

Rote Learning: A Curse

India is progressing. Globalization has purged into every sphere of life. And one sector that has witnessed a major impact of this is the education sector. Today students are travelling all over the world to find courses fit for their interests.

But despite progress in this respect, there are some systems in Indian education that are still medieval. One such is the system of rote learning.

Today global organizations expect its candidates to be widely knowledgeable. Restriction to one field is not appreciated. They seek out people who are equipped with varied skills and can handle any professional obstacle with correct analyzing tactics.

This is where our education system lacks. We encourage our students to merely focus on their textbooks, have photographic memory, memorize every word as it is printed and then blurt it out in the examination in the very same pattern. We test them for their competency also on this basis merely. Even today most of the prestigious institutions of the country recognize marks as the sole criterion for admitting their students. You may have an IQ of 120 points or more, but that is of no use if you cannot score 90% in your board exams.

The fact that the student might not understand the basic fundamentals of the subject is of little concern to the educationists. And this part is the most saddening.

We lay emphasis on theoretical knowledge rather than practical use. Students' own opinion on a topic is seldom invited. They are simply required to pen down what the books state. Movies like '3 Idiots, and Taare Zameen Par' have tried to remind us that we need to stimulate our children to run after excellence and not simply give in the rote learning system. If this is done, success will knock their doors happily.

And this system has another major downside. Examinations like such instill fear in the minds of students. When they realize that a three hour bracket where, they are required to answer a set of few questions, is going to decide what college or course they are going to get, it creates panic in their minds, and as a result they perform worse.

Thus, we have created a vicious circle. Some urgent changes in the education system are imperative in making the youth of the nation worldly wise, and thus, become the bearers of the responsibility of taking the nation towards a brighter tomorrow.

