

Opinion of mothers towards present educational system

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Received: 13.10.2013; Revised: 25.10.2013; Accepted: 10.11.2013

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Realizing the importance and benefits of education, mothers of school going children in 21st century, now-a-days are becoming more articulated in expressing their opinion about the present educational system. Substantiating this observation, the study was conducted on state capital of Odisha about 100 mothers whose children were studying in CBSE, ICSE and Government run Odia medium schools which revealed many interesting opinion of them through favouring and not favouring different statements with varying intensity. Some of the statements which reflected the feelings of those mothers in true educational environment is substituted with business environment. Present educational system needs great deal of change for which the school atmosphere should be conducive for proper rearing of children than home situation; out of twenty statements administered to them. In spite of certain elements, mothers are still hopeful for the right kind of dividend in terms of their children's growth and development both, academically in social dimension.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Mothers, Children, Educational environment, Teacher, Social atmosphere

■ **HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER** : Parhi, Pritishri and Mahanty, Manasi (2013). Opinion of mothers towards present educational system. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, 8 (2): 684-686.

The value of education has been adequately felt by human society since long because education plays a very vital and important role in the socialization process through which individual member of the society is conducted to his or her outer world.

Moreover, in the ancient literature, Chanakya the great, also stressed upon the importance of education in his moral teachings to human society. But if we look into the status of educational system of 21st century, its contribution in equipping the individual member to cope with his or her environment though significant in certain dimension, its consequence appears to be devastating .

The mothers of 21st century have a every reason to be worried and are accordingly free to express their opinion on the present educational system at micro level. Very recently Mr. Kapil Sibal, the honourable Union Minister of HRD has solicited opinion, suggestion and strategic views from all of us in the context of reformation of educational system covering from elementary level to higher level In this perspective. The present study on the opinion of mothers towards present educational system may speak a lot and also matters a lot when they are in readiness to enrol their

children at entry level of the present educational system.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

The study was conducted in state capital of Odisha *i.e.* the temple city Bhubaneswar where about 100 respondents (mothers of school going children) were covered for the purpose of the study as sample from the universe. The units of these sample consisted of mothers selected following disproportionate stratified random sample technique indicating the mothers whose children were studying CBSE, ICSE, Govt run Oriya medium schools, privately run Oriya medium school like Saraswati Sishu Mandir and Mother's school. However, for the purpose of analysis, all the respondents were clubbed together.

■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

An attempt was made to contribute some input towards the reformation of present educational system, as one of the major stake holders *i.e.* the mother of school going children whose feeling is considered very important in the present study, It was possible to gather information about

such feeling in the form of data as presented in Table 1.

It is revealed table that the respondents of the study *i.e.* the mother of school going children expressed their feelings towards the present educational system in numerous ways as reflected in the various statements mentioned in the table under discussion

The attention is automatically drawn towards the statement number 1 of the table as “it is more a business type than true educationed environment which is endorsed by majority of the respondents to the tune of 90 per cent. The reasons for such situation may be attributed to be fact that in 21st century those who are promoting educational activities at macro and micro levels do have business intention in their mind and accordingly right from the admission fee, along with the development fee and periodic enhancement of tuition fee either annually or in biannually mode, puts pressure upon parents and constraint them to have a feeling that those who are in helm of the affairs that the management of that very educational institution doing everything with high profit motive that too in a short period of time. This situation forces the management to see the receipt /income rather than quality of education which is being imparted in their school and very much reflected in their overt behaviour in form of what they speak ,what they do and how they interact.

The next favoured statements are number 6 and number

20 which are “It fails to make the children true and desirable citizen of society” and “Present educational system needs great deal of change”, respectively. Though these statements are bit philosophical in nature favouring these statements by 73.33 per cent of respondents, is definitely a matter of great concern. From this responses, we may conclude that the so called respondents mothers are having every doubt about the future of their children under present educational system that needs great deal of change. This type of feeling might be based upon their information base which they have developed by getting feedback from other fellow mothers who have already experienced such situation. It can simply be stated that when all these schools run after money and mechanically completing the course as prescribed by the syllabus without touching the soft skills and other allied attributes in the context of nation building in general and personality building in particular. It automatically creates doubt, question mark anxieties, worries at the level of mothers when they could see some shadow over the future of their respective children.

In spite of haziness in the perception of sample mothers towards the present educational system, a sizable percentage of sample respondents to the tune of 70 per cent acknowledged the school atmosphere is somewhat conducive for proper rearing of their children rather than considering their home situation for the purpose. Since education now-

Table 1 : Opinion of mothers about educational systems

Sr. No.	Statement	Response n=90			
		Yes		No	
		f	%	F	%
1.	It is more a business type than true educational environment	81	90.0(1)	9	10.0
2.	It does not contain sufficient aspects which are essential for personality development	63	70.0	27	30.0
3 .	It fails to teach good manner	48	53.33	42	46.66
4.	It does not create high hope and aspiration in the minds of children	54	60.0	39	43.33
5.	It teaches less about needs of society andcountry	30	33.33	60	66.66
6.	It fails to make children true and desirable citizen of society	66	73.33 (II)	24	26.66
7.	The teaching contents and methods of teaching are not appropriate to make impact in the minds of children	36	40.0	54	60.0
8.	It hardly teaches to respect elders in society	21	23.33	69	76.66
9.	It is loaded with unnecessary subjects which do not permit children to learn effectively	39	43.33	51	56.66
10.	The study atmosphere in school is far from expected	45	50.0	45	50.0
11.	The teachers teaching children are neither sound in subject nor have ability to teach effectively	60	66.66	30	33.33
12.	The present teaching system in school essentially need home teaching for which tutors are necessary	36	40.0	54	60.0
13.	The school atmosphere is conducive for proper rearing	63	70.0 (III)	27	30.0
14.	The parent-teacher contact is weak	30	33.33	60	66.66
15.	The schools are not well equipped to provide live experience to children	18	20.0	72	80.00
16.	The intake capacity is much more than desirable	51	56.66	39	43.33
17.	The personal attempts to study by the teacher is almost negligible or absent	27	30.0	63	70.0
18.	The teacher behaviour is not at all cordial ,free and congenial	63	70.0	27	30.0
19.	The society / govt. is not very much concerned about educational development of children	36	40.0	54	60.0
20.	The present educational system needs great deal of change	66	73.33(II)	24	26.66

a-days is becoming more and more expensive, the management of educational institution provides some artificial learning situation and other support services and infrastructure where a mother can safely allow her child to spend few hours with certain level of comfort and easeness and at the same time allowing the mother to enjoy her peace of mind.

In order to obtain unbiased responses along with some positive statements, respondents were exposed to certain negative statements. One such negative statement is “It hardly teaches to respect the elders in the society “ was negated by 69 per cent of respondents which conform that though people running educational institution privately with profit motive, never forget to inculcate minimum etiquette in the mind of the children enrolled in their institutions which is observed by the majority. This response made it very clear that higher order aspiration and expectation of mother though not met fully but there is no such dilution in ensuring to bring desirable change in the behaviour of children for acquiring such desirable, accepted and appropriate behaviour at minimum.

Another negative statement which was not favoured by 72 per cent of respondents is “The school is not well equipped to provide live experience to children” again indicate the credibility of the school before the eyes of respondent mothers. It indicates that they do have faith and hope that school is such a place where experiencing certain things lively is also possible in spite of all odds simply because, a teacher interacts with his/her students without much evasions, pretention and in a participatory mode All that internal state of mind contributes significantly and hence, the overt behaviour on the part of the teacher becomes more vivid, lucid, graphic and thus, lively. Interacting mechanically and interacting with human touch are two different situations where the former does not allow the students to have something lively rather than mechanically. More over the young minds are not very much polluted like their seniors and always are in readiness to receive/experience with much interest the lively ones.

Another proverb, a teacher is a true teacher as long as he or she considers herself or himself as true learner consequently the statement “personal attempt to study by the teacher is almost negligible or absent” could not be favoured and majority of the respondents discarded the message coming through the statement stated earlier. Machida *et al.* (2002) Hill and Tyson (2009) and Huisman

and Smits (2009) have also made some contributions in respect to the present investigation.

Conclusion:

There could be other aspects and dimension which would have been able to further delineate the mind of sample mother incidentally not covered under the present study. However, the findings definitely shown us a ray of hope that the present educational system if reformed or reorganised can do justice in twenty first century and century to come in the era of modernisation, liberalisation and information in global perspective. One more thing required for ensuring the fulfilment of aspiration and expectation of mother is to compliment and supplement the role and responsibility of educational institutions in back home situation by those mothers because of the fact that socialization and education are very important concepts of our society and in the process they get blended initially at the level of family and later on at educational institution.

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