

Disaster vis-à-vis Education

Impacts and Effects

Dr. Sambhu Nath Halder
Dr. Ahana Chakraborty



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Impact of Socio-Cultural Disharmony on the Educational System

Dr. Anup Kumar Routh and Dr. Sambhu Nath Halder

Abstract

The socio-cultural disaster is one of the challenges in present era. We cannot simply ignore it. It is not too difficult to assume that no matter how advanced we are in technology, our mental deviation from culture of the community particularly in social life has started for a long time. Today's parents are in a state of suspense whenever they are thinking about their child's prospects. At the same time, the people of the new generation feel very much anxiety about choosing their profession. They change their aim of life many times. Sometimes they are now able to find out their way. That leads to the loss of human resources. In this juncture, the present paper focuses on the major problems of the young generation in respect like their profession, education and their personal life, relationship, creativity etc. If a man or woman has been satisfied by his or his activities then they become prosperous in their life. Students at the very early stage of education should be guided by moral and ethical education. Only moral and ethical values can save the life of distress people. However, this paper finds some famous Bengali thinkers own way of life philosophy. This is needed for the new generation and the generations to come. Life is not like a machine for material production. It has another aim of personal freedom and happiness. Socio-cultural disaster leads to unsatisfied generation. It also produces uneven circumstances in the land we live in. It may not be possible to live a happy fruitful life in the space of socio-cultural disaster. It has been concluded that only proper education system aiming character building and skill development can be the measure to defend socio-cultural disaster. Self-respect and freedom of thinking are very much essential for proper education.

Keywords: Value education, Self-respect, Freedom of thinking, Bibliotherapy, Social and cultural heritage, Human resource.

Introduction

We would like to start with three situations that are quite familiar to everyone. However, we believe that these events are not the result of particular issues. These are the issues that the society faces. First and foremost, we met a father who stated that he intends to enrol his daughter in an Applied Psychology course. He also discussed the factors that have influenced his decision. “There will be a lot of mental and psychological issues in the next days,” he said. His daughter will benefit from an Applied Psychology course in her employment search. He also stated that it will be a rewarding career with significant earnings. Second, we visited to a family whose parents were going to enrol their son in an LLB and MBA programme. They said “in the coming days, society will become more complicated, and individual law and order will be disrupted. Perhaps a lawyer will be required to deal with this scenario. As a result, the course will be more productive in the future.” Finally, a daily worker was influenced by a friend and enrolled his son in a remote English medium kindergarten school. However, after two years, he chose to withdraw his kid from that school and get him enrolled in a government-sponsored primary school. He discovered many of the difficulties with teaching and learning. He was unable to cope with the problems. Our observations, discussions, and conclusion are all focused on Bengali society and people. Society, as we all know, is not a static idea. Culture is indeed not a one-dimensional idea. How can we forget our ancestors’ voice *Bahujana hitaya bahujana sukhaya*? Prevailing broken huts besides many high risers is not true development. In this way we do not say that everything in the past are good. There were full of superstitions in the early society. We can’t accept it. Even today’s society, there are some activities we find which are caused by superstitions. It should be eradicated. Every day the number of genocide, homicide, child-abuse, breaking of relationship is ever increasing. Indians are augmentatives. But what does an argumentative scholar do? In the reality educational system is become more biased by the politicians. Most of the cases they do not have greater intellect, foresight and heartily initiatives. In this article we are not discussing different school of thoughts on education. Different schools have their own procedures of imparting education. This is a broad overview.

Disaster

A disaster is a major occurrence that causes significant disruption in society and the environment. Mayner and Arbon (2015) emphasise

‘the widespread disruption and harm to a community that surpasses its ability to manage and overwhelms its resources,’ which appears to be the definition of disaster. This might happen in a short amount of time or over a lengthy period of time.

Socio-cultural Disaster

Socio-cultural disaster may be natural and sometimes man-made. We are trying to discussing here the man-made socio-cultural disaster. Where the individual’s mentality, behaviour, relationship affects the society. And for a long period of time there are negative effects on the whole community and society. The socio-cultural disaster is caused by a number of things. Society does not include a perfect balance of qualities. However, we have high expectations of society. Though, by definition, a perfect society is a paradise. However, when a large number of individuals depart from the ideal route, we may refer to this as a Socio-cultural Disaster. Ideal path may vary from society to society. Due to several factors cross cultural diversity is ever decreasing and community’s individuality or uniqueness or a social bondage loses from its own. We belief education makes careful and sympathetic mind. But we are living in the age where mostly everything depends on give and take policy. Most of us are differently indifferent. Un-attachment with the people surrounding us is sometimes common now. We do not give much attention to the sufferer. Sometimes it becomes fatal. We should have measure for rescue from this condition. Disaster Management has two phases 1. **Post disaster recovery**, and 2. **Pre-disaster risk deduction**. We think disaster happened in our society. And we need to take recovery measure and at the same time we will be prepared for another or more disasters to come in future. We should be realized our society and cultural heritage, which helps us to stand on our own feet. We should be connected with our progressive ancestors’ observation, idea about life and society. We are trying to find out the crisis which leads us to a society having Socio-cultural Disaster. The following factors are not exhaustive in nature. There are many corners to explore.

Parents-Child Relations

Our culture instils in us a sense of reverence for our parents. We also paid tribute to unidentified elderly persons. Our parents are our first teachers. However, many people fail to respect their parents and other people. The majority of the young generation has lost sight of the importance of respecting their parents and others. Sometimes parents have many faults in their attitude to their kids. Proper education of

the parents is a factor obviously. Lack of parental guide creates many unavoidable circumstances and affects their kids deeply. We always assume that children will do what we tell them to do. However, this is incorrect. Our acts, not usually our words, inspire children. Parents do not devote additional effort to instilling character in their children. They are mainly concerned with financially establishing their child. That is our objective for today. After achieving the goal, their son and daughter mostly forget their parents. And sometimes they dislike their parents. Obviously all cases of old age home are not bad but there are many cases have alternatives to them or to their son and daughter. People with greater academic qualifications do not treat their parents correctly. We don't follow our parents' beliefs. We often get the impression that they are out of date and that they have nothing to offer us. What criteria may we use to assess these issues? It's a significant departure from our personal experience of living with our parents. To some extent, we believe it is a disaster.

Teacher-students Relations

Teaching profession is a noble profession. Teacher comes after the parents. But now a days in many cases teaching profession turns into a business which stands on give and take policy. It is not desirable. We must not convict only the teachers. It is a socio-culture problem. Social scientists are looking into this matter.

Lack of Honesty and Simplicity

Honesty is not only a virtue of the hero of our epics. Honesty and simplicity are most desirable virtues of humanity. Now life is becoming full of complexity. We do not feel proud of an honest person. We do not hesitate to give up honesty for achieving some personal benefits. Simplicity is no more accepted as a virtue today. Plain living and high thinking is not a *manta* to the young people. Even sometimes they don't know which fashion is and which style is. Many of them believe there is no difference. We are so much influenced by our celebrity. In real life and mind we do not have a *Nayak/Nayika* to whom we follow in our whole life. Even we do not have a Guru. There is no ideal hero in our mind, who can motivate or give peace at the time of emergency or mental crisis. Many times adult students are asked to name a person to whom he like to follow. They could not able to say the name because actually they don't have any one. Even most of the students do not wish to be like his parents. We must come out from this situation.

Lack of Belief or Become Biased

Belief on parents' opinion, belief on teachers' motivation, trust on brothers or sisters' activities are lagging behind. Currently many people even do not believe themselves. When belief is no more, when there is no belief or trust on our culture it becomes a disaster. We must remember that culture is not only a collection of rituals, as most people believe. In an ideal world, we would see variety as a source of togetherness. However, in reality, we occasionally act contrary to our beliefs. To victimise them, we find out their skin colour, clothing, and even their language. Thus political leaders encouraged or enticed us to act in ways that were contrary to our ideal beliefs. This is creating community harm or self-harm. Sometimes we deny the ideal way of living of Indian culture. It is not desirable.

Restlessness

Restlessness is a kind of disease today. Parents are mostly failed to control their child. Activity is good. But over activity or aimless activity or even activity towards harmful effects is not solicited. We find out many restlessness activities in our young generation. Driving cars with high velocity and indiscriminate use of smart phones and addiction over drugs are on the first list. A person becomes so angry that he could kill a person or a child of accusing of stealing some flowers. It is not a poet's imagination. These types of news are coming out now. We should check these issues.

Lawlessness and Lack of Discipline

This is a common issue of the people of the society. Sometimes even an elderly people do more than a young. Young are breaking law as a thing to play. Yet discipline is an issue which kids accustomed with its home and surroundings.

Use & Throw Policy

We never encourage this policy. Now it is following not only to the material life but in case of human relationship. This is very bad. A small survey reveals that 70 to 75 percent of Under Graduate students have using *use and throw pens* at the time of examination. They have money. But they use fewer amounts to their study. Even they don't have Dictionaries for consultation. They are paying much money for entertainment and fashion. Is it desirable?

Deep Affection for Luxury and Worldly Enjoyment

Luxury is a highly favoured issue in today's society. Our media, our realty guru are giving us opportunities to be addicted with luxury and worldly enjoyment. Deep affection for the material life leads us to mental disorder. Sometimes it takes toll of life. Many incidents come out. Our backbones become freckle. For luxury sometimes deny our origin, our parents. We forget about our goal, aim and destination. Destiny comes and takes away fresh blood. Who will give us whereabouts or *disha*?

Lack of Hopefulness

In their minds, the younger generation has no place to call home. They become frustrated. Suicides in large numbers attest to this. We could limit the loss of human resources if we had the measures in place. For those who are frustrated, *bibliotherapy* may be quite beneficial.

Narrow Vision

We become very much influenced by the advertisement. Sub-aim becomes superior to the aim of life. Foresight is no longer a major issue to a good number of people who have sufficient money. They think money can do anything and almost everything. They only think of money. For the money they are ready to do anything even to kill someone. Education widens the vision of the people. Narrow vision covers black shade on fruitful thinking on life and society and our ultimate goal.

Selfishness

In contemporary and post-modern civilization, this is an intolerable problem. We become selfish as a result of a lack of moral and ethical activity. Within the family and society, it causes disagreement, contradiction, and even connection severance. We can sometimes turn into selfish giants because we do not really change our thoughts for a long time.

Full of Ego and Jealousy

We forget that ego and jealousy are misery over life. These creates massacre in social bonding and relationship. According to Veereshwar (1983), as we learn to know and embrace the nothingness at the root, jealousy and the anguish of compulsive attachment disappear.

Lack of Patience

Patience is a most valuable virtue of human being. Without this we can't survive. Lack of patience creates many disruptions in life and society. Most of the unwanted circumstances happen due to lack of patience.

Lack of Creativity

We are manufacturing huge number of crafts. And also there is a flood of handicrafts production in our society. Mostly there is a less attachment of creativity. Creativity is very much concerned with new and originality. Mostly we are doing imitative works. Creativity needs imagination and powerful thinking attitude. We are feeling pseudo happiness by making something. Creativity is very much linked with happiness and it brings a glorious future.

Lack of Passion for Work

By profession or by occupation we are attached with some work. Lack of passion creates dissatisfaction. Without this virtue nobody can succeed. Passion leads to perfection. If a person takes his or her work as a passion, he or she can do the best. This will help him mentally as well as financially.

Lack of Inquisitiveness

Technology gives immense advanced power which we can use our holistic development. But due to the lack of inquisitiveness in common people we do not make our reached knowledge base. We are paying most of the time with funny and non-serious thing and finding out life partner.

Modern Gadgets and Technology

Due to over and uncontrolled use of modern gadgets and technology we are leading our society in to a threat. They are, however, not only useful tools, but they also represent a threat to mankind due to their unregulated use. Some devices can not only be harmful to your health, but they can also alter your behaviour.

Information Explosion

For the development of a country, information is extremely valuable. It is an integral aspect of a knowledge-based society. However, due to advancements in communication and technology, information

is exploding. This proliferation of information has left us absolutely ambiguous. There contains misleading information as well as inaccurate information. The ability of ordinary people to select accurate information at the proper time is becoming increasingly difficult. This is an issue, and information filtering could be a solution. When we employ the correct information, we should be more mindful of this issue (Halder, 2013).

Television and Movie

Television and movies have certain negative effects on the general public. It can sometimes hasten the loss of cross-cultural variety. We now live in the Global Village era. Someone who lives far away influences our behaviour.

Internet, Smart Phone and Social Media

These instruments have a significant impact on our goal, purpose, and destination. We're taking into account the population's unfavourable consequences. We have dreams where there is no distinction between a billionaire and a poor person.

Reading Habits

The current status of reading habits among public library clients, who typically represent the common people of a society, as a public library is open to all. It is seen that a number of people visit the library at regular intervals even in the digital age, where social media has consumed their leisure time (Halder, 2021). However, COVID-19 has a considerable negative influence on people's reading habits as a result of social alienation.

Education: What we Ideally Understood

We need man-making education. We can't accept inhuman in place of man. True education builds the character of people, increases the strength of their mind and expands their intellect. If these three pillars can be achieved a man or a woman can stand on his or her own feet. Swami Vivekananda said - "*Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man*" Rabindranath Tagore believed education is self-realization. To him individual soul is a part of universal soul. And individual soul is like to meet the supreme soul that is universal soul. He also emphasised on earning of livelihood. This is supported by the education. Tagore wrote and expressed his idea in various form of

literature. We could quote two lines from a well-known song he wrote. Here he expressed the desire of self-realizing and knowing the supreme.

Apnake Ei Jana Amar Phurabe Na

Ei janari shonge shonge tomay chena

The underlying idea is conveyed in the English translation of his Bengali song, which is attempted to be described here.

My need to know myself is unending

With this each day my Lord I learn thee

A lyric from another song is juxtaposed with a line from this one, in which he conveys his enjoyment of working or a good attitude about activities.

Sab kaaje haat laagai mora sab kaajei.

In human civilization, education had a multidimensional function. In general, we anticipate the following from education:

Hierarchy in the Family and Society and Respectfulness

We must adhere to the social hierarchy. It is critical for keeping good faith and trust in the family and society. When there is a respectful environment, everything works well. All actions become simple to perform and follow. True education directs us in this path.

Self-respect and Self-esteem

As a “primary social good,” self-respect might be regarded. Its distribution is very conditional: it is determined by the quality of the communities in which individuals reside (De Lange, 2007). When we do the correct things at the appropriate time, we get self-respect. We should not be unconcerned about our responsibilities. Self-respect and self-esteem are inextricably linked.

Freedom

Freedom is very much essential. Without this we can't progress. Freedom is not a concept which can be given by somebody, but it is a concept which is to be taken away from somebody. Education brings consciousness, consciousness brings revolution and revolution brings us freedom.

Skill

Education prepares people for their journey through life. It also allows people to bring bread and butter for a living. People who are

skilled are more acceptable than those who are not. Further study can improve intellectual ability. Learning entails more than simply what is taught in school. The academic learning system follows predetermined and well-defined courses that lead to the desired outcome. We can't turn our backs on the path. However, we believe that a comprehensive strategy is required. The body, mind, and spirit should all be involved. We will be skilled, but we will not be robots. Humanity should be present in nature.

Devotion for the World We Live

Man is the best ever creature of mother earth. He is rational in nature. Education shapes mankind in a way so that they are beneficial for the world. We not only think of ourselves. We should think of our neighbour and the world we live.

Education Aims Today

Modern education system is mostly pertaining to achieve financial establishment. Only a few people like their child's involvement of writing poem. Students registered themselves with colleges only for having a degree. And some cases students are attached with a job for earning money in parallel. Many students do not like to attach with study. They believe they have no ways of getting a job, because they have no money to give bribe.

Lessening the Factors of Socio-cultural Disaster

When disaster occurs we feel distress. Disruptions affect us seriously. In case of socio-cultural disaster it takes a long period of time to make an observable effect. Curriculum should be designed as to mitigate the socio-cultural disaster. Emphasis should be given not only on formal education but also on informal education. Information education has immense power of educating mass people. We need **post-disaster recovery strategy** and there should be some measures for **pre-disaster risk reduction** activities. First of all we would like to mention the activity before a disaster i.e. the phase 2 in the disaster management policy. And then we will mention the phase 1.

Pre-Disaster Risk Reduction Activities

It is recommended that people practise the following. However, it is evident that it is not comprehensive.

- **Education for all:** Education for all should be ensured. Government and social organization should emphasize on this

issue. And the persons need to come to accept different channel for educating himself or herself. Besides this mass education policy should be strengthen.

- **Sound knowledge on culture and society:** When we become members of a society by our activities that is good for everyone living in the society. We should not be a member by birth only. We should have a sound knowledge of our own culture and society. Sometimes we come to a close contact with an elderly person because of getting social knowledge. That elderly person may or may not have an academic degree. He knows the society and its different facets. It will enrich us.
- **Parents-child bonding:** The relation between the two be based on faith and respectfulness and truth. As a citizen of a community we all have equal responsibility to establish the bonding.
- **Teacher-students relations:** In case of teacher-students relationship, it will also be based on faith, respectfulness and faith. Obedience and hardworking both mentally and physically are very much essential for success in life. Teacher guides. They enable us or help us to find out the way to be succeeded. We know well educated person is self-educated. Even poverty does not matter. Devotion is come first.
- **Happiness:** Happiness is really and life-style art. Everyone is not happy. We should find out the way of being happy. There is a secret for everyone to be happy. Whenever a king is full of sadness a farmer may become happy. Our level of satisfaction may be a limit. We should draw a level based on our ability. Only an optimistic has that kind of faculty for being a happy person. Creativity ensures happiness in the mind of people. And it also ensures control over crisis. Bertrand Russel once said that the main way to avoid the pain and suffering of the world is to create your own world inside the mind and to dive into it in times of danger. The more that can create the world, the greater the ability to avoid future pain (Tagore, 2002).
- **Peace and harmony:** Maintaining peace and harmony are very much essential for a prosperous society.
- **Moral and ethical values:** From the very beginning of our childhood we should be given moral and ethical education so that we realize their values. And child should act according in the coming years.

- **Truth and Ahimsa:** Everybody should follow the truth and *ahimsa*. It is to be embedded in the students' minds that everything may be given up for the truth but truth never be given up of anything. Truth has the power of changing everything which are not suitable for the society.
- **Perseverance:** We should be given a good mental support of becoming a persistent in our activities. We would do everything steadfastly. Tagore songs are very much encouraging. Here we give a line from him. Full song is too powerful.

Ami Marer Sagor Pari Debo / I will set sail upon this sea of trials.

- **Reverence:** This kind of faculty should be embedded at the time of very childhood. This will be helpful to overcome every conflict and contradiction. Ultimately the wall of hindrance will be broken. New way will be found.
- **Creativity and use of head, heart and hands:** Creativity brings success in life. When we do our work with head, heart and hands we become more productive and feel satisfaction. It also allows us to be self-sufficient and capable of doing anything, if not everything.
- **Right judgment:** Man is rational. The faculty of judging everything rationally and impartially is a good. Everybody should exercise for right judgment.
- **Sacrifice:** Charity begins at home. Sacrifice is a noble virtue. We should exercise it till the last breath.
- **Individuality:** We should give respect to individuality. Each individual creates community.
- **Joyful reading:** students and everybody should be given facilities for joyful reading. One should not be bound to read only prescribed books. Joyful reading creates a happy reading habit and it widens the vision. One can do a comparative study of everything.
- **Library use:** Everybody should be given infrastructure for using library properly. Library is a place where one can do his or her lifelong learning. Public libraries are people's universities. Everyday reading is indispensable for everybody. Otherwise our mental faculty loses its function. Every family should have a library where the family members will spent at least one hour in a day.

- **Love and sympathy for environment and individual:** Everybody likes flowers and child. It is our instinct. By birth man is cruel in nature. Education shapes his or her minds and draws restriction to do cruelty. Love for natural environment and sympathy for the distressed people should be increased in every people of the society. Tagore (1861-1941) wrote letters to his son and daughter. The English translation of what he wrote in a letter in 1903, at the age of 15 of his son, seems to indicate that if you walk independently and study loosely, you will do yourself a disservice. If you don't practice, what you have learned will be wasted in two days. With the great goal in mind, you have to make all kinds suitable for the great burden (Mujtaba Ali, 1962). Tagore wrote a letter to Mira Devi in 1910 that don't forget to read a little regularly. Otherwise the tone of mind will gradually go down (Tagore, 2002). Both these citations from two letters suggest that education has some other purpose besides establishing someone financially. Reading on history, culture, biography of eminent persons, thinkers may satisfy the value of education to some extent. Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar said "Education does not only mean learning, reading, writing, and arithmetic, it should provide a comprehensive knowledge." We should be given more emphasis on comprehensiveness. Education system must follow a holistic approach. Students should possess above mentioned virtues. They should be self-sufficient in the day do come. Everybody should be given a lesson so that they could control their anger. We know that angriness is a short type of madness. Everybody should be given a lesson so that they can resist themselves at the time of war like situations.

Post-disaster Recovery Activities

Here we are trying to say something which will be a measure for recovery of distressed people of a society. All activities taken in this phase are for mitigation of effects in the society. In the earlier column we have mentioned some measures for pre-disaster risk reduction phase. Earlier all measures are also be used in this phase using an emergency-based way. Besides those we may also take initiatives of awaking people towards the needs of true education. Hands-on training may also be helpful. Yoga therapy has immense utility towards making calmness in mind. It also helps to strengthen our mind and body. We can set up a group discussion, a seminar, a conference, or a webinar for ourselves. Because it is centred on common people, common people

should be involved. There should be discussion on oral history, various social aspects, culture, aesthetics, ethics, and ethnicity. Counselling for those in distress might be beneficial.

Conclusion

We live in a society that is riven by social and cultural disasters. This is something we must accept. Theoreticians or social scientists should come up with possible solutions. It is worth noting that education instils confidence, aids consistency, and develops competence, all of which contribute to the success of our lives as a whole. We don't claim that academic education can solve all problems. It is not really conceivable, and it isn't desired. Institutions should take an active role in the process. Education, both at home and in the community, as well as in society, may be the only way to save our lives from a socio-cultural disaster. A Geographic Information System is one type of recognition of a society's or a community's socio-cultural distinctiveness. Modern gadgets and equipment have a lot of good uses, but they also have some negative consequences for society. We should put them to good use in order to help a community progress. As a result, their usage may be regulated. Yet there should be no bias when assessing a society's socio-cultural aspects. Educational institutions, educationists, government, social organizations, and representatives from the society may all work together to improve society.

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