

INFLUENCE OF MODERNITY ON EDUCATION

Modernity

Generally, the meaning of modernity is associated with the sweeping changes that took place in the society and particularly in the fields of art and literature, between the late 1950s and the beginning of Second World War. There is, however, no clear demarcation by date, and although the term 'postmodern' is increasingly used to describe changes since the Second World War, there are some who argue that modernity persists, and others who see its demise as having occurred much earlier.

When modernity is explained in terms of history, it is said that the world first experienced renaissance, and then, enlightenment and thereafter modernity and post modernity. As a matter of fact, there is much disagreement on the precise dates of the beginning and end of modernity. There appears to be general consensus on its meaning and social formations.

Modernization through Education

Education is the most important instrument of modernization since modernization includes the following:

1. Directed change in the system of attitudes, beliefs and values and also in the institutional complex, to enhance the acceptability of modern technology and its organizational and operational framework.
2. Growth of the infrastructure essential to the adaptation to technology of foreign origin to specific national needs.
3. Laying the foundations of institutions and organizations which could, in time, assume responsibility for independent innovation and technological growth to the country's needs and problems.

The means of modernization will be discussing:

1. Industrialization: In modern countries industrialization is going on at fast pace. The Western Countries, in industrialization. In Particular U.S.A., have helped underdeveloped countries in industrialization. In order to meet the demands of fast growing population, every country must per force become industrialization. Therefore, India is fully resolved to bring about fast industrialization.

2. Urbanization: The fast growth of population of this country in the last 50 years has led to fast urbanization in India. The fast industrialization and consequent urbanization has led to many ticklish problems like slum, crimes etc. In order to solve these problems town planning is imperative.

3. Secularization: Secularization is a consequence of urbanization. The people of India have adopted the ideal of secularism according to which everybody is free to follow the religion of his choice. Modern society is pluralist. Compassion and tolerance are the chief characteristics of modernization.

4. Rise of new social classes: Today, both in the towns and village, the people are divided into classes which are based upon economic and political rather than caste considerations. The distinction between lower, middle and high classes is exclusively economic. The classes based on economic considerations are non-hereditary. A low class person, by dint of his labour and application, may belong to upper class tomorrow. The importance of money and possessions in modern society is paramount. With increasing politicization there is now clear-cut demarcation between those in power and those out of it. Mostly, economically better off, persons are politically also better off, but this is not essential. The political leadership class in India is other than the economically rich support politicians with money and uses them.

5. Social change: The social change can be seen in diverse fields. On the one hand, social movements have greatly changed our ideas and concepts about various social matters and on the other youth movement has brought about revolutionary change in the thinking and aspirations of youth. The youth movement can be seen all over the world, this is a harbinger of new shape of things to come. Today, a particular attention is being paid to encourage youth movements at the university level. From time to time youth functions and festivals are held in the universities in encourages the national integration and also shows the basis for the building up of the future.

6. Westernization: The trend towards modernization in India can be seen in the form of a movement towards westernization of the society. The trend towards westernization can be seen in all fields. In Social, Economic, Political, Cultural, Religious and Educational spheres. Even those who are in favour of retaining the traditional values also want to utilize the good traits of the western and Indian values. They want a synthesis of western and Indian values. The westernization leads to modernization. In the social sphere we are following west in matters like dress, life style and town planning etc. The latest fashions of the West are quickly followed by the Indian elite. There is more of westernization in the technical and scientific spheres. This has given rise to cultural flag.

7. Democratization: In the field of politics the most characteristic feature of modernization is the process of democratization. India is becoming progressively democratized. There is in India universal adult franchise. Everybody above a certain age is entitled to elect his representative. Everybody is equal before law and enjoys rights and privileges. In the economic sphere an attempt is being made to reduce economic disparities. The compulsory primary education is aiming at universal literacy. All political parties are wedded to the values of equality, liberty and freedom.

There may be differing viewpoints regarding the means to attain these values but there is no dispute about their validity and acceptance as the ultimate goals of political endeavour.