONE: LEGEND, LORE AND EDUCATION

Lesson 3: Whole Child Education

Lesson agenda

Holistic education: Definition, aim, aspects, value, Difference between holistic and traditional education

Models of holistic education by Krishnamurti, Steiner and Montessori

Holistic Education

Integration of various facets of life such as economics, livelihood skills, health and nutrition into education.

Aim: Development of a whole person

Facilitation of a more fully integrated learning experience rather than the fractured or alienated learning experience

Aspects: Intellectual, emotional physical, social, aesthetic and spiritual

Value: It is a tool of transformation, empowerment and change

Difference between holistic and traditional education

1. Traditional: It is a tool to train mind and prepare for a job

Holistic: It teaches how to use the mind, how to respond peacefully, how to find and follow our passions.

2. Traditional: It comes from just learning about things

Holistic: It comes from experiencing things in classroom

3. Traditional: Involves teaching a new set of ideas

Holistic: Emotional, behavioral and spiritual aspects of these ideas are addressed in students' life.

Models of holistic education

a. Jiddu Krishnamurti (1895-1986)

Focus of Education

Education should not aim to simply acquire knowledge, gather and correct facts, but it should aim to bring significance of life as a whole. Education gives significance of life when it guarantees deeper freedom of the psyche and the spirit of an individual (the inner liberation of people) and peaceful society. Thus, the key focus of education is inner renewal and social change.

Inner renewal of a person is possible when he is free from psychological world of sorrow, jealousy, pain, anger, envy and troubled relationships

Social change involves harmonious relationships among people with complete absence of fragmentation, chaos, exploitation, oppression, and war.

Role of the teacher

Teacher should be ‘revolutionary’, working tirelessly to awaken people—to awaken their intelligence, to awaken their sense of responsibility, and to awaken a flame of discontent.

Awakening intelligence is necessary because simply making students pass examinations is not sufficient.

Teacher should treat the students gently, rather than making them fit into established pattern.

b. Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925)

The education system established by Steiner is known as Waldorf Education.

Waldorf education focuses on imagination, inspiration and intuition to ensure spiritual awareness of the child and the learning process. It balances artistic, academic and practical work educating the whole child. Thus, it aims to develop learners not as passive receivers of information from teachers, but as active constructors of knowledge through imagination and creativity.

Maria Montessori (1870-1952)

Montessori imagined the educational world where children could grow up in atmosphere of ‘peace and respect’ and extend that attitude into adult life. Therefore, a teacher should be gentle, sympathetic and always looking for the best in every child. Child should be viewed as an enthusiastic doer rather than an empty vessel. Each child should be placed in such an environment in which they have opportunity to experiment and initiate their own education.

Lesson 4: The Five Dimensions of Education

Defects of modern education

- i. The education that has prevailed in the past is very insufficient, incomplete and superficial. It only creates people who can earn their livelihood but it does not give any insights into living itself.
- ii. It is based on competition
 - Education up to now is not only incomplete, it is harmful too – because it is based on competition
 - Competition is violent and creates people who are unloving.
 - People make efforts for name, fame and ambitions.
 - Competition destroys friendliness.
 - This makes Osho believe that everyone is fighting against the whole world.
- iii. Education up to now has been goal-oriented (Examination focused).

Only learners' goal is important. What they are learning is not important. Only examinations that come in future is important. So learners sacrifice present for future. Thus, examinations bring tremendous emptiness in life

Some essentials of good education (Osho's suggestions)

- No examinations as part of education
- Examinations should be replaced by every day every hour of observation by teachers
- Nobody should fail or pass because the idea of failure creates a deep wound of inferiority, the idea of being successful creates the another disease called superiority.
- Teacher should not be given much importance. What teachers learned in their times is not relevant now. (Out of date)
- Teachers should be replaced by guides (They should show students the right channel, to show how to use computer, how to find the latest book).
- The best guide is television because it brings latest information.

The five dimensions of education

1. The informative dimension
2. The inquiry of scientific subjects
3. The art of living

4. Art and creativity
5. The art of dying

1. The informative dimension

- i. Subjects that can be taught with television and computers alone: History, Geography and many other subjects
- ii. Subjects that need human guide in addition to television and computers: science subjects
- iii. Language (Taught effectively through television) Everyone in the world should know two languages: Mother tongue and English (one for humanity, one for world)
 - Mother tongue should be taught because there are feelings and nuances that can we can say only in the mother tongue.
 - English is the best option for international communication. Spanish and Chinese have more population, but it more concentrated in one are for these languages. **English is the most spread language.**

2. The inquiry of scientific subjects

- It is important because it is half of the reality, outside reality.

3. The art of living

- **Love:** Every child should know it before it is too late they should be able to transform anger, hatred and jealousy into love.
- **Sense of humor:** Our so called education makes people sad and serious. If language of laughter is forgotten, much of life is forgotten.
- **Acquaintance with life and its wonders and mysteries:** The birds singing, the trees the flowers should have connection with out heart.
- **A great reverence to life:** Protection of all animals' life.

4. The art and creativity

- Painting, music, craftsmanship, pottery, masonry – anything that is creative should be learned.
- All areas of creativity should be offered and students should have freedom of choice.

5. The art of dying

- IT is learned through meditation, martial arts (The art of self-defense without weapons)
- No one should have fear of death.

Lesson 5: The Essentials of Education

Common aim of all types of education

- The common aim of all sorts of education should be to help a student learn what is considered to be first-rate in the subject he studies.
- For example, if it is a course in English, he should know good English; if it is a course in agriculture, he should know best methods in farming; if it is a course in cookery, he should know how to cook.

Essential areas of education

- Vocational Education: engineering, medicine, commerce, technology, nursing, hotel keeping or any other activity which makes up material civilization.
- Subjects related to creative and intellectual faculties of human nature: literature, architecture and music
- Subjects for humanities: **Theology**, Philosophy, **Literature**, **History**, Anthropology, Psychology, Languages, Politics, Social Studies, Economics, Geography
- Religion, Literature and History are most important.

Difference between first rate and second rate education

- First rate is the ideal and good education; second-rate is bad and harmful education
- They are often mixed together, so people fail to distinguish them.
- Education delivered through films, advertisements and newspapers is mostly second-rate because try to manipulate our viewpoint.

How to obtain first-rate education?

- The only way to get first-rate education is to meet it.
- In other words, first rate education comes not by reading textbooks but through observation of best examples.

- For example, a medical student learns best by seeing a great surgeon in operating theatre of a great doctor in hospital wards; a student wishing to be teacher learns best by seeing a good teacher teaching in the classroom.

Value of Religion

- It contains the purest and finest examples of human excellences.
- It is the greatest for rising us.

Value of History

- It provides the best record of man as a social being, fortunes of societies, success and failures.
- Without it we will not know what the world is really like.

Value of Literature

- It provides the best record of human thought, every vision, every fancy, every emotion that has ever passed through the human mind.
- It helps to understand people without meeting them.
- Without it we will not know what the world is really like.