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ROLE OF EDUCATION IN NATION-BUILDING

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ABSTRACT

Education is no doubt, directly linked with the processes of nation -building and development and Knowledge is a key resource for any nation. Education is normally the acquiring of knowledge as well as the skills that are accepted by a given society. On the other hand, nation-building is the implementation of processes that are geared towards recomposing the nation's institutions so that they can reflect the wishes, needs and aspirations of the wider society and the change in mind-set necessary to achieve strong nation-building mission is a sustained, long-term effort to transform education at all levels. The Institution of higher education, as an integral part of the society, should be shaped its system and curriculum as per the society needs.

The focus of this paper is the contributions of education to national development. Prominent among the points to be considered is that education supplies the needed manpower for national development. It is not machines, land, capital but human brain which is the most important asset to any family, community and nation. It stresses the fact that a nation develops in relation to its achievement in education. For education to impact positively on national-building, important ways are suggested and if duly followed, will address the crisis rocking the Indian educational system. From conceptual clarifications of theme to the problems and to the major areas need to be focus for nation-building are discussed in clear perspective.

KEYWORD: Education, Higher Education, Nation, Nation-building

INTRODUCTION:

India is a civilized nation. It has rich cultural heritage. Nalanda was world's oldest University and India has rich educational tradition. As we know, education is valuable for the individual and beneficial to an economy and society, but not everyone is ready for higher education. Many students who enter college are unprepared for the

demands higher education places on them, and consequently perform poorly, fail to keep up with assignments and other requirements, and then end up dropping out of school altogether.

According to a senior educationist, "Education is a critical investment in shaping the present and future of India. It is inseparably linked to our progress in every aspect of human development and is a major contributory factor in enhancing quality of life. Education also promotes the culture of productivity by enabling individuals to discover the creative potentials in them and apply same the improvement of the existing skill and technique of performing specific tasks, thereby increasing the efficiency of their personal societal efforts. In 1947 while addressing the convocation of the Allahabad University, Late Jawaharlal Nehru, and the first Prime Minister of India said- "A University stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for the adventure of ideas and for the search for truth".

In a larger perspective, education is integral for growth and development. Education is the best development tool for socio-economic growth. The role of higher education as a major driver of economic development is well established, and this role will increase as further changes in technology, globalization, and demographics impact the nation. To remain competitive in light of these changes, we need to improve productivity and adopt an innovative spirit. In economics they call it "merit good". It means not only to educate people; its benefit goes beyond that – crime reduction, unemployment reduction, more revenue, higher GDP and many other benefits.

We are living in the era where the several changes take place every day in the environment, the changes on which we cannot have control on it rather we are forced to change our system. Especially the speed of upgradation in technology makes the environment too dynamic. There has been the tremendous advancement in technology which has transformed the nature of delivery systems in education. Secondly, the global economies are becoming increasingly integrated. Cross border manufacturing processes and global transactions in services sector have created a demand for education not only of "national quality" but also which helps further this process of globalized economy. Higher education will be a dominant, if not decisive, factor in preparing workers with the robust skills needed to adapt to changing job requirements. The transition from manufacturing to the technology-based new economy dramatically raised the skill level needed to get a job.

Imagine a society in which all present and future humans are healthy and have their basic needs met. What if everyone had fair and equitable access to the Earth's resources, a decent quality of life, and celebrated cultural diversity? Now, imagine that all current and future generations are able to pursue meaningful work and have

the opportunity to realize their full human potential both personally and socially. Further these questions have been addressed in the paper in details to understand the significance of education in nation-building.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION OF RELATED TERMINOLOGIES:

In this paper, there are certain concepts like education and nation-building which need clarification for proper understanding.

The word “**Education**” is derived from Latin words “educare” which means to train, to form or to mould. In other words, it means that the society trains, forms or moulds the individual to achieve the social needs and aspirations. This is mostly favoured by the humanists who argue that the function of education is to develop the natural potentialities in the child to enable him function in the society according to his abilities, interests and needs. This is child-centered orientation. Education also develops in individuals those values which make for good citizenship, such as honesty, selflessness, tolerance, dedication, hard-work and personal integrity, all of which provide the rich soil from which good leadership potential is groomed. One renowned philosopher defines education as what each generation gives to its younger ones which makes them develop attitudes, abilities, skills and other behaviours which are the positive values to the society in which they live. In short, education trains an individual to be responsible in the society. From this, it is clear that education gives moral training. **Higher education** is generally organized into highly specialized areas of knowledge and traditional disciplines. Designing a sustainable human future requires a paradigm shift toward a systemic perspective emphasizing collaboration and cooperation. Higher education institutions bear a profound, moral responsibility to increase the awareness, knowledge, skills, and values needed to create a just and sustainable future. Higher education plays a critical but often overlooked role in making this vision a reality.

On the other hand, the word **Nation-building** is a normative concept that means different things to different people. To understand the concept of nation-building, one needs to understand the meaning of what a nation is. The “**Nation**” may be defined as a group of people who shared history, traditions, and culture, sometimes religion, and usually language. The concept of nation-building stress that a developed society is the one that has succeeded in providing a source of living for the majority of its inhabitants and that in such society, premium is attached to elimination of poverty, provision of food, shelter and clothing to its members. Nation-building that will be likely to contribute to stable national and international peace will need to emphasize the democratic participation of people within the nation to demand rights. It will need to build the society, economy, and polity

which will meet the basic needs of the people, so that they are not driven by poverty, inequality, unemployment. Nation-building is always a work-in-progress; a dynamic process in constant need of nurturing and re-invention.

INHERENT PROBLEMS IN THE INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM:

From the above conceptual clarification of education and nation-building, it is clear that education has a critical function in nation-building. However, all is not well in higher education. The addition to the number of institutions may not be the sole criterion for accepting meaningful role of higher education in the nation building process. The poor infrastructure, politicisation of the campus, lack of participatory attitude among teaching faculties and sense of alienation of the guardians and civil society members cause more harm to the higher education. In the Indian context, education has not fully played its roles in this regard. This is as a result of certain inherent problems in the Indian education systems which are as follow:

- **Inadequate Funding:** First among these problems is inadequate funding. Education in India has not been properly funded and this leads to poor infrastructure developed in the universities, secondary and primary schools. This poor infrastructure makes the environment very hostile.
- **Unsteady Political Environment:** Another point to be considered here is unsteady political environment. From independence till date, there have been several administrations in India. Every successive political leader suspends the existing educational policies and replaces them with the new policies which are based on their own political agenda which ultimately leads to lack of continuity in educational policy formulation.
- **Education in India is Politicized:** Educational policy decisions in India are highly political orders and directives. The educational plans and objectives are being politically manipulated to suit the notion of policy formulators. This explains why some political appointees are given portfolios as commissioners and ministers which they are least qualified for. This states that Indian politicians would rather advocate unrealistic populist educational programmes than risk their constituency through technically derived and obviously realistic and productive educational programmes.
- **Corruption:** Also important to be mentioned is corruption. With this, much will not be spent on education and it cannot contribute more to national development. These problems so identified explain why the crises in the sector have lingered for a long period.

DIMENSIONS OF NATION-BUILDING:

Nation-building matters, but what is meant by nation-building that even matters more. There is disagreement among current theorists of nation-building as to the relationships between the development of a free market economy and the development of democratic participation, as well as over the necessity of building a civil society as a prerequisite for the development of state institutions for democratic participation. Different versions of nation-building benefit different groups.

Nation-building has many important aspects. Firstly, it is about building a **political entity** which corresponds to a given territory, based on some generally accepted rules, norms, and principles, and a common citizenship. Secondly, it is also about building institutions which symbolize the political entity – institutions such as a **bureaucracy, an economy, the judiciary, universities, a civil service, and civil society organizations**. Above all else, however, nation-building is about building a common sense of purpose, a sense of shared destiny, a collective imagination of belonging. Nation-building is therefore about building the tangible and intangible threads that hold a political entity together and gives it a sense of purpose. It is about building the institutions and values which sustain the collective community in these modern times.

In today's world, skills, gravity, productivity, and competitiveness are the determinant factors of national greatness. Not even the possession of the nuclear bomb is enough to make a nation great without reference to the gravity and creativity of its citizens. Since the time of Adam Smith, every serious nationalist and politician has come to know that the wealth of a nation is not based on the wealth and opulence of its rulers, but on the productivity and industriousness of its citizenry.

Apart from the fact that education plays a vital role in nation-building, we must include here other two areas which are needed for overall nation-building are **“The Judicial Institutions”** and **“The Indian Economy”**. The Judiciary is an important institution for any democracy but they are essential to the overall nation's progress. The judiciary not only arbitrates disputes between the various levels of government, between government and citizens, and among citizens but also among private sector agents. Given its pivotal role in national stability and economic prosperity, some of the major features of good institutions noted earlier are particular relevant. These are that institutions should have persons with the technical expertise and moral competence to interpret the rules or implement the goals of the organisations; and ensure that the institutions inspire public confidence. In recent

times, the Supreme Court, the apex court in the country, has inspired much public confidence and respect because of the quality of its judgment.

On the other hand, the nation can only fight with the basic problems which are the most problematic to the nation-building that is poverty and unemployment and it can only eliminate through the development of nation economy. For the growth and development of economy the strategic moves should have to take and it must correlate with the market requirement and human skills required. Below is discussed some points that has to be followed to make the Indian economy growing.

Ways to Strengthen the Indian Economy

- Raising educational levels to create a quality workforce
- Improving learning and teaching from pre-school through graduate school
- Training and supporting – where you need it, when you need it
- Providing lifelong learning opportunities
- Identifying the needs of business and industry
- Taking strong and visible roles in regional initiatives
- Disseminating research and promoting technology transfer
- Enhancing the technology infrastructure
- Promoting livable communities
- Employing a diverse workforce

"EDUCATION IS KEY FOR NATION-BUILDING":

Education is a crucial sector in any nation. This paper emphasizes on the contributions of education to nation-building. Prominent among the points to be considered here is that education supplies the needed manpower for national development. It is not machines, land, capital but human brain which is the most important asset to any family, community and nation. The quality of education meant growth and development of intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and social. It is being said that a developed or educated polity is the one that has enough manpower and each person occupies his or her rightful position to enhance the growth of the society. It should be clear that without education, a nation cannot get the needed manpower for material advancement and enlightenment of the citizenry. The trained engineers, teachers, medical doctors, inter alia are all the products of

education. This explains why it is argued also that the quality of a nation's education determines the level of its national development.

Since education is the pathway to any nation-building enterprise, it plays the following significant roles in nation-building:

- Education creates an enlightened society. This is a crucial prerequisite to nation--building because the more a people become enlightened the more they would refrain from doing practices that will endanger the nation-building efforts. For example, educated elites will always tend to be responsive and responsible citizens. By this I mean, they obey state laws and properties. Without this, no nation-building efforts will be set in earnest.
- With education, the country will have the best human resources that are competent enough to carry the day-to-day affairs of the state. Most states collapse as a result of a low level of education because the human resource is so weak that it is incapable of filling state institutions. But with education, this problem is averted.
- Nation-building requires a democratic society that allows the contribution of all, rich or poor. With education, there will always be an increase in democratic participation. This participation will in turn enhance nation-building initiative because the participation of all the citizens is counted in nation-building.
- Education is crucial in the formation of cross-cutting cleavages that embrace diversity. Accepting differences therefore is very important to nation building because until we accept our differences and come together to build the nation, progress will never be made. With education, this fear is allayed.
- Education creates large middle-class professionals, teachers, doctors, engineers, bureaucrats, technicians' etc. This class is very important to nation-building because they provide the necessary expertise that is needed to building a nation. This is the more reason why emphasis has been laid on education because a well educated society has always been a strong society.

Overall therefore, Education is the key to the task of nation building as well as to provide requisite knowledge and skills required for sustained growth of the economy and to ensure overall progress. Education correlates with nation-build. Both of them complement each other. A nation cannot be built without education. With education, professionals are nurtured that will enhance nation-building. In the same way, education leads to efficient usage of a nation's resources which in turn is very crucial to nation-building because without efficient usage of a nation's resources, nation-building will not be successful.

WAYS TO STRENGTHEN THE INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM:

In an increasingly knowledge-driven society, more and more people seek education as the hope for a better future, the key to good jobs and careers and to meaningful and fulfilling lives. The knowledge created within universities also addresses many of the most urgent needs of society, including health care, national security, economic competitiveness, and environmental protection. So, planners must be able to understand and articulate the necessity and advantages of higher education institutions being leaders in creating a sustainable society to a wide variety of stakeholders. Educational policies of the governments may be laudable but the implementation, review are the key and critical factors.

But there are a number of themes that almost certainly will factor into some part of the higher education system:

- ✓ **Learner-centered.** Just like other social institutions, universities must become more focused on those they serve. They must transform themselves from faculty-centered to learner-centered institutions, becoming more responsive to what students need to learn rather than simply what faculties wish to teach.
- ✓ **Proper Funding:** There should be proper funding from government. If this is done in the proper way, the Academic Staff Union of Universities will not have any need to embark on industrial actions as there will be improved infrastructure in the primary, secondary and post-secondary schools; there will be no more brain-drain as research activities will be effectively carried out and examination misconduct will be eradicated or reduced and the sector will contribute meaningfully to national development.
- ✓ **Affordable:** Universities must become far more affordable, providing educational opportunities within the resources of all citizens. Whether this occurs through greater public subsidy or dramatic restructuring of universities, it seems increasingly clear that society no longer will tolerate the high cost, low-productivity model that characterizes much of higher education today.
- ✓ **Lifelong Learning:** The need for advanced education and skills will require a willingness to continue to learn throughout life and a commitment on the part of institutions to provide such opportunities. The concept of student and alumnus will merge. Today's highly partitioned system of education will blend increasingly into a seamless web, in which primary and secondary education; undergraduate, graduate, and professional education; on-the-job training and continuing education; and lifelong enrichment become a continuum.
- ✓ **Interactive and Collaborative:** New forms of pedagogy tailored to changing societal needs already are emerging. Some examples: asynchronous (any time, any place) learning uses information technology to break the constraints of time and space, making learning opportunities more compatible with lifestyles and career

needs; and interactive and collaborative learning techniques effectively reach the plug-and-play generation of the digital age.

- ✓ **Diverse.** The great diversity characterizing higher education will continue, as it must to serve an increasingly diverse population with diverse needs and goals.
- ✓ **Intelligent and Adaptive.** Knowledge and distributed-intelligence technology will increasingly foster construction of learning environments that are not only highly customized but adapted to the needs of the learner. Many colleges and universities already have launched major strategic efforts to understand these themes and to transform themselves into institutions that are more capable of serving a knowledge-driven society
- ✓ **No Politicization of Education:** Education should not be politicized as identified above and there should be a steady political environment to ensure continuity and maturity of educational policies.
- ✓ **Corruption Free:** There should also be the need for strong political will among political leaders to ensure continuity of educational policies and doggedness in the fight against corruption in the country. Severe punishment should be made to financial crimes and other corrupt practices in the educational sector.

In the above context, we need to ensure access to quality education for all so as to create an environment whereby the fruits of development and growing opportunities are available to all sections. If the Universities discharge their duties adequately, then, it is well with the nation and the people.

CONCLUSIONS

In nutshell we may opine that we need a fundamental, transformative shift in thinking, values, and action by all of society's leaders and professionals, as well as the general population. Changing times demand a strong bond between the nation and the institution of higher education. It is time once again to reconsider the contract between university and nation. There must be a perfect synergy between the nation's requirement and the kind of different education programmes required to fulfill those requirements. The Institution has to be well prepared to respond to those needs which arise in the society due to the changes occur in the economic, global and technological environment. To remain competitive in light of these changes, we need to improve productivity and adopt an innovative spirit.

“A thorough reform in higher educational system and its operation is the urgent need of the day”.

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