General Studies – 2; Topic: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Education, Human Resources.

The Changing Facets of Education

1) Introduction
   - In this era of computers and cloud storage, data banks, and smart phones, technology has moved so rapidly that the blink of an eye will cause us to miss out on a new gadget.
   - Changes are occurring very rapidly, and anyone who hopes to succeed must place education as high priorities.
   - Educationists and teachers have a great role to play in imparting education.

2) Present Status
   - The heavy load of books the children carry on their back raises a doubt whether the convents are training their minds with good education or training their bodies to carry heavy loads
   - The exorbitant fee collecting educational institutions are laying stress on purely intellectual progress
   - Bertrand Russell, the greatest philosopher opines that many parents...are anxious to educate their children but are “reluctant to expose them to the evils of most existing educational institutions.
   - We see well educated people and highly paid software engineers commit suicide, while the poor butcher and the grocer are spending a life of contentment.
   - Students are taught how to earn currency but not how to earn happiness and contentment.
   - They are not taught during their studies life skills and values
   - The current challenge in India remains a 20th century challenge of quantity and quality for its primary and higher education systems.
   - In most educational institutions, there is a lack of the concept of human development and nation building in the education process.

3) Need of the Hour
   - There is a need for improving our educational standards at all levels and upgradation of values
   - The purpose of education is to create good citizens apart from good individuals.
   - Education should cultivate in the pupils intellectual virtues like curiosity and open-mindedness.
   - Pursuit of education must be a pleasant and happy experience
   - Excellence in education is not just acquiring knowledge from the books, but to ignite and shape young minds for a globalised future.
   - Inculcate a habit of rigid intellectual questioning into the truth and falsity of things, ask relevant questions and seek correct answers.
   - Life skills that need to be inculcated:
     - Honesty and positive thinking
     - A desire to help others or serve the society,
     - Good communication with civilised society
     - Confidence, commitment and dedication
     - Empathy and sensitivity towards others
     - The ability to work in an international atmosphere
     - To derive pleasure and happiness from serving the society.
The education system should help students have a deep belief in themselves that they are going to be successful.

Telling them the life history of successful people would make them understand that they are part of a solution rather than a victim.

“Awareness is like living with a snake in the room; you are very sensitive to the slightest sound it makes. In such awareness the totality of yourself is revealed in an instant.” Students should be trained to develop this kind of awareness in them.

Proper guidance can even make them accept failures and assimilate that every failure is a stepping stone to success.

Focus on ‘adaptability skill’, which is as important as the technical skill or the language skill.

Charles Darwin says “It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor it is the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change.”

4) Conclusion

“The true teachers are those who help us think for ourselves,” said Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

The bright future of the nation lay in the hands of well-educated and well-informed people.

The future is shaped in the schools which are the birth places of new ideas and new knowledge. The leaders of education must realise this point.