



Editor's Note



Tejeshwar Singh
Editor

Sitting on the chair and with a pen in my hand I was nervously trying to scan my mind while trying to find the right words for my first editorial note. Wasting

time in conventional things appears somewhat boring to me. I like productive action; an action that can result in growth, happiness and prosperity of our civilization. The purpose of this news letter is just the same, 'action'!

The purpose of this news letter is to share information, or if I can put it in a better way then the sole purpose is to change something in our lives. And that 'something' is something for the better. Today we are constantly bombarded with information. This is after all information technology age.

We have internet and scores of other medium to get information.

But what is the use of such information which we aren't fully applying in our lives? It doesn't really matter how much knowledge one has, but what really matters is how much he/she could change something in their lives through that information. If change is absent then getting information becomes nothing more than a time pass involuntary habit.

The purpose of this news letter is to have a dialogue with those thousands of educationists and millions of parents all over India as well as abroad. But most importantly we want to reach out to those countless number of children who are termed as the future of our world. We want to have a constant, tireless and constructive dialogue with these important entities; a dialogue which can start a fresh process of a much needed sanity and harmonious way of life. And which can further lay down the foundation stone of a beautiful future.

Turn as many pages of history as you can and you'll find that our human civilization has been

moving on the same track. Insanity, greed, intolerance and violence were always prevailing in our society. Situation is exactly where it was 2000 years back. Even today human mind is full of devilish thinking. Weapons were used to kill innocents even yesterday as they are used in these so called modern times. In every time period banners and slogans were raised to unleash a revolution. For the time being it appeared as though the revolution succeeded in bringing a positive change in our lives. But as always it was observed that in spite of advancements in the field of science human civilization continued to struggle while hopelessly waging a losing battle against the devilish thinking patterns of our minds. So, in a way our situation is quite similar to that person who's running on a treadmill. He covers thousands of miles on that machine and yet remaining at the same place.

The purpose of this news letter is to find ways to change ourselves from within and then try to give a better world to the next generation.

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Revival of an institution called 'Education' – (Editor's desk)

Thirty five years in this world (with my mortal existence) and leading life just like any other person. I too had my share of learning and guidance by my elders, i.e. parents, teachers and society at large. Everything was a routine for me just like millions (or billions) others.

In this routine I encountered something that was called education. I spent roughly fourteen years in an institution that we all call as 'the school'.

Well, that was more of a routine. Routine mainly comprised of homework, class work, attending periods, sports, exams etc. But to my surprise our principal used to call us the 'future of the nation'. In his speeches he used to call education as the noblest practice.

He said that education decides the future of an individual. I'm sure that he truly meant whatever he said. But it was way beyond our mental capabilities (at that time) to understand the core of the content of his speeches.

Today I know what he meant at that time. To my understanding education is way out of the limited confines of syllabus,

curriculum, exams etc. But somewhere during the course of time the whole process of education got distorted and completely lost its track.

In this world there are so many professions. People work in different ways and in different areas to earn money. Teaching is one of those many professions but even then it still remains as one of those last options.

Is it, really? School is just one of those many places where teachers come and work and then gets paid. Is it, really? No!! Here I would like to strongly disagree with this notion.

The first fourteen years of school education are actually the most (most) crucial years of any individual. Is it, really? Yes, indeed!! Now what do I mean by this? Am I talking about schools' curriculum or the text books or may be about the teachers or the syllabus? No, I am not saying that! Here I am talking about education. And all these above mentioned things are just a small fraction of that great noble institution.

So, what exactly is this entity called 'education'?

In our attempt to initiate productive and result oriented dialogue we request our readers to come forward and share their views on the above topic. Now is the time when we as true world citizens must realize the full potential of the institution of education. Your views will be posted in the next issue of our newsletter.

You can mail your views at views@prolifictchno.com or you can even write to us at :

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Waiting eagerly for your response ----- **Prolific Team**

Invention Box

In a Children Competition held across Europe, a group of young people from Copenhagen, Denmark came out with something that is no less than a remarkable discovery. They presented the concept of creating energy from an existing method, but by using the fuel from the local Zoo. The animal waste was burnt to create the energy needed to run the zoo itself. A perfect circle. Not only does it reduce the need for the zoo to import energy from other sources, it also plays a significant role in preserving the habitats needed for wildlife so that fewer species become endangered in the first place.

WINNING LIFE

Human life is all about hope, courage, strength, wisdom and victory. As humans It's our foremost duty to understand our latent potential, accept our faults and create good causes, which would ultimately lead us to the path of absolute victory. It's a common human tendency to crib for things that we don't have (or desire to possess) and completely ignore the marvelous gifts that we already possess (by the grace of Mother Nature). In our inaugural issue we're featuring one such write up by Mr. Prashant Sahgal (Manager- Adarsh Public School)

Life is beautiful



Prashant Sahgal
Manager
Adarsh Public Sch

A story that would inspire students and all alike; I heard it from one of my students & I choose to disseminate the massive lesson I learnt from the story

It is a story of a blind boy who sat on the steps of a building with a cap by his feet. He held up a sign which said: "I am blind, please help." There were only a few coins in the hat by the people who went by & felt sorry for the poor boy.

A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. He put the sign back so that everyone who walked by would see the new lines written on it.

Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind boy. That afternoon the man who had changed the sign came to see how things were. The boy recognized his footsteps and asked, "Were you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?"

The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said, what you said, but in a different way." What he had written was: **"Today is a beautiful day & I cannot see it."**

Do you think the first sign & the second sign were saying the same thing?

Of course both signs told people the boy was blind. But the first sign simply said the boy was blind. The second sign told people they were so lucky that they were not blind. Should we be surprised that the second sign was more effective?

The lesson that we pick here & everyone would unanimously agree to, would be, to be thankful for what you have. Be blessed & be happy with what you have.

- Live life with no excuse and love with no regrets.
- When life gives you a 100 reasons to cry, show life that you have 1000 reasons to smile.
- Face your past without regret. Handle your present with confidence. Prepare for the future without fear. Keep the faith and drop the fear.
- Don't believe your doubts and doubt your beliefs. Life is a mystery to solve not a problem to resolve. Life is wonderful if you know how to live.

Quiz time

1. Bees are known to communicate by.....
 - a) Speaking English
 - b) performing a dance
 - c) opening and closing their eyes
2. A dragonfly can fly at a speed of.....
 - a) 2 mph
 - b) 10 mph
 - c) 25 mph
3. What was the mascot for the 1982 Asian games at New Delhi?
 - a) Appu
 - b) Sheroo
 - c) Nimo
4. The name of the bottom shell of a turtle is called a carapace.
 - a) True
 - b) False
5. The name Jeev Milkha Singh is associated with...
 - a) Athletics
 - b) Equestrian
 - c) Golf
6. Which two organs in the body are separated by the heart?
 - a) Diaphragm
 - b) Lungs
 - c) Thyroid
7. How do archerfish 'hunt'?
 - a) Archerfish secrete a poison to kill food
 - b) Archerfish use a bow and arrow to hunt for insects
 - c) Archerfish spit a jet of water at insects, knocking them off branches.
 - d) None of the above

ANSWERS :- 1.(b), 2.(c), 3.(b), 4.(b), 5.(c), 6.(b), 7.(c)

PARENT'S FORUM

Admitting your child to a school is quite like a Herculean task. In our bid to encourage parents to come out in the open and share their views on how to contribute towards the cause of education we are in our inaugural issue inviting one such parent along with his 'real time' experience of securing admission of his child in a school. This is an attempt to enable parents to voice their valuable opinion in an utmost free and fair environment.

Mission 'Admission' – Bitter isn't better



I am one of those countless number of people who brought another human life in this world. It's a baby girl. Frankly speaking, before her birth it was quite like a normal routine for me to see those sweet little children, but soon after her birth I began to realize that bringing another human life in this world is by far the biggest responsibility. At the age of 3 we got her admitted in a play school, and then the game began. It was the month of September and play school people called us for an orientation.

That was basically an overview of how the admission procedure in a regular school works. Sounds simple? If yes, then you're wrong.

We were given a set of papers on which there were exactly 100 questions (anyone of them could've been asked by the school people). Oh boy!! That was the first shock for me. My child then appeared for dummy interviews. After a little while we (along with several parents) were asked to sit in a big hall. Play school had invited a vice-principal from a big reputed school.

Well, that was a real bouncer for me. Believe me, I am not kidding. The match started. She started with her advice on good and mediocre schools, and then came the most deadly topic, "the form". She gave a strict guidance on how to fill the form. The guidance was particularly strict for the usage of words, the vocabulary and the sentence formation. Finally she fired a volley of shots when she said that we should be consulting some good books which could help us in writing good things (read good words of English) in the school form.

Gosh! That was too much for me, even then I had no other choice but to stay in that room, because all that was real and supposedly for the betterment of my child (read securing admission).

Finally the deadly orientation got over and the more deadly game began. I started running from one school to another (to get the forms) and filled the forms with trembling hands (the orientation hangover was still looming large over my mind.) Interview calls started coming and I started going. The situation was more like an interview call for the last job on this earth with me having no money in my pocket.

The situation was predictable. That vice-principal was indeed right on the orientation day. There's so much to say but I've been given a limited space. So, finally, I won. I won the match. Oops!! Sorry!! I won the battle. My child too has started her first journey, just like me.

(By Gautam Kapoor – Parent name changed on request)

Quotable Quotes



When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better.

Paulo Coelho

Ignorance is the night of the mind, a night without moon and star.

Confucius

Mr. S.K.Shah, a man of words and thoughts. Despite having business background, he had an uncanny penchant of putting forth his staunch ideas and belief on paper. The nitty-gritty of business did not overshadow his literary bend of mind. In 1997 he started writing about the various socio-political issues in order to give vent to his pent up feelings and to shake the comatose conscience of our incorrigible politicians.

He has compiled a collection of letters written to the editors of various English dailies in the form of two books, Titled, INSIGHT- I and INSIGHT – II.

Rudimentary education, no body's baby



S.K.Shah
Manager
Shah International School

Education, someone has rightly said, is what remains after you forget everything. Civilization may not be directly linked to literacy but literacy holds mirror to a civilized society.

Since times immemorial, social reformers and educationists have attached gargantuan importance to education. With this objective, various organizations, enlightened citizens, social reformers and NGOs have contributed immensely to the spread of education. In the contemporary society, literacy rate is linked to the economic growth and health of the society. Those living below poverty line are deprived of even rudimentary education.

Economic prosperity has a direct nexus with the literacy rate. Pakistan, India, Bangla- Desh, Sri Lanka are afflicted with scourge of poverty, low literacy rate, high infant mortality rate. In fact, illiteracy breeds ignorance and is a harbinger of gloom, despair and despondency.

It's an irony that we measure

economic prosperity with the buoyancy in the stock market. and we go gung-ho over higher GDP but we are unfazed of the fact that we spend miniscule for the education. The IIT's, the Universities, the Management Institutes are for urbanities whereas

we abysmally lack in elementary education when 70% of the population lives in rural areas where even electricity is a chimera.

We have made strides in higher education, technical education, medical bio chemistry and forensic science but we have conveniently forgotten those poor souls who live in villages deprived as they are of basic amenities; sanitation, health care, potable water, hygiene, leave alone education.

The approach of the government is very lopsided and roughshod when it comes to providing basic education to the under privileged children. The hype and hoopla created by Right to education bill'08 will prove to be a lip service rather than its gain percolating to the masses. Government has enough money to pay the enhanced, salary as

recommended by 6th pay commission to its employees but when funds are required for education, the government develops cold feet, citing resources crunch. The nations who have progressed or are in the developing stage spend a high quotient of their

GDP for education but here in India, we have funds available for every thing but for education.

The state with the lowest literacy rate has the highest population, U.P. followed by Bihar. Kerala with full literacy has excelled itself in family planning. If this realization had dawned upon our political establishment after independence the silhouette of the Indian republic would have been different and we would have been known by our prosperity rather than by our population. Even now, despite tall claims made by the government there are villages where there are no schools up to 3-4 kms distance and if at all they are, there is shortage of teachers, staff, no toilets, no drinking water, it's a national shame. The three things which determine the well-being and prosperity of a nation are - Health, Education and Infrastructure. Ironically we don't even qualify in either of the three.

Quotable Quotes



Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.

anon

Teachers are the pillar of the society. In any age they are/were the guiding light and the torch bearers of the human civilization. Text books can teach people the way to transfer information but the desire to impart 'Education' comes from the very depths of one's conscience. We firmly believe that teaching is a noble profession and a true educationist is truly an indispensable entity. In this issue we are featuring thoughts of one such educationist, who's continuing with her noble profession in Adarsh Public School, Vikas Puri

Do students really deserve / require strictness?



Spare the rod and spoil the child' – how far does it hold true in today's scenario?

**Ms. Pooja Sachdeva
Educationist (T.G.T English)
Adarsh Public School**

Modernization, Liberalization and Scientific Revolutions are playing havoc with the young minds.

In the cult of technological innovations, everyone needs 'space' or a 'breather' but how do we tackle children at the school level? Modern learning process allows us to unleash our creativity and put our front foot forward to achieve the pinnacle of success in no time. Discipline is the first and the foremost prerequisite to undertake any project be it in any profession and especially if we talk about implementing it at school.

Imposing strictness on a child doesn't necessarily have always a negative connotation. There are ways to implement it.

There's no magic wand by which it can be created immediately. It's a slow, steady progress

Decorum should be maintained at every social institution for uprooting the best in everyone be it at the physical, social or mental level.

Every child has an innate potential to take things differently. A hyperactive child would view a situation altogether differently as compared to a docile one. We need to guide the child as per his mental domain of understanding which requires a close scrutiny of his behavioural patterns of thought and action. Under what circumstance does he/she violates or openly flouts a rule?

Timely guidance and counseling can do wonders by channelising their energies towards a more positive direction.

As Educationists and Parents, we need to lay stress on the fact that the whole learning process should be more conducive as to bring forth the essentials of life.

'Strictness' can literally be defined as imposing limitations on one's actions whereas practically it could mean a lot to do with exercising self-control as per the situation demands.

In times where terror grips the nation it's very essential to bring about a revolution through fine sensibilities of mind and an optimistic vision which can truly be awe-inspiring. Value – rooted Educational set up can open up vistas of skill enhancement to invest in for a dazzling future.

More than strictness, it should be a goal oriented and targeted cluster of children to be handled much more positively.

In this cyber age of glitz and glamour we really need to keep pace with the ever challenging world. Children need to be aware of the Uses and Abuses of the commercialization of media.

Let's join our hands to make this teaching-learning process far more qualitative and enduring to take on the voyage and give wings to the imagination of **Gen X**.

Fun Times

A group of young children were sitting in a circle with their teacher. She was going around in turn asking them all questions.

"Rahul, what noise does a cow make?" "It goes moo."

"Pinky, what noise does a cat make?" "It goes meow."

"Jassi, what sound does a lamb make?" "It goes baaa."

"Prito, what sound does a mouse make?"

"Errr.. it goes.. click!"



In earlier times it was said that literature is the mirror of the society. Even today those words of wisdom contain significant meaning. These are the post millennium times, though literature does exist but a large part of it has been taken over by the media. We see, we observe and we then involuntarily copy from it. In our continuing effort to spread value information we are covering a series of articles by Dr.Vivek Agarwal on the effects media is having on the young generation.

“Media”--- The boon or The bane???

(Part- 1)

Children and adolescents spent a lot of their time watching television, movies, playing videogames and using computer and internet. Although, media is a useful tool to educate and socialize the society, concern has been raised by parents and professionals about the impact of media on children because of the extensive research reports of gradual harmful effects. Although the concern about the impact of violent television on children was first raised in 1950s, now it has become a public health issue in western countries. It has become imperative for the parents to understand the effect of media exposure on children in order to understand behavior problems.

Violence

Most of the research focuses on television (TV) because children spend most of the media time with TV. Average American child spend more than 21 hours per week watching TV. TV viewing also starts earliest beginning even before 2 years of age. Recently surveys are being carried out on other Medias also. Numerous studies have documented the multiple effects of television on children ranging from cognitive development, obesity, aggressive behavior and violence, drug abuse, suicide and sexual activity. National television violence study was carried out to understand the content of American television. It examined more than 10,000 hours of programming across a variety of channels at all hours of day from 1994-1997. It showed that there was an

alarming amount of violence per year with 61% of the shows containing violence of some kind. While 26% of violent interactions involved the use of weapons, 38% of violent interactions showed on apparent pain remorse, critics or punishment to the violence. Almost 75% of the violent acts show no remorse, criticism or punishment to the violence. To the contrary humor was associated with the violence in 41% of the acts. Presentations of the violence differed according to the type of program. Movies were far more likely to present violence in realistic settings, whereas TV serial violence was not as explicit or graphic. Among violent programs only 15% carried any sort of advisory or content code and such ratings seen to attract more 10-14 years old male viewers. The study concluded that television violence contributes to antisocial effects on viewers. The prime effects seen were-

1. Learning aggressive behavior and attitudes
2. Desensitization to violence
3. Far of being victimized by violence

It also concluded that not all violence posed same degree of risk. It was also analyzed that what contextual factor will have probability of generating the above three effects observed. Social science research rated attractive perpetrator; presence of weapon and humor as associated with learning aggression, graphic violence and realistic violence associated with generating fear; and humor and graphic violence associated with desensitization.

An epidemiological research over 20 years has examined the effect of childhood exposure to TV after 10-15 years of time lag. It examined the homicide rates in South Africa following the introduction of TV in 1975. The homicide rates had reached 5.8 per 100,000 in 1989 as compared to 2.5 per 100,000 in 1974. The author although acknowledge the TV as one factor, hypothesized that if TV had never been developed, there would be 10,000 fewer homicides; 70,000 fewer rapes and 700,000 fewer injurious assaults in United States.

Examination of 28 research reports on children exposed to media violence and subsequently observed in unconstrained social interaction showed that the exposure to media violence increased the aggressive interactions with the strangers, classmates and friends. In a review of 217 studies from 1957 to 1990 showed that TV violence had a strong and significant correlation with aggressive behavior regardless of age. The greatest effect was seen in pre-school children. The effect was slightly higher in males than females. Recent research has looked for association between trauma symptoms and TV watching and noted that 75% children reported exposure to violence at moderate to high levels. 10% reported to have counseling for negative effects. Symptoms reported were bad dreams and nightmares, anxious feelings, afraid of being alone, withdrawing from friends and missing school.

..... to be continued

'Youth are the future'; well this is an old saying. Instead we at EFFORT firmly believe that today's youth are tomorrow's atmosphere. Today they are watching everything, but tomorrow they'll be at the helm of all the activities. Tomorrow they'll be the decision makers. Today they are waiting and watching, for tomorrow's historic moment, when the baton will be passed on to them, of their own nation.

As youths, their opinion should be greatly valued. In this issue we're featuring one such write up by a budding teenager who's seeing and understanding things that are being shown to him by our society.

India in 20 Years..... Progress or Downfall (Kanishk Thareja- Class VIII)

India. It is the 7th largest country in the world with the 2nd largest population. It is the country with many languages and the place of many religions. Day by day, it is progressing with many new improvements. But in the next 20 years would India become a country to be proud of. Will there be relief or problems for its citizens in the next 20 years? There are many factors for both the situations.

A RELIEF

Metro Rail: The introduction of the metro has brought relief to common people. People can now travel from one place to another by the metro easily and quickly. The metro has reduced the number of cars on the road and in the next 20 years it would be a major factor of relief for the people.

The Common Wealth Games: The games in 2010 are a major factor for India to develop into a

rising country. The games have increased the speed of development in India. India has now started improving at every level. We are witnessing construction of new and better airports throughout the country. Timely construction of new and better quality highways and flyovers has made it easier for people to travel from one place to another at a good speed. The successful work of the game would help India to improve itself and be recognized by the world.

Improvement in Village Life: We are now witnessing many reforms in the villages like promotion in education, 24 hours hospitals and regular check up of the village people. It is indeed a remarkable step towards development for India.

SOME PROBLEMS


Increase in Population: The population in India is a major set


back for its overall development. Even now the population is increasing at an alarming rate and would prove to be a major deterrent in all our future plans. Population also results in the extensive traffic on the road and it is difficult for the government to handle. The population would be a major problem in the next 20 years.

Corruption: The corruption level in India has always caused a problem. The politicians of the country are easily bribed and do the most unexpected work. The recent corporate corruption cases prove the height of the corruption level in India. This is and would continue to be a major set back for India.

These reasons show us that India has a bright future in the next 20 years only if it unites and fights against the problems to become a country that we could be proud of.

Have a Break

 **Why was the boy unhappy to win the prize for the best costume at the Halloween party? Because he just came to pick up his little sister!**

 **A boy went to a Halloween party with a sheet over his head.**

'Are you here as a ghost?' asked his friends

'No, I'm an unmade bed.'

Another boy wore a sheet over his head. 'Are you an unmade bed?' asked his friends

'No, I'm an undercover agent,' he replied