

Just a Word, Folks

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I am not out to bore you by offering any advice, for advice, I know, has no place in this world: the wise do not need it and the fools do not heed it. In the following paragraphs, I shall put before you my view-point on the aim of education.

If I were to ask a student why he came to school, surely his answer will be 'Why! To get my degree and then a nice job that will secure me and my family bread and butter'. There is nothing strange about this answer. This blurred vision is the natural outcome of the spirit of our age overwhelmingly over-ridden by economic calculations. But that is not the aim of true education.

True education does not aim at acquiring a smattering of the humanities and sciences, but at something more sublime. It aims at drawing out the best that is there in a person. Its object is the harmonious development of all the faculties in a person. It enables a person to achieve physical, intellectual and ethical perfection. A person who has received true education is intellectually so developed that he/she can see everything in its true perspective. He never fails to discern Truth and Beauty. Morally, He is so grown up that he can distinguish between right and wrong and never deviated from the path of rectitude. His mind works in complete consonance with the eternal law that controls the movements of the stars in heaven. Physically, he is equal to each and everybody. His fine physique helps him to assist the oppressed and fight for the cause of all that is good. He fights to establish 'Kingdom of Heaven on Earth'.

Man is a social animal and in society he has various relationships. He is a member of his family, his nation and the humanity at large. He has to reconcile the interests of the human associations to which he belong. A man who has received the right type of education discharges his obligations to all associations like a Knight-errant. In short, he is a perfect citizen, citizen of his country and the world. He is not a bellicose nationalist but an enviable amalgam of nationalism and internationalism.

Education, viewed in this perspective, is not confined to the four walls of the school. When anything affects your intellect, mind or body for the better, the process of education is going on. There are tongues in trees, books in running brooks and sermons in stones. You can learn every where and every moment if you keep your min alert and your eyes open.

While at school, you should so develop your faculties that you grow to the intellectual calibre of Iqbal and Tagore, to the physical stature of Pratap and Shivaji and the moral acumen of Guru Nanak, Krishna and Mohamad and become worthy of being called 'image of God on Earth'.