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Important Elements of Adult Education Programme

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Introduction:

In our country, the percentage of the literacy is growing day by day due to the efforts of the government and voluntary bodies but on the other hand, the number of illiterates is rapidly growing. This is a strange situation. It is a explosive matter for our future. Our population is growing rapidly. There are some other reasons also for e.g. for the lack of systematic follow up services, relapse of literate persons into illiteracy. If all the situations and efforts would be continued, the majority portion of the population may be illiterate forever.

In 1978, massive programme started on the birth day of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October 1978, it was known as 'Adult Education Programme.' It was never introduced before. This was the first historical decision taken by the government to make 10 crores illiterates of 15-35 age group beneficiaries through a time bound adult education programme.

It was the well organised campaign. Creating awareness was the main motto of this movement. Government acknowledged that education, work and life should be integrated. There are six important elements of Adult Education:

1. Awareness:

Creating awareness among the learners is a main thing. It is connected to the personal, familial, economical, social, civic, political and National issues for self, societal and National progress. Adult Education Programme is only for the poor and deprived people. Through this program, an awareness is created among the people to understand their problems and difficult circumstances, they could be able to identify the human and institutional resources which could be used for solving their problems. They should understand their duties and rights. Each and every

backward and deprived person should become aware of realise his existing problems, to know the benefits he can obtain from development and welfare facilities.

Government decided to make awareness to learners in the following matter-

- Due to the lack of the knowledge, majority rural people are not able to take the full advantage of government facilities about agricultural, animal husbandry, industry and co-operative sectors.
- People should be awared about equal wages for equal labour.
- Awareness about social- discrimination.
- Awareness about social evils.
- Awareness about indifference towards health and hygiene.
- Awareness about nutritional diet.
- Awareness about superstitions.
- Awareness about overgrowing population.
- Awareness about National festivals and national flag.

2. Functionality:

This is the second important element of adult education. Functionality is related to the skill development process. Skills are essential for the of the business. Functionality covers the entire activities of individual, whether in the context of social relations or economic or other physical activities. It also helps for the successful participation in the society. Functionality is associated to economical activities.

3. Literacy:

Literacy is the third valuable element of adult education programme. What is the criteria of literate person? Normally we say that, "Literate is one who achieves reading and writing skills equivalent to class three of Primary education and queries general sense of numeracy in view of his needs and limitation." There is a National norm for literacy which is given below:

- Reading aloud, with normal rcct, and at a speed of 30 words a minute, a simple passage on a topic of interest to the learner.
- Silent reading of 35 words a minute of small paragraphs in simple language.
- Reading with understanding the road signs, posters, simple instructions and news papers/ broad sheets designed for neo- literates.
- Ability to follow simple written passages relating to one's working and living environment.

4. Writing:

- Copying, with understanding, at a speed of 7 words a minute.
- Taking dictation at 5 words a minute.
- Writing with proper spacing and alignment.

- Writing independently, short letters and applications and filling in forms of day to day use to the learner.

5. Numeracy:

- Reading and writing numerals 1-100.
- Doing simple calculations (without fraction) involving addition and subtraction upto 3 digits, and multiplication and division by 2 digits.
- Working knowledge of metric units-weights, measures, currency, distance, area and unit of time.
- Broad idea of proportion and interest (not involving fractions) and their use in practical situations.

The above mentioned all norms for adult education programme have been prescribed (as it is) by the National Literacy Mission.

While framing the professional activities the target group being diverse in respect of local surroundings, the curriculum for functional skill-raising, instead of being universal, will be decentralised and the parameters to evaluate this element of adult education programme will not be the same for all places.

6. National Values:

This is very important element of adult education programme. Its intention is to impart complete knowledge of national values to learners so that they would understand the importance of national values.

The following National values are being given as examples.

- National Integration.
- National Welfare.
- National Patriotism.
- Selflessness and benevolence.
- Broad minded approach and dissociation from narrow strifes of language, religion, caste and creed, etc.

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