

Adolescent: Study Problems and Remedies in Cyber Era

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Abstract

This paper deals with adolescent study problems and remedies in cyber era. How the education should be modified by using ICT and smart tools? How it helps students? Review of related literature based on some of the factors affecting scholastic achievement. The reason behind the study problems are categorized under three factors a) social factors b) emotional factors c) environmental factors. The investigator has used interview and discussion method as tools. The sample consists of 200 students from class IX and XI. Detailed suggestions to improve the studies are also included.

Introduction

We live in information age that clearly makes new demands on educational system, requiring radical changes on 'what' and 'how' pupil learns. Do all our students get exposure in using technology in the field of education? Are all our students aware of living in an age of information and communication technology (ICT)? Strength of a country is measured by its number of well-trained and qualified youth. These youth are from the adolescent students who are expected to contribute their role for the growth of the Nation, which in turn contribute to the gross national happiness.

Significance of the study

The purpose of education is to develop the wholesome personality of the students. This can be achieved by using most modern technology in the field of education. Many countries are using modern technological devices like computers, micro electronics and telecommunications in the field of education to ensure and enhance their students with the needs of modern world. The combined effect of these three will provide great quantity of information by efficiently and compactly collected and stored in variety of structured forms.

The introduction of ICT in educational field will encourage and motivate students to explore new areas of advancement with respect to its latest developments in various fields. It also provides enjoyment, confidence, self- acceptance and productivity in students. When the students achieve and progress in all fields it will contribute to gross National happiness.

But the irony is that today most of our youngsters or adolescents waste their time, money and energy in playing indoor and outdoor games, watching movies, smoking, gambling, loitering around with girl friends, boy friends etc. Thus they deviate from their main goal of studies to the limitless enjoyment of worldly pleasures. Adolescence is a period of emotional stress and strain. They are in a stage between childhood and adulthood. Most of the adolescent students look for role models or elders to guide them. They are in utter dilemma to choose a way in which they should proceed for a successful life. Many of them face emotional insecurity. Most of the time the path selected by the youngsters'

ends up in developing laziness and bad habits. When they realize that their path is unsuccessful they may be too late to adopt another way.

Our system of education provides only bookish knowledge to most of the students. It does not help the students to get deep knowledge and understanding about the topic that they are studying. They develop some superficial ideas about the topic. This is not good because our students have to compete with students from other countries as the world is considered as a global village. The threat of unemployment looms large on the recipients of degree and diplomas. Here all students do not get exposure to exploit the world of technology which is needed in all the fields of life. Even the good schools of the country provide computer education only to the selected group of students. We have to keep our youngsters busy in the field of study and technology so that they spent their energy and time in these areas along with outdoor games and other activities, thus they can contribute something useful for the country.

Most of the students take studies seriously when they reach class X and XII that is to go for higher studies or for getting pass mark. Without base or foundation in a subject they cannot achieve well in that subject even if they put their maximum effort in class X and XII. They fail to develop a systematic pattern of study and result in poor score for board examination.

This paper throws light into the real picture that exist in our schools about adolescent study preferences, its possible reasons and suggestions to guide the youngsters to cope with modern world.

Review of Related Literature

Review of related literature helps to identify some of the factors that contribute to the academic achievement of students. Investigator has kept eight studies of recent years.

Vijaya Avinashilangam et.al (2001) found that classroom factors play a major role in affecting the students', academic performance. The students inner urge, the competency of teachers no physical distraction and like mindedness colleagues contact make a student more competent to succeed in life.

Robinson, Nichole Morie (2003) found that well-known variables like self-esteem, locus of control, need for cognition was associated with intrinsic and extrinsic motivation. Gender differences on extrinsic and intrinsic motivation favoured women.

Jellander Janine Anne (2004) found that caring and dedicated staff significantly contributes to the development of a successful school and introduction of programmes that meet individual needs of students results in improved achievement.

Nima, Annaraja (2006) found that for creating and maintaining friendly interaction and improved social acceptance among students of a class, basic computer operation, white board tools, Smart tools should be introduced to students from lower classes.

S. Nirmala Devi et.al (2006) found that 65% of the sample confirmed that web resources motivate active learning.

Anantha, Amalraj (2006) found that home influences very much on the study habits of higher secondary school students.

Malathi, Malini (2006) found that there are significant differences in learning style between boys and girls studying in higher secondary schools. There exist high correlation between learning style and achievement which implies that higher the achievement scores, better was the learning style among higher secondary students.

Dhanya, Mary Vijayakumar (2007) found that there is significant relationship between self-acceptance and academic achievement. As self-acceptance increase academic achievement also increases.

This paper is different from all above studies because this includes adolescent study problems, related reasons and the need of technological education for all the children of Bhutan.

Statement of the Problem

Adolescent: Study problems and Remedies in Cyber Era

Definition of Terms

Adolescent- Immature young person between the age of thirteen and nineteen. These include students studying in class IX to those studying for graduation.

Study Problems- These include lack of concentration, lack of interest, poor scoring in examination and giving proper attention to daily lessons.

Remedies- How and in what way we can help the students to improve their studies.

Cyber Era- It is a period of using computers, information and communication technological developments in all fields of modern life.

Tools Used

Investigator has used interview method and discussion method to know about the students family back ground and their attitude in studies.

Sample Used

Students of class IX and XI were used for study. They were randomly selected.

Study Problems faced by Adolescent Students

The investigator has categorized the problems based on three main headings.

- a) Social factors
- b) Emotional factors
- c) Environmental factors

a) Social factors

- 1) Family
- 2) School

Family

Family is a place where a child looks upon his father to study responsibilities and protection. He turns to his mother to know love, care, support and affection and from his siblings he study love and brotherhood. Literate parents watch the way their wards do their studies and also motivate their children in studies. The attitudes of parents energize the students. But the illiterate and poor parents don't know these techniques.

The fact is that some of students are coming from broken families or from family where there exist step relationship that is, either step-father or step-mother. The students from such

family often face problems such as they have to do all household works or by involving them into family problems. Thus they loose concentration and cannot study properly their daily lessons. Another factor is poverty of the family so that students have to discontinue their studies and go for job as baby sitters or help their parents in earning livelihood. Lack of good colleges or technical institutes for higher studies after completing class XII in their locality will also contribute negatively towards the progress of Nation. These all will affect the progress of a Nation as today's children are tomorrow's citizen.

School

The encouragement and support a student receives from his teachers and friends will act as a motivation in studies. Teachers will encourage and motivate every student to reveal their full performance. Later when they see only few students responds to their ideas they will try to make them to the maximum. While those students who fails for two exams will not get good appreciation from their teachers. Thus these will also contribute to the progress of Nation.

b) Emotional factors

1) Interpersonal relationship 2) Intrapersonal relationship

Interpersonal relationship

The way in which, we take in, the dealings between ourselves and others that leads tom the development of certain emotions. These emotions are categorized into two a) positive b) negative. Positive emotions like joy, happiness, affection etc lead to encouragement in studies. Whereas negative emotions like sorrow, jealousy, bitterness etc leads to deviation from studies due to lack of concentration.

Intrapersonal relationship

It is the reflection of our own personality. If we are doing according to our will or conscious mind based on social values like justice, liberty, fraternity it will accelerate or motivate students in studies. It will also provide good friends. This will in turn leads to gross national happiness when its entire people behave and live according to social values.

c) Environmental factors

Even though these factors come as a sub group of social factors the investigator keep it as separate because this include the type of school in which the student study- government or private, the atmosphere that each school provide for its students, the socio-economic status from which the students come, the parents job and their qualification, moral values that they inculcate from elders, friends parents and teachers, culture and traditions existing in the society all these fall under this factor. By the influence of bad friendship or peer some of the adolescent girl students are misused or raped by their peers, elders or relatives. Such students perform poor in their studies due to lack of concentration, prick of conscious and hence deviate from their studies. These all will contribute to National happiness.

Suggestions

These suggestions can be taken by educational authorities and school authorities.

1) Call PTA meeting in the first month as the schools and colleges reopens then give awareness to parents about the needs of educating their wards, how to supervise the study of their wards, how they should guide their children with the support of teachers.

- 2) Students should be encouraged to study their lessons seriously from class VIII so that they will develop a systematic pattern of study as they reach class X. This will also help to score high marks in class X and class XII.
- 3) Even if the child has put maximum effort and could not reach his goal or pass mark parents should not scold the child but keep on encouraging the students.
- 4) Illiterate parents should be given awareness of technological advancements and its importance in day-to-day life.
- 5) All schools in the country should start computer study introducing it as a compulsory subject like English from class I for all its students till class XII.
- 6) Government should give aid to schools to purchase few computers according to the strength of the school.
- 7) Give counseling for girls and boys at a younger age about the moral values, sex education, how they should behave in school and in society.
- 8) Encourage the parents not to send their children to attend the parties offered by their classmates of opposite sex which may extend as wrong relationships in future.
- 9) Parents should watch all the movements of the child till they reaches the age of maturity that is in a permanent post.
- 10) Parents should advise their wards to take decisions about their partner after attaining permanent position or after attaining the age of maturity.
- 11) There should be cordial relationship between parent and children. Family should be a place of soothing, care, happiness and enjoyment for children.
- 12) Parents should be the first and foremost friend of a child whom he or she can share everything and anything.
- 13) Child should be made to study daily lessons at home. There should be fixed timetable for the child at home for study and entertainment.
- 14) Parents should help the child to know about the recent developments taking place around the world.
- 15) Schools and colleges should open opportunity for the students to adopt and practice life skills which will help them to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life.
- 16) Career counselor should be appointed in every school to guide and help the student to select their field according to their abilities after schooling.
- 17) All students of a school should be the active members of any club functioning in the school so that their leadership quality, self-esteem, self awareness can be built properly by eradicating fear and with drawl nature in students.
- 18) Our youth should be made aware of viewing marriage, sex and family relationship as secret so that they should not indulge in polygamy.

Conclusion

As the famous Russian leader Lenin, once quoted in his speech to students that their first duty is to study, second duty is to study and third duty is to study. Let our youth keep their prime goal in studies. They should not give more importance to any other activities unless they achieve the goal. As our youth progress in studies and in their character it will exactly lead to the progress of the Nation which will reflect as gross National happiness.

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