

LEARNER CENTRED EDUCATION

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WE are living in a fast changing and developing society. The advancements in technology and biomedical science have resulted in fast air, land, sea travel bringing the continents closer, promoting rapid communication system on the national and international level. Electronic gadgets, computers, and the like are increasingly replacing manpower. Very soon there will be shuttle service between space and the earth.

All these developments have influenced tremendously the man's life in this universe. Therefore, in such a rapid developing world the structure of the society too is subject to large doses of industrialization, urbanization and other socio-cultural changes.

These great changes have certainly affected the adolescents of every society. It is said that the adolescent period is of storm and stress. It is a period of heightened emotionality. They tend to get excited and irritable. The youth are seeking their identity and are struggling for independence. They are seeking their rights and standing for rights controlled by others especially in our culture. Peer group influence is there. Model I shows the factors that influence the

behaviour of the youth.

Several social problems confront the society today due to the several social changes. These include drug abuse, suicidal attempts, alcoholism, smoking and many more. In such a changing society therefore, educational institutions have a significant role to play in the total development of an individual.

As educators of modern times (whether young or old) we are accountable to the society and to the learners in the educational process for promoting adequate and appropriate learning. Therefore, what is our responsibility in the students' total welfare?

According to WHO, health is the total well being of physical, social, emotional and spiritual components. Hence the learner's well being depends on physical, social emotional and spiritual factors.

How can these factors be provided? Here are some guidelines to be observed by the educators. We need to provide "learner centred education". On the basis of this concept, I suggest the following.

1. Know and understand the learners.
2. John Dewy says the "educational institutions are a place of transmission of social ideals and aspirations to the inhabitants of

a social group". It is the preparatory place for the young citizens, developing balanced personalities. So we are the providers of learning.

2. Teacher is a contractor, who imparts the planned curriculum. Teacher is a guide; 'model'; a 'counsellor'.
4. Teacher's personality is very important. His manner of verbal, non-verbal communication, ability to listen, understand, his way of talking, dress, influence the behaviour of the students. He needs to be a possessor of knowledge. He should be able to give suggestions rather than order education does not help.

a. Teachers as Role-models

should possess these qualities.

- (1) Punctuality (2) Politeness (3) Quality of self-control (4) Earnestness (5) Desire for acquiring knowledge.

This does not mean that she/he is a walking encyclopedia but she/he is the guide, director, and a change agent, to the learner. Certain principles are essential for the providers of education to bear in mind as shown below:

- a. Allow the students to express themselves.
- b. Apply positive approach in an acceptable manner.

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- c. Maintain the identity as an individual and do not get labelled as a smoker, or someone violating the rule.
- d. Allow them to participate in decision making process.
- e. Be gentle, kind but firm, consistent in disciplining.

b. Counselling and Guidance:
(Discipline is essential)

Punishment should be moderate, appropriate and should not repress personality. Authoritarian approach is not conducive to the learner. Insufficient previous exposure to the instructional types of authority which works through impersonal rules, makes the university and the society appear to many students as a tyrannical establishment. Therefore it is with constant and continuous dialogues and with adequate guidance that the students be handled.

5. Interpersonal relationships:

Adequate interpersonal relationship among the educators and the students need to be established. In handling a situation, when a student has failed in a subject, the following remark will be acceptable.

Example:

"I noticed that your grades have been slipping badly of late. I just want to talk with you" to see if we could perhaps try together to analyse why this is happening. Has something bothering you? Is there anything I can do for you?

A positive statement like this will encourage.

6. Student Government plays a vital role in the welfare of the

DONATIONS : JANUARY 1980

Nurses Welfare Fund

Miss S. V. Damle,	100.00
Bombay	
Mrs. Mary John,	80.00
New York	
Mrs. Grace Cherian,	80.00
New York	
Mr. A. Surya Prakash,	60.00
Kuwait	
Mrs. L. C. Joseph,	101.00
E. Germany	

educational institutions. Students will be made responsible for making decisions for their own activities and to accept responsibilities for their actions. Student association with its leaders and with various committees such as cultural, social, educational, etc., can function effectively with faculty guidance. This kind of process will enable the college to prepare creative skilful intelligent and productive citizens in the society and nation at large.

Some points worth reiterating are:

- 1 Accept the learners and understand them.
- 2 Involvement of students is necessary by way of students' government. This makes them more responsible for their own actions.
- 3 Students' activities can be social, recreational, educational, cultural, political and combinations of these.
- 4 Rules and regulations must be based on value system.

The approach on these lines is calls a great challenge to all the University teachers of today and tomorrow.

Flood Relief Fund

Miss Phormalin Japang,	50.00
Shillong	
Miss R. D. Verma, Simla	10.00
Mr. P. V. Prabhu,	201.00
Bangalore	
Mrs. Grace Cherian,	120.00
New York	

General Fund

Mrs. S. K. Khanna,	500.00
New York	
Mrs. Maly Chakravarty	50.00
Ms. C. F. D'Souza,	50.00
Poona	
Sr. M. Mercedes,	50.00
Varanasi	

IFN CONVENTION

THE 5th Annual International Flying Nurses Convention is to be held on June 25-28, 1980, at the Henry the 8th Motor Lodge and Inn, 4690 N Lindberg, St. Louis, MO. 63044.

The convention will highlight a course in Aerohemodynamics on June 26-27 (Thurs. and Fri.) followed by the annual business meeting and banquet on June 28th.

The course will be presented by Darlene Sredl of Ballwin, Missouri. Mrs. Sredl is President of AV-Nurse, Ltd., an air ambulance service. The course is designed to acquaint flight nurses with the effects of altitude on clients bodies while airborne. Topics include, vacuolization, hypoxia, spatial disorientation, night vision and barotrauma.

For information and registration, contact: Jenny Cook, 420 Kings Ave. Apt. 3, Brandon, Florida 33511.