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Know What True Education Stands for

Plato in his immortal work 'The Republic' says that the State is primarily an educational institution. According to him, if the state neglects education, it matters little what else it does. Thus, the importance of education can hardly be over-emphasized. All great philosophers, right from the ancient times down to the present day, have emphasized the role of education in making an individual a man in the true sense of the term. Besides Plato, the French philosopher Rousseau assigned to education a place of utmost importance in making an individual a good citizen and a good member of the human society. True education caters to every type of need of the individual. It ensures his material, moral and spiritual development. It inculcates in him humility and drives away arrogance. Plato rightly said that virtue is knowledge. Education nurtures virtue and exterminates vice. It sublimates the baser passions of the individual and fosters the nobler ones. If teaches him the duties of citizenship and cultivates in him love for mankind. It makes him wise and enlightened and promotes the spirit of accommodation. In sum, education makes a person an integrated individual. Education is not limited only to garnering facts and earning degrees. It is a narrow view of education. So many ills the mankind is plagued with to-day can be traced to the faulty education imparted to our young men and women. True education is as much the cultivation of the spirit as it is the cultivation of the mind. The system of education which does not cater to the higher values of life must be discarded. It must be replaced by a system which ensures harmonious development of an individual, an individual ready to work not only for the good of himself, his family, his country but for the good of whole mankind. Only such an individual can be said to be truly educated.

On the entrance of a library are engraved these words—

Enter to grow in wisdom Go out to serve humanity

Let all that is dark within me burst with blame and veil of error be torn away. Education is the most effective and potent tool to redeem our lives, to bring about an individual's development, his emancipation, his cultural egeneration, his economic advancement, and for training men and women for the divine needs of a socialistic, secular and democratic society in the present scientific, technological and nuclear age. There is no worthier and more delightful cause than helping education. Yet it is a tragic fact that many students endowed with intellect and talent are denied education:

Full many a gem of purest ray serene, The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear. Full many a flower is born to blush unseen.

And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

The primary purpose of education must be to create a mind which is both scientific and religious. The first concern of education must be with learning the true art of learning and then with the training of a particular profession. The art of living comes only as a bye-product of a deep understanding of the self and the relationship to nature, to things, to people, to ideas and to oneself. Unfortunately, we still harbour the

illusion that we can solve our problems through greater power, greater skill. So we pursue these ends, while strengthening the source of the problems at the roots. So long as our vision of education is so narrow, all efforts that we make, will necessarily create greater chaos. The so-called education is confined to the acquisition of knowledge, and training for careers is responsible for creating a society where sensitive perception and feeling of harmony have been lost, the reason being that education is in blind obedience to authority.

An English author has rightly said that "education does not mean to teach people what they do not know; it means teaching to behave as they ought to, specially with nature and man".