

# Educate the Youth to Build a Better World

Justice Shivaraj V. Patil\*

*Mobilizing the youth should be the concern and vision of the elders, particularly the leaders. Today's youth does not lack the passion to create political change but their energy and enthusiasm do not get proper channel. If not placed on the right trajectory, the passion would get diluted and disappear or turn perverted and harmful to the society and the humanity as a whole.*

Good education in tune with the times is the foundation and sine quo non for human development as well modern civilization of any country. In other words, no civilized country can afford to ignore or neglect proper education of the people. There is a positive relationship between education and socio-economic development. In the changing economic scenario there is an imperative need of active co-ordination and co-operation between industry, agriculture and education for socioeconomic development. Need based optimum utilization of abundantly available young manpower in a scientific way, will bring qualitative difference to the lives of the people.

Educational institutions, particularly professional and higher education centres, besides being places of learning should also turn as centres of service and wholesome development of human personality of men and women, transforming them into fine human beings and responsible citizens. Education without compassion and sense of service towards suffering people fails to serve the society in some measure. Higher education centres should not remain contented by merely sending out technically skilled, professionally competent and literally well informed persons. They owe a duty to induct human values in the student community to instill the importance of quality of compassion and service, enabling them to treat their fellow beings in a truly democratic spirit.

True education should illuminate the mind, purify the heart and elevate the soul. It is needless to say that in this process of transformation, the role of teachers is vital and important. To do this a teacher has to become an 'Acharya.' Acharya is one whose

\* The author is a former Judge of the Supreme Court of India and Chairman (Retd.), Human Rights Commission of India.

'Achara' (conduct) is good along with up-to-date knowledge. Awareness and practice of ethics play a very important role here, because the Acharya's role affects not only him and his immediate surroundings, but of the future of the whole society and the world through his disciples.

Advanced science and technology, information and communication, transport and mobility put together have made the world a global village. There seems unprecedented mobilization among young people and they have started realizing that they should not remain passive onlookers but must be active participants in all developments that take place in the country. The future belongs to the youth. They have to work to create a future not only for them but also to make the country a better place to live in. It is not wise to underestimate the abilities, potentialities, aspirations and ambitions of youth. The mindset of young people need supervision but the perception that they should proceed in the direction drawn by the elderly and aged, needs change. The youth are brilliant, better informed with exposure to modern developments and advancement in science and technology including information. They are abreast and up-to-date in the contemporary context and are capable of taking appropriate decisions not only in the matter of choosing their careers but also their causes as citizens. May be, at times youth need guidance that the aged can give with their experience. We require both the strength of youth and the maturity of the old. In other words, mature heads should rest on the young shoulder. ("Invasion of Armies

can be resisted but not an idea whose time has come," – Victor Hugo). In my view such time has come and the youth can bring the desired change for the good of the people and the society.

It is desirable for the youth to look outside the boundaries of their colleges, Universities and comfort zones to find their voice and use it as a powerful force for change. Mobilizing the youth should be the concern and vision of the elders, particularly the leaders. Today's youth does not lack the passion to create political change but their energy and enthusiasm do not get proper channel. If not placed on the right trajectory, the passion would get diluted and disappear or turn perverted and harmful to the society and the humanity as a whole.

Despite rich heritage, land, water, substantial resources, abundant manpower and brilliant brains available, India has not been able to fulfill the vision and desire of the father of the nation Mahathma Gandhi – to wipe out tears of poverty and suffering from every eye in this country. Today the country needs more than at any time in the past, men and women particularly youth with competence, character and commitment. The right way to achieve this would be to chalk out and implement a methodology to imbibe and implant ethics in the young minds at college/university level.

Relating fundamentals of ethics to contemporary life situations may be the right and practical approach to achieve this goal. The positive result can create a better society, a better nation and a better world to live and enjoy for every one.

Adapted from Convocation address delivered by the author at Bangalore University – April 2009.