



THE ROLE OF STUDENTS IN SOCIETY BUILDING - AN OVERVIEW OF LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

It's no denying the fact that today's students are tomorrow's property. By expending their mental faculties, they create wealth, keep the graph of progress steady and help the country move towards the path of success and progress. The employers today are seeking candidates who can bring a range of skills and perspectives to the workplace. The students need to develop attributes like critical thinking, problem-solving, spirit of innovation, scientific temperament and so on. Moreover, they need to showcase their talents to look big. Their character turns them noble and makes others emulate. In this essay, I want to delve deep into various requirements necessary for the youth to differentiate themselves from their peers.

Key Words: *no denying the fact, range of skills and perspectives, critical thinking, emulate, differentiate.*

INTRODUCTION

The modern youth need to develop multiple skills to stand tall in the job market. Their work should be something different and innovative. Besides having soft skills, they need to feel responsibility. Some of the tips I have suggested here may be of great help to the youth.

Recognise your sense of social responsibility:



Social responsibility is a moral obligation on a person or industry to take wise decisions and actions. It gives a positive impact on all communities. The students must know how the companies serve society under the name 'Corporate Social Responsibility'. So also, as individuals they should make it a part of their lifestyle, and contribute back to society. It is an ethical framework in which a person works and cooperates with other people and organizations for the benefit of the community. In order to excel in their careers, it is worth spending some money for the society wherefrom they have got.

Work for Satisfaction:

Dream big and try to seize the opportunities. Working for success will just make you a master, but remember, working for satisfaction will make you a legend. Your minds, thoughts and actions are meant to create miracles by exploring the less travelled paths. It paves the way to others to emulate and it also gives you immense satisfaction. Whatever work you select, if you do it with utmost attention and love, it gives you immense satisfaction.

Think out of the box:

If you start thinking differently or creatively or from a new perspective, you can do wonders. Believe in your dreams and your capacity to achieve them. All scientific inventions are the result of this creative thinking only. The students who update their knowledge from time to time by adding new thoughts will certainly develop. A live example can be seen in this respect. Once a farmer owes some money to a greedy merchant and fails to repay it. Then the merchant proposes to marry his beautiful daughter. But the farmer's daughter dislikes him and hates him like anything. The farmer puts before her a choice. He says that he will bring a bag that contains two stones only, one white and one black. The girl has to take out one stone only. If she succeeds in taking the white stone, they need not have to repay the debt and she need not have to marry him. But if she takes out the black one, she has to marry the merchant and need not have to repay the debt. This is the condition to which the girl accepted. Then, in the presence of many people, the merchant shows her the bag. In fact, it has two black stones only. She thinks that the merchant is trying to deceive her. Sensing the danger, she takes out one stone and immediately throws it off into the cliff. No body has observed which stone it is. Then the bewildered merchant quarrels with her for throwing the stone without showing it to him. She argues that the remaining stone in the bag is enough to decide which stone she has thrown off. To everybody's surprise, the black stone is there in the bag. That means the stone she has picked up and thrown off into the cliff must be the white one. So she has rightly chosen the white one. Now the debt is cancelled. Like that she cleverly wins the point by thinking out of the box. This type of presence of mind be developed by the students.

Come out of the comfort zone:



People love to live comfortably. They hate working hard. As long as they feel complacent with the existing growth, there will be no further growth. Challenges be made a part of our lives and face them boldly. Suffering leads to discovery. The students have to explore new paths to find new things.

Thought Control:

Restraining the thoughts will allow us to grow. Gandhiji once said, “Silence is part of the spiritual discipline of a votary of truth. Proneness to exaggerate, to suppress or modify the truth, wittingly or unwittingly, is a natural weakness of man, and silence is necessary to surmount it.” Meditation helps us control our thoughts. The mind becomes sound and then we will have a controlling power over our actions.

Be open minded, let go off your inhibitions:

Open-mindedness does not imply indecisiveness. It makes us more willing to accept others as they are and work with them on that basis. It helps us understand and respect people’s boundaries and professional needs. Thus there will be no conflict with others because we are more willing to empathize with others and make compromises. The students, if developed open-mindedness, will have no clashes in life.

Choices are important in life:

Life throws before us a number of choices. We all make choices in our lives every day whether knowingly or unknowingly. Choices are nothing but the decisions we make in life that will affect our future and determine our path. Life is all about choices. Life itself is but a totality of conscious choices that we continuously make. They may be anything like career choices, life partner’s choices etc. It may also be about who should we select as friends, how wisely to spend our money, and what values and beliefs to uphold and so on. Right choice takes us to great heights, and wrong one puts us in troubles. So the students must wisely take choices in life.

Living in one’s own bubble:

It’s a common practice among some of the students that they live in their own bubble. They lead an isolated life without having an awareness on what is happening around them. Such students will never succeed in life. Since he is too engrossed in the little world he has created, he fails to see or perceive various events around him.

Lead a Simple Life:

Being simple and egoless is not bad. It turns us stable and powerful. We should always remember that when a storm attacks, there is harm only to big trees but not to the simple



grass. We should understand that beautiful people are not always good, but good people are always beautiful. We must remember that all great people led simple and honest lives. Simplicity is the key to real growth. It means that we have to cultivate the habit of simple living and high thinking. It saves both money and energy.

Don't blame Others:

Most of the people try to throw their faults on others. They think that they have escaped from danger. But it is untrue. He who blames others has a long way to go on his journey, but he who blames no one has already arrived. Blaming others alienates one from the others. Once Abdul Kalam's team failed while sending a satellite into the space. But Satish Dhawan, their director, owned the failure. He did not blame the team in the press conference. He took up the responsibility when the mission failed. The next time, when the team got success, he gave that success to the team. He asked Kalam to speak in the press conference. That is true leadership. So the students should learn a lesson from this incident.

Learn to unlearn many things in life:

Is unlearning also a learning? Yes, unlearning also is a kind of learning. It is to be done with effort. Once our character is strongly established, it becomes hard to change it. Adopting right approach to life is the way to grow in life. Gabriel Okara, a famous Nigerian poet in his poem "Once Upon a Time" emphasizes the child-adult relationship and its consequences as well as the need for upkeeping values. Here the father rues that he has "learned to wear many faces like dresses -- homeface, officeface, streetface, hostface, cocktail face, with all their conforming smiles like a fixed portrait smile." With strong desperation, he cries out to his little son saying, "I want to be what I used to be when I was like you. I want to unlearn all these muting things." The sad thing is that he says,

*Most of all, I want to relearn
how to laugh, for my laugh in the mirror
shows only my teeth like a snake's bare fangs!"*

He craves for a change because he does not want to be like other's self, for he knew it was miserable

*So show me, son,
how to laugh; show me how
I used to laugh and smile,
once upon a time when I was like you! (Gabriel Okara)*

The purpose of life is not just to be happy, but it is to be useful, honourable and compassionate.



Meditation:

Great people say that Meditation is the key to inner peace. It helps us withdraw our attention from the outer world and focus on the 'third eye'. This helps us reach higher levels of consciousness. It is being in tune with our inner universe. The Buddha says, "If you are quiet enough, you will hear the flow of the Universe. You will feel its rhythm". By reducing negative emotions, one can increase self-awareness, gain a new perspective on stressful situations and reduce memory loss. By lowering the risk of depression, meditation improves the ability to multi-task.

Good fences make good neighbours:

Having clear boundaries between ourselves and others leads to healthy relationships between adjoining neighbours. Robert Frost, a famous American poet in his celebrated poem "Mending Wall" suggests the need to have a fence between two farms to avert quarrels.

*There where it is we do not need the wall;
He is all pine and I am apple orchard.
My apple trees will never get across
And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him.
He only says, "Good fences make good neighbours".*

Determination:

Determination is a great quality that yields fruitful results. Many people lack courage and fail to reach the target. Kapil Dev's bold reaction to the comments of a coach shows his determination. "Kapil Dev's discipline as a bowler stood out in all his career. When the national coach of the 70's opined that there are no fast bowlers in India, a young Kapil picked up an argument with him, 'I'm going to be a fast bowler,' he retorted. This was no idle boast of a young man struck by the cricket ideal of being a quick bowler in a country which had seen very few. Players like Gavaskar, Kapil Dev and Azharuddin carry a bigger burden than the mere matter of the runs they are expected to score, the wickets they are supposed to take and the leadership quality they are required to provide". (The Sportstar, Feb. 26, 1994)

Igniting Aspirations--Kalpana Chawla

Every person has some innate qualities. Some may dream high of their careers. Sometimes there will be no possibilities to achieve their set goals. Yet they have burning desire to achieve them. By looking at the role models, who worked against odds and reached the top rung of the ladder of success, one may get inspired. Here's an incident that happened in the life of young Kalpana Chawla.



“Although India has a strong tradition of science teaching and learning, there are hardly any women who have made it to the top in our scientific establishments. There are few women in public life that inspire, women who have done something different, something that women were not expected to do. Unfortunately, Kalpana Chawla died at 41 in a space accident, however, her determination to realise her dreams stands out as her principal quality.

“Never know what it is like to dream, to aspire, to work for something that seems beyond your capability. This is really why Kalpana’s story has struck a chord with so many young girls.” (The Hindu, 9-02-2003)

Creativity:

Indian students have abundant knowledge. We have a rich vedic tradition to follow. India had once been reputed as Viswaguru. Prof.G.H. Hardy of Trinity college while rating geniuses on a scale of 100, gave a rating of 60 to the exceptional ones. However, for Ramanujan, he gave a rating of 100. There can be no better tribute to either Ramanujan or to the Indian heritage. The unquenchable spirit and courage can help us grow fast in all the fields. We should know from the words of great Indians who carved a niche in their fields about the secret behind any body’s success.

C.V. Raman said in 1969 while addressing young graduates,

“I would like to tell the young men and women before me not to lose hope and courage. Success can only come to you by courageous devotion to the task lying in front of you. I can assert without fear of contradiction that the quality of the Indian mind is equal to the quality of any Teutonic, Nordic or Anglo-Saxon mind. What we lack is perhaps courage, what we lack is perhaps driving force which takes one anywhere. We have developed an inferiority complex. I think what is needed in India today is the destruction of the defeatist spirit. If that indomitable spirit were to arise, nothing can hold us from achieving our rightful destiny”. (Abdul Kalam’s Ignited Minds)

Purity of Thought:

Sir Henry Watton in his short poem “Character of a Happy Life” emphasizes that happiness is something purely internal.

*How happy is he born and taught
That serveth not another’s will;
Whose armour is his honest thought
And simple truth his utmost skill!*



CONCLUSION:

The students scale greater heights if they have good qualities besides having multiple skills. They can be acquired through continuous practice of some virtues and values. They need to develop some important qualities for self-growth. Their good character saves their lives. The students must come out of superstitions and inculcate greater values.

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