

Population Education

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Abstract

India is passing through a series of crises at present. Biologists, psychologists, sociologists, economists and many other specialists claim credit for alerting the world towards imminent threats to human existence and of the quality of life for overpopulation, environmental destruction, generation conflict, international enmity etc.

The concept of crises is essentially related to the concept of change. Education is a powerful means to overcome these situations. Some new areas of education are helpful in this direction like Peace Education, Health Education, Value Education, Adult Education, Women Education, Population Education, Human Right Education etc.

Keywords: Population Awareness, Demographic, Consequences, Rational, Humanity, Influence, Philosophy, Ecological Balance.

Introduction

Population education also called 'education for population awareness.' Viderman defines population education" as the process by which the student investigates and explores the nature and meaning of population process, population characteristics, the cause of population change and the consequences of these process characteristics and change for himself, his family, for the society and for the world."

The definition given by Population Reference Bureau is as follows:" Population Education seeks to bring about a realization of individual, family, social and environmental effects of the explosive increase in human population, the rapid shifts in concentration and distribution of people, the implication of changing age and other demographic patterns and the conceivable option that may be open to mankind to cope with the consequent problem."

A more useful definition was produced at the UNESCO Asian Regional Workshop held in Bangkok in Sep.-Oct. 1970. According to it "Population Education is an educational programme which provides for a study of the population situation in the family, community, nation and the world with the purpose of developing in the students rational and responsible attitudes and behaviour toward the situation.

This definition may be considered at the present age as a standard definition of population education because it encompasses in nutshell the objectives, content and goals of population education.

Prof. Solan Wayland who is regarded to be father of population education all over the world. He visited India in 1965 at the invitation of the Government of India explain the meaning of population education in the following term" Regardless of the term used we are concerned about the inclusion in formal education system of instructional setting in which young people will come to understand the circumstances which have led to adoption of family planning as public policy and to understand that for the family and the nation, family planning is possible and desirable."

Better quality of life of the individual, family and the nations is the main strain of the population education. The aim of population education is to help, promote well-being and a higher quality of life not for a few privileged but for all humanity.

Population Education has relevance in every country, whether it faces a population explosion or not, or they are fully developed or are in the process of their development.

The paper emphasizes the importance and need of population Education in Present age in Indian Context.

Traditional and cultural values of the different societies also differ. Thus the objectives of population education may differ according to time, place and need. Some objectives of the population education are given below:

1. Creating among the younger generation an understanding of the most important phenomena in the modern world, namely rapid

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- growth of population, it causes trends and some of the factors affecting it and ways of regulating it.
2. Studying the influence of population trends on the various aspects of life – social, cultural, economic and political and in particular, the close interaction of the population growth and development process.
 3. Recognizing the fact that scientific development is enabling us to get increased control over famine disease and untimely death, unplanned birth.
 4. Realizing the significance of population growth on individual and family life and encouraging attitudes of responsibility, mutual help and co-operation in all aspects of personal and family living.
 5. Appreciating the fact that for preserving the health of mother, the welfare of the children, the economic stability of the family and the future prospects of the younger generation, Indian families, today and in the future should be small and compact.
 6. The above objective in India Context covers all aspects of Indian life so far as population education is concerned. Some general objectives of population education are following:
 7. To develop a methodology of influencing young through schools and adults through other educational agencies to appreciate the population goals as laid down by the Government.
 8. To develop in school and college and student and teachers an appreciation of the magnitude of population growth as a national problem and its implication for the nation, society, family and the individual.
 9. To stabilize the efforts and achievements of the present population programme through a systematic process of internationalization of the small family norms among the younger generation.
 10. To involve the formal education system – its tradition, curricular techniques, teacher training programme etc. in importing a systematic context on population education at the different stages of population education.
 11. To assess the broader implication of the introduction of population education for parents, teachers, schools, pupils and society.

Objective of the Study The importance of formulation of clear-cut objectives of any educational programme has been recognized in present context by the educationists. Population education being new field of knowledge, the necessity of setting objectives for it is a greater and difficult task. No permanent or fixed or common objectives can be formulated for a population education for all the countries of the world. This is because each country is facing population problem in somewhat different form. Secondly education system of different countries have their own specific goals.

Content In order to find out the content of this new field of education it is necessary to delimit to some extent the field of population education. Even though no rigid boundaries can be placed in the field of knowledge but this should be done for the sake of convenience.

There are many conceptual confusions and diverse interpretations of the concept of population education arise partly from terminological confusion. The term like sex education, family life education have been used as synonymous with population education. These are only a part of population education. There are many other topics suggested for population education.

1. Demographic trends, their determinants and consequences.
2. Social and economic development: trends, facts and figures.
3. Ecological factors and human population growth.
4. Social, Community and family organization.
5. Reproduction in plants, animals and humans.
6. Family life and interpersonal relationships.
7. Family size norms as related to above.
8. Basic values and quality of life for human progress.
9. Population dynamics and problem of over population.
10. Advantage of small family.
11. Population growth and human development.

Conclusion

It has to be recognized that urgency of population education sprung from the need to reduce the rate of population growth in many parts of the world where 'population explosion' have taken place. This is correct in the particular setting of developing countries where the greatest and most urgent need of the hour is reducing the growth rate of population. It should also be realized that 'population education' is a purely western concept and it has been evolved and developed to its present forum in the developed countries of the world like the U.S.A. only because these developed countries found it useful and essential for further development and ensuring good quality of life for their people.

Thus whether in developing or in developed countries of the world, population education has a significant role to play. Population education should be all pervasive if it is to be effective. Its scope should not be limited to class room but as Dr. S. Cool suggested 'it must go beyond the class room into homes, the temples, the market, the farms and factories and indeed into every aspect of the human existence.'

In affluent countries of the world with a very slow rate of population not affected by problem of over population but the environmental damage caused by discriminate use of technological knowledge and the application of limited world resources for exchanging the standard of living causing the ecological imbalance. This situation has forced on them the need of population education. In developing countries where the growth rate of population is very high the need for the small family norms is very urgent. So population education is dire need of the present age for all the countries of the world. Thus population education is new philosophy of living, based on the ideal of planned families, where there is concern not only for the individual's well being but for the welfare of the society as whole is becoming essential.

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