

2. A SCHEME OF SOCIAL EDUCATION IN INDIA

Report of Adult (Social) Education Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education, 1948 in proceedings of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth (Special) Meetings of the CABE held at Calcutta in January 1950 and at New Delhi in April 1950, New Delhi: Manager of Publications, Government of India, 1950. Annexure II pp.4

Chairman: Hon'ble Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Minister of Relief & Rehabilitation).

Members

1. Mr. Humayun Kabir (Joint Educational Advisor to the Government of India, Ministry of Education).
2. Dr. Mata Prasad (Principal, Royal Institute of Science, Bombay)
3. Mr. K.G. Saiyidain (Educational Advisor to the Hon'ble Governor of Bombay)
4. Dr. V.S. Jha (Director of Public Instructions, Nagpur)

Terms of Reference

To develop a scheme for Social Education in India.

EXCERPTS

That in view of the far-reaching implications of the scheme, it should be called "A SCHEME FOR SOCIAL EDUCATION" instead of "A SCHEME FOR ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY".

The Committee is of the opinion that a new orientation must be given to schemes for the education of the adult. Till now Adult Education has been largely confined to literacy work. The Committee recognises the value of the ability to read and write, as it opens to the adult new avenues of knowledge and opportunity. The Committee, however, feels that the present socio-economic set-up in the country demands a more direct approach. One immediate task is to improve the standard of life and culture of the adult and turn him into a healthier, happier and better citizen. The work of literacy must go on and special efforts must be made to achieve the target of 50 per cent literacy in the course of next 5 years. Even greater emphasis must, however, be placed on the social aspects of education.

The OBJECTIVES of such social Education may be defined as follows:

- a) To instil a consciousness of the rights and duties of citizenship and foster a spirit to the community.
- b) To develop a love for democracy and impart an understanding of the way in which democracy functions.
- c) To disseminate knowledge of the outstanding problems and difficulties facing the country and the world to-day.
- d) To develop a love for the pride in our cultural heritage through the knowledge of our history, geography and culture.

- e) To teach the simple laws of personal and community health and develop habits of hygiene and cleanliness.
- f) To foster the growth of the co-operative spirit as a way of life.
- g) To provide training in crafts both as a hobby and as a means to economic betterment.
- h) To provide cultural and recreational facilities by way of folk dances, drama, music, poetry, recitation and other ways of spontaneous self-expression.
- i) To provide through these various activities as well as through reading and discussion groups, an understanding of the basic moral values.
- j) To give a reasonable mastery over the tools of learning reading, writing, simple arithmetics and to create an interest in knowledge.
- k) To provide facilities for continuation of education through libraries, discussion groups, clubs and institutions like people's Colleges (pp. 115-116).

That the scheme for Social Education be designed for the purpose of imparting education to the population between 12 and 45 years.

That the Central Government be requested to appoint a Board of experts and technical men to examine the provincial schemes, to recommend to the Government of India the payment of necessary grants for these themes from the Central revenues, to advise on and make arrangements for the preparation of literature and audio-visual aids for use throughout the country, particularly films, charts, maps, posters, and gramophone records etc., to co-ordinate activities of the Provincial Governments in the field of Social Education, to receive periodical reports of the working of the scheme in different Provinces and to suggest legislation and other administrative action for mobilising students, Government employees and refugees for furthering the scheme of Social Education. The Board should meet at least twice a year and visit provinces as and when necessary. The Board should have a whole-time Secretary.

That for furthering the schemes of Social Education, the Government of India should arrange to send Educationalists, if possible, at least one from each state, to foreign countries experimenting with Social Education particularly the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Russia, China and Mexico.

That besides utilising the services of students and teachers, an all out effort should be made to utilise the services of refugees and other Government employees who may be available or have been retrenched, and they should be specially trained for working out the scheme. The Board proposed above should suggest methods for utilising all available personnel for social service.

That legislation for compelling employers to provide facilities for the education of their employees should include a provision to the effect that the cost incurred by the employers on the education of their employees may (subject to the approval of the Provincial Education Department) be admitted as legitimate charge on the expenses of establishment of the concern, for the purpose of assessment of income-tax.

That one Education Centre be started in each primary school and at least two such centres in each secondary school, and adequate remuneration be given to the teachers for this additional work ... (pp. 116-117)

That Research in the methods of teaching the adult be encouraged.

That on the recommendations of the Provincial Education Department, special allotment of paper be made for writing, publication of books, journals etc, for the purpose of social education.

That the Provincial Governments be requested to provide increased facilities for printing books and other literature connected with Social Education at the Government Press.

That the Provincial Governments be requested to encourage the preparation of literature for use by adult literates and other workers in Social Education..... (pp. 117-118)

Appendix 'B' (Syllabus)

No attempt is made to give a rigid syllabus for the (different) aspects of Social Education. It should be allowed to shape itself out of the actual local needs of the teacher and the taught.

1. The Content : The content of Social Education is five-fold

1. Health and Hygiene
2. Family and Community living
3. Vocations.
4. Literacy and cultural activities
5. Recreational activities

The five-fold field is amplified as follows:

1. Health and Hygiene: Food and drink-Temperance-Care of body and its parts-clothing-personal cleanliness, and sanitation-Importance of sun, air and water-common diseases and their treatment.
2. Family and Community living : Relationship of individual members in the family-care and welfare of children-Management of the home-Home economics-Family in the social context-Marriage etc.
3. Vocations: (i) Agriculture: soil, seeds, sowing and planting; Rotation of crops, seasons-Manures-Protection of Crops, Co-operative (ii) Cottage industries-Spinning and Weaving-Newer and Durry making, knitting, net-making, Basket-making, Elementary carpentry, Leather work, Cane-work, Soap-making, Fruit preservation-Principles of Co-operation-credit and banking-buying and selling-farming.
4. Literacy and cultural activities : (i) Very simple reading and Letter writing-Filling in of money-

order forms-simple every day arithmetics, (ii) Elementary knowledge of village, district, Province, country and of the world-Stories of great men. (iii) Self-Government-Duties of citizens-Meaning and importance of vote-Panchayat system - Local and District Boards- Municipalities Home Legislature.

5. Recreational activities: Indoor and out-door games-sports-Folk dances-Community singing-Plays-Film shows, Hobbies.
- II. Duration: Social education should be conducted for two hours daily, separately for each of two age groups (12-21) and (21-45) and should last six months. Tuition in the first 4 items of the programme (health and hygiene, family and community living, vocation and literacy and cultural activities) should be given on 5 days from Monday to Friday, Saturday and Sunday should be reserved for recreational activities. All adults attending the classes will be given a test at the end of their 6 months of works. Those who succeed in the test will be awarded badges or certificates of literacy. Prizes will be given for those who show merit.
- III. The basic medium of instruction will be spoken and the written word. However, all available visual and audio material should be made to supplement the oral medium. (p.114).