

Stereotyping: Let it GO

Oh, so your son took humanities as his subject stream in class 11, but your neighbour's daughter got science! And he flaunts this in front of you just to undermine you. Well, why do you get jealous?

Over the years there has been a hierarchical preference that has been established as far as the three streams of education are concerned, it is not rare to hear people attach prestige with the subject that you plan to pursue.

Why is it that even in today's world, where so many new opportunities are mushrooming for the youth to take up any career of their choice, and do well in it (read earn handsomely: another stereotype), that even now science is a stream that is the prime choice for students with higher grades, and humanities is chosen by those who couldn't get science or commerce. Not that everyone thinks alike, but even today most people do carry on this notion.

Why isn't that all subjects are recognized equal in worth and every student is respected for the choice that he makes.

If a person decides to take up humanities, then it is considered that he is going to become a teacher. If a person does commerce, then MBA is the ultimate goal, and of course for the brightest of all, engineering or MBBS are the correct paths. When are we going to get free from the clutches of such clichés?

To brighten the future of education in India, one step that is imperative is getting rid of these established thoughts and letting the child choose what he/she actually wants to do. It is not rare to see an engineering student, going on to do an MBA and then landing a job as an investment banker. Or a B.Com student to pursue a major in English and then become a writer, or even a Sociology major to take up Human Resources as a career.

In today's age your prior education plays a comparatively lesser role in deciding your future. What decides it is your actual interest and passion that you show in the field of your choice. Also the effort that you put in to prove your mettle in the work that you choose to do.

Only when such a complacent environment exists that supports the dreams and ambitions of the youth, will we be able to witness a growth in the human capital.

