

Opportunities and Problems - XIV

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A National Need

“Education ought to turn out quite a large contingent of thinkers and leaders. It is these great men of thought and action who can safely lift the country to further progress. Since leaders are both born and made, a vital part of our educational effort ought to be geared to prepare future leaders.

“All cannot be leaders, especially in the fields where high intelligence is needed. So one of the aims of education is to indentify young people who possess superior intelligence, originality, vision and vitality and who can also develop themselves as pioneers and creators of process. **Further, education has to devise better methods of educating these competent people so that they fully bear the brunt of responsibility of nation's progress during their young age and manhood.**

“Mere curricular studies are not enough to make a leader. Much of the education will have to be devoted to attitude forming and motivation building. Expert

knowledge and creative research ability are only a part of the making of a leader. A leader ought to possess other qualities also such as singleness of purpose, the ability of weighing different alternatives in the light of distant objective and taking decisions thereon, the art of doing organised work, the ability of taking people into confidence, uniting them in the cause, keeping up and boosting their morale and further leading them in the desired direction.

A Great Experiment

It is in this direction of leadership development and attitude building that Dynana Prabodhinee, Poona has been doing pioneering work in the last ten years. It has remarkably succeeded in combining academic education with the study of problems of industry, agriculture and sociology of our country.

Intelligent and creative people are spotted without regard to caste, creed or social or economic status and are admitted to the Prabodh Shala where they are offered an enrichment and special guidance pro-

gramme along with the usual prescribed curricula. Every effort is made to make people aware of India's problems and motivate them to accept the role of a selfless servant in its cause.

A School for the Talented

One of the main activities of Dynana Prabhodhinee (The awakener of knowledge) is to search for talent and give them an enrichment programme. Those who have an I. Q. of 140 or above or otherwise those who are able to get a 99 per cent on at least 2 tests of a battery of aptitude tests are admitted to the Prabodh Shala or the enrichment programme of the Institution.

Since 1962

Since 1962 more than 200 boys and girls have benefited by this enrichment programme. They have done extremely well for themselves not merely in the examinations, but in life too.

A Case History

"One of the talented people recruited to the Dynana Prabodhinee is from a village called Kalyan. His name is Ramlinle. His family has been illiterate for generations together. If Ram has not been identified, he will be attending cattles throughout his life. Because he was identified as gifted, he got the opportunity to come to Poona and get school and college education. The wonderful part of the story is that the boy became proficient in Sanskrit language and stood first in first class at each and every examination including the Master's degree examination of the Poona University. The Sanskrit language is as difficult as Latin and Greek. It is supposed to be somewhat easier for those who have in their family the tradition of education of

Sanskrit learning. Even the correct pronunciation of the language is difficult. But for Ram nothing was difficult. At the age of 10, when he first came to Poona, he was not even able to speak good Marathi. But by dint of hard work, **guidance and motivation**, Ram has become a lecturer at one of the Poona colleges since 1971.

A Helping Hand

There are probably only two or three schools for the talented in the country. This is one, the pioneering one. This particular institution is making every effort to be self-supporting. It has, therefore, taken up an industrial activity.

Even so, at this stage of growth it requires all the help that we can give. One opportunity that lies before many businessmen is to visit this school and find out in what way he can help the devoted workers of this institution. (Those who are interested may write to Dr. V. V. Pendse, Director, Dynana Prabhodhinee, 514 Sadashiv Peth, Poona-2).

More Such Schools

The country can afford to take at least 50 such schools.

It is given to the businessman and the industrialist in this country to think of one such school in any one place in India and see it flower.

It is true, to get a good job done, we will have to get good workers. Fortunately, because of a decade of work institutions like Dynana Prabhodhinee have done it may be able to provide the initial workers. Also, given the opportunity and the encouragement, there may be many more people in this country who would be willing to build up such an institution.