



A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE FUNDAMENTAL FEATURES OF TRADITIONAL EDUCATION AND MODERN EDUCATION

Showkat Hussain Dar

PhD Scholar, Department of English, Mewar University, Rajasthan (India)

The real difficulty is that people have no idea of what education truly is. We assess the value of education in the same manner as we assess the value of land or of shares in the stock-exchange market. We want to provide only such education as would enable the student to earn more. We hardly give any thought to the improvement of the character of the educated. The girls, we say, do not have to earn; so why should they be educated? As long as such ideas persist there is no hope of our ever knowing the true value of education. - Mahatma Gandhi

I. TRADITIONAL EDUCATION

Traditional education is also known as conventional education or customary education. The fundamental purpose of traditional education is to pass on the values, manners, skills and the social practice to the coming generation which is imperative for their durability/survival. In traditional education system the student learns about the customs, mores and tradition of the society in which s/he lives. This type of education is mostly transmitted to the students by the means of oral recitation. There is hardly any or very less written work or practical work in traditional educational system. The students simply participate together, mostly in a classroom, and listen to the teacher who delivers the lesson. The traditional education does not carry written tests but it includes some oral tests which are not very formal. It is very far from the use of science and technology. Neither the education about sciences we study in contemporary times in a great detail is communicated in the traditional education system. Rather it heavily relies on the knowledge about customs, traditions, and religions. This system of education is normally called the traditional education. The traditional education focuses on rote learning and memorization. It is more often teacher centered, that is, the teacher delivers the lecture and students hardly put forth their views regarding the delivered topic.

II. FEATURES OF TRADITIONAL EDUCATION

- a. Teachers are sources of information and authority.
- b. Decision-making is centrally based and administratively delivered.
- c. Learners are passive absorbers of information and authority.
- d. School is a preparation for life.
- e. School is a task to be endured.
- f. Parents are outsiders and uninvolved.
- g. Program is determined by external criteria, particularly test results.
- h. Knowledge is absorbed through lectures, worksheets, and texts.



- i. Instruction is linear and largely based on correct answers.
- j. Skills are taught discretely and are viewed as goals.
- k. Assessment is norm-referenced, external, and graded.
- l. Success is competitively based, derived from recall and memory, and specific to a time/place.
- m. Community is separate from school, except for funding.
- n. Modern education is very different from the traditional education. The education which is taught in the schools today is the modern education.

III. DRAWBACKS OF TRADITIONAL EDUCATION

- a. Students are perpetually dependent on their teachers in every study related matter. This characteristic suppresses the creative side of their personality and they never get to know their strengths/skills.
- b. Traditional education doesn't encourage critical thinking skills.
- c. In a traditional classroom setting, students are made to sit passively while the teacher delivers a lecture.
- d. Traditional learning is largely based on repetition and memorization of facts that students care less about and retain at lower rates after testing.

IV. MODERN EDUCATION

Modern education is mostly concerned with the skills required in contemporary times, that is, the skills of science and technology, science of medical science etc. Moreover, to listening, the modern education carries writing, visualizing, imagining, and thinking skills. This type of education is based on written test which examines if the students are learning properly or not. This is done in a very formal way. The methodology used for teaching is very interactive. Modern education is just an evolution of the traditional education which was communicated to the students in recent past. In modern education, both teachers and students remain active. This type of education heavily relies on experiments and questionnaires. The use of technology, computers, projectors, internet, and many more devices have changed the very concept of education. For instance, Internet provides limitless knowledge and one can learn from it whatever one wishes.

V. FEATURES OF MODERN EDUCATION

- a. Teachers are facilitators, guides who foster thinking.
- b. Learners are active participants, problem solvers, and planners.
- c. School is a part of life.
- d. School is a challenging and fun part of life.
- e. Parents are the primary teachers, goal setters, and planners, and serve as resources.
- f. Community is an extension of the classroom.
- g. Decision-making is shared by all constituent groups.
- h. Program is determined by mission, philosophy, and goals for graduates.
- i. Learning is spiral, with depth and breadth as goals.
- j. Knowledge is constructed through play, direct experience, and social interaction.

- k. Instruction is related to central questions and inquiry, often generated by the children.
- l. Disciplines are integrated as children make connections.
- m. Assessment is benchmarked, has many forms, and is progress-oriented.
- n. Success is determined through application over time, through collaboration.

VI. LIMITATIONS OF MODERN EDUCATION

- a. While have an easy access to information may seem like a great thing, it can become a real problem in a test taking environment. Cell/mobile phones have made cheating easier than ever. We no longer have to figure out how to write all of the answers down, we can just look them up.
- b. Attentiveness drops dramatically in the classroom when students have their cell phones or other technologies out. The focus shifts from their teacher and education, to whatever they are looking at, playing, or doing on their phones.
- c. It keeps students away from a book reading habit.
- d. Modern education is costly.

In the earlier times, there were no schools/institutions. The children obtained the education/knowledge from their ancestors. During those times this knowledge focused only on the skills required for survival. The people who lived in caves/forests got the education from their ancestors/forefathers who taught them how to hunt animals for their food, how to use animal skins for different purposes, how to make tools. They were trained about their rituals/customs they followed. They were informed about the religions they followed. The forefathers educated them the stories of their gods and kings from which they could learn good morals. One can say that there was no proper system of education at that time. With the passage of time, democratic institutions were established; men became aware of the surroundings and educational needs which paved the way for the formal/modern education. The development of science and technology, new inventions, new theories molded the concept of education. Therefore, the modern education started to replace the traditional education. Now-a-days modern education has reached to new zeniths/heights. With the use of science and technology in the teaching methods, education has become all the way more fun, easy and interesting for the students. We can state that the modern education is just a new version or the up gradation of the traditional education. The traditional education was not meant for everyone. The modern education is accessible by all. Anyone can take admission in a school and learn the modern education. Today, we have reached a time when all the children no matter what their caste is, no matter what their religion is, no matter what society they belong, every one sits together in a classroom and study together. This was not seen in the traditional education which was not accessible by all. Moreover, traditional education was not taught to the girls in the society. But the modern education does not follow gender discrimination. Girls and boys have equal right to gain education.

VII. CONCLUSION

Both the types of education have their own place and importance. We cannot declare any type of education good or bad. The traditional was good in its period and the modern education is good in its period. The traditional education and the modern education, both should be given equal importance.



- [1.] Caspary, William R. *Dewey on Democracy* (2000). Cornell University Press.
- [2.] Kannegiesser, H. J. "Knowledge and Science" (1977). The Macmillan Company of Australia PTY Ltd
- [3.] Martin, Jay. *The Education of John Dewey*. (2003). Columbia University Press
- [4.] Ryan, Alan. *John Dewey and the High Tide of American Liberalism*.(1995). W.W. Norton.