

Role of Science for Development of Society: Science Education for All

Abstract

"Science is more than a school subject, or the periodic table, or the properties of waves. It is an approach to the world, a critical way to understand and explore and engage with the world, and then have the capacity to change that world..."

President Barack Obama, March 23, 2015

Keywords: Science, Social Science, Importance, Understanding, Society.

Introduction

This paper highlights the need of science education for everyone, as a member of the society. It is my view that if students of Social Science stream will learn basic concepts of science they would be able to understand the society in better way and would help in the development of the society. Knowledge of science would enhance scientific attitude amongst students.

Science, as a subject is universal and knows no boundaries. The claims of Science for inclusion in the school curriculum came to be recognized after years of active and persistent efforts. Science almost revolutionaries human life and proved indispensable for existence of man. English, History, Geography, Classics etc. are taught because they provide a liberal education. The main object of imparting education is to turn out intelligent citizens able to appreciate and enjoy the beauty and wonder of nature.

Aim of the Study

The teaching of science offers students the ability to access a wealth of knowledge and information which will contribute to an overall understanding of how and why things work like they do. Science is able to explain the mechanics and reasons behind the daily functioning of complex systems, which range from the human body to sophisticated modern methods of transport. Children and students are able to use this knowledge to understand new concepts, make well-informed decisions and pursue new interests. Science also helps to provide tactile or visible proof of many facts we read about in books or see on the television; this helps to increase understanding and helps children and teenagers to retain that information. Many students find science extremely inspiring and interesting. Science instills a sense of intrigue and enables students to develop understanding and form questions based both on the knowledge they already have and the insight they wish to gain in the future. Students who excel in science lessons are likely to develop a strong ability to think critically.

Concept and Importance of Science

Science is not concerned with reality. It is interested in the way things work, and tries to arrive at the understanding of the nature of the physical world and how it operates. This understanding is not static but ever-changing. It does not say the last word. This is true in all fields of knowledge.

Science has affected the whole World and brought about revolutionary changes, though most of the people are not aware of them. In fact everyone consciously and unconsciously affected. Industry, agriculture, communications have changed the World and in this process it has widened the gap between haves and have-nots. How deeply science is interwoven with our lives, try imagining a day without scientific progress, electricity without it we cannot think of telephone or T.V. or any electric goods. The first completely synthetic plastic was made by a chemist in the early 1900s, and since then, chemistry has developed a wide variety of plastics suited for all sorts of jobs, from blocking bullets to making slicker dental floss. Science has transformed the way we eat today. In the 1940s, biologists began developing high-yield varieties of corn, wheat, and rice,

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which, when paired with new fertilizers and pesticides developed by chemists, dramatically increased the amount of food that could be harvested from a single field, ushering in the Green Revolution. These science-based technologies triggered striking changes in agriculture, massively increasing the amount of food available to feed the world and simultaneously transforming the economic structure of agricultural practices. The late 1700s, Edward Jenner first convincingly showed that vaccination worked. In the 1800s, scientists and doctors established the theory that many diseases are caused by germs. And in the 1920s, a biologist discovered the first antibiotic. From the eradication of smallpox, to the prevention of nutritional deficiencies, to successful treatments for once deadly infections, the impact of modern medicine on global health has been powerful. In fact, without science, many people alive today would have instead died of diseases that are now easily treated. Scientific knowledge can improve the quality of life at many different levels — from the routine workings of our everyday lives to global issues. Science informs public policy and personal decisions on energy, conservation, agriculture, health, transportation, communication, defence, economics, leisure, and exploration etc.

Humans are curious creatures. After hearing the term “science”, people usually imagine some guy wearing a lab coat and safety glasses, operating some high-tech machinery or mixing some funny-looking substances; in fact, science can be a lot simpler than that. Science is actually not something that’s strictly happening into a laboratory, but rather everything that follows a certain pattern, and can be replicated if some conditions are met. Throwing a rock up, just to see it fall down to the ground can be considered science, as the rock will always fall down, thus demonstrating that gravity is present, and that it works.

We cannot think/imagine life or World without science. Science allowed us to understand how things work, but also how to make things happen. Social sciences made us understand that, if we want to survive, we need to work together in an

organized manner. It is well said by Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru-

Knowledge of Science is Necessary for Modern Education but Knowledge of Science without Humanities goes in Wrong Direction i.e. Inhuman.

If both science and social science work together, best adjustment and performance can be achieved. Science actually helps in understanding-

1. How an event happens. What is the right cycle of doing an activity and social science helps in understanding the society in which an activity happens.
2. It broadens the outlook and understanding.
3. It develops scientific attitude.
4. It develops the right logic behind every activity.
5. In other words it can be said that it removes superstition, blind follow ism and blind acceptance of social norms.

Conclusion

Understanding of both science and social science is necessary for leading a good life. Education at all levels should focus on creating a society where well-educated adults are equipped to bring scientific thinking to bear on issues that affect them as citizens. Science is for the development of society and social science is also for development of human/ society. The most important question of our age is – How can knowledge be applied for the good of mankind? The ultimate answer is to organize the energies of nature for the good of mankind. Therefore students should be taught both science and social science. Science students must study one paper of social science and social science students must be taught one paper of basic science.

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