

Education in 21st Century

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Abstract

At the beginning of 21 century in the domain of teaching and education, it is felt that there are a lot of disadvantages in education system on a scale of the current outputs. Furthermore, the quick changes in different fields, changes in the needs of the society and the appearance of new jobs, all together demand a revision in the educational system.

A quick outlook of education system reveals that to win public trust, training admirable teachers is very important. So, it is important to pay attention to the training programs of education system and prepare creative and admirable teachers as members of this system. Roger Kofman believes that the rate of success in an educational system depends on the compatibility of the goals of the system and the goals of the society. So, the following questions are going to be discussed in this article.

1. How is the educational system in 21st century?
2. What are the characteristics of teachers in 21st century?

Key words: 21st century, management, management in 21st century, teacher in 21st century, teaching and education in 21st century.

Introduction

The start of the third millennium has been called the age of knowledge and the information explosion age.

Education system has allocated most of its activities to transferring information and making students memorize more information more than before.

Now, the most important point is that of answering one main question:

Do the current methods meet the needs of student at the beginning of the new century? And if not, which changes are needed to make this education system to be more efficient?

The education system is currently influenced by the high development of technology.

Ceremin and Shin state that those who are in charge of planning for all the grades from the beginning till graduation in education must be aware of the new revolution of microelectronic which is changing the jobs and their environment. We are actually experiencing a revolution which is changing everything.

In other words, one may completely be ready for a job but it may be changed.

By considering these changes in education and training, learning new skills by managers and employees is seen as a necessary act; in fact, educating them while they are working keep them up to date. According to Alvin Tofler, Today schools are producing workers for whom there isn't any factory in future. In schools in future some points are required to be considered seriously such as variation, individualism and concentration on creativity of students. (Kermin 1978, p.44)

Teaching and Education in 21st Century

The experts of education and training in 21st century believe that every 5 years the knowledge of human being is doubled and nowadays it seems it is doubled every two months.

However, the impacts of such revolution are not the same in different countries all around the world. For example, the numbers of children who can go to the schools in the poor countries are fewer than some countries such as the north and the west of America and the west of Europe.

Now, it is clear that public education must be the headline of universal education and teaching programs. And the doors of schools must be open to people who need learning. So these objectives can be considered by education system:

- Teaching the masses of people because of patriotism.
- Achieving the society development
- Teaching the educated people so that they can be ready for the required jobs within a society.

To achieve the mentioned objectives, the previous education system is required to be replaced by a new one. The most important concern is related to that part of education system which manages the affairs of elementary school.

In the previous century the education system couldn't establish a link between objectives, content of education and life.

As Kelapard says, "schools are very far from life. It is an environment which doesn't show clearly the conditions of society for its members of it."

Nowadays, the problem of education isn't a local problem of only one country. All of the parents are worried about the low quality of their children's educations and nations worry about the next generation, because the education systems have not been successful to reform the society.

Harlen and Levin have doubts about the role of educational system within the society. However, they approve an education system which does not admit the injustice within a society and considers itself accountable for that injustice.

As Harlen and Levin say education system, as a basis of other resources, plays a very important and unique role in development. So, nowadays the development experts believe that the reliable way to resolve the economic and society crisis, in the major or even short-term programming, is that of investment and reformation in the educational system.

But this investment must be based on development priorities, facilities, the realities of every society and realistic and accessible objectives. (Mewy 1984)

Furthermore evidences tell us that the modern human being is entering a period of time where sciences become dominant in and unpredictable condition will appear and the only way to encounter such era is to educate human beings to understand and accept the

changes that may appear. On the other hand, the modern human is entering a superior industrial age, the symbol of which is computer. Power, money and knowledge are three elements which have the main roles in the economical and political life.

If there is one way for the third world countries, it is just strengthening the bases of knowledge and founding the structures to train the children of these societies in the best way and making them ready for the present and future changes of the world. Undoubtedly, in order to prepare the best conditions in the education system of the third world Countries, lots of changes in all directions are required.

To provide universal education, educational system cannot offer education and training which are compatible with recent changes in this century by them, so they must compatible themselves by in-house and out-house changes, transformation of duties, operation, structure and execution of combination and always keep their flexibility whenever it is needed. Hence educational system is responsible to evaluate the environmental changes and every predictable change must be taken into consideration in making decision to reach the balance point.

The Main Problems of Education in 21st Century

Of course nobody can say the features of 21st century .But it is clear that the speed of the world isn't like a thousand years ago, and it is hopeful that the human being who has been recognized and praised as the lord of all creatures on the Earth in Holy Quran due to the power of his brain can find a solution for the problems of this century.

But it seems that educational system will encounter four important problems in 21st century and they are not solved.

1. Increment the number of students and programming accurately and foresightedly
2. The quality of education and the standards of universal and native sciences.
3. Increasing profit in all direction.
4. Comparative studies and transformation which bases on time, necessity and culture.

The Effective Elements in Education

In a large scale, the educational system is under the forces of politics, technology, economic and society.

These forces can be lessened if education system considers four main learning elements of the UNESCO which are learning for understanding, learning for doing, learning for living and learning for coexistence.

The political force specially has destructive effects on undeveloped and developing countries. The educational system which needs a peaceful environment will be destroyed by the political events and the limited time and energy which it needs for education must be expenditure for improvement.

The Education Management in 21st Century

In this century the management of education has a lot of problems such as, lack of updated information of management, unresponsive to the need of students, unprepared condition of teaching, incompetent teachers regarding the methods of teaching, domination of traditional system, fading the current fields of education, appearance of the new fields and skills, the conflict between traditions and modernism, lack of participation of people in the procedure of education, undesirable quality of graduates,....

Nowadays, the managers of educational centers not only are required to have technical and professional awareness of the problems of education well, but also they need to be aware of training people for future jobs which are changing continuously.

Systematic ways of management, the management of the complete quality, the management based on goals, decentralized management, management of participation, and combination of mentioned ways are efficient ways for managing. Which can help managers. (Lankarani, 2001)

The Role of Schools in 21st Century

Schools must have conditions and facilities which not only meet the needs of students but also the needs of society and paves the way for the individual and social development.

The following are the attributes of schools in 21 century:

1. Freedom of action in making decisions.
2. Complete and universal education program
3. Kind, powerful and sympathetic staff.
4. Participating parents in all affairs.
5. Communication with all developed schools in the world.
6. Doing affairs mechanically.
7. Connection between schools education and the needs of society.
8. Providing and editing the concept of education.
9. Using developed facilities.
10. Using the new method of teaching.
11. Intelligence
12. School, a center of coordinated learning.
13. School is a link between a person, society and the world.
14. The equivalence of chances.
15. Open environment instead of the close environment of the class.
16. Participating students in school affairs.
17. Combination of theoretical and practical courses.
18. The role of students in regulating school.
19. Teachers, leader of life
20. Upgrading the improvement level of students.

The Role of Teachers in 21st Century

People like changes but they fear sudden changes. The changes in the new century happen very fast such as development of knowledge, using computer, various software and world-wide networks as the tools of learning instead of books. But teachers adapt to the new situation slowly and with small steps; they don't accept the new changes easily; changes happen automatically and out of the teachers' control. So teachers feel they don't have enough time to keep up with them and this feeling make them reclusive.

They feel lonely and incapable, resist changes and show hostility toward the managers who cannot understand their feeling.

Lucos and Layerman pointed out to some elements in their researches that can direct the teachers' behaviors' changes:

1. To explain and determine the future outlook.
2. To give enough time to keep up with changes.
3. To create a protected environment.

So the education plans are required to make the participation of teachers in the flow of changes easy.

A suitable environment will praise their participation and have a good output. So they feel they are useful and important in the flow of changes. Teachers need an appropriate time to test and run the new programs. They also need enough time to make themselves compatible with the new educational concepts.

In addition, communication is a process which makes the coordination of teachers along the changes easy through interacting opinions, values and feelings. So it is important for the organization and managers to support teachers in order to access the communication and information continuously (Jackson 1992)

The Course Programming in 21st Century

The most important problem in programming is which educational concept is the most valuable one? In other words, which characteristics an educated is required to have? It is necessary to consider the dimensions such as cognitive, emotional, psychology motive and learning to evaluate the educational concepts.

The most important problem is the combination and integration of learning. The combinations make a horizontal connection between all subjects with different concepts of courses.

Siller and Alexander (1984) believe that, in learning, just combination is permanent, and combination helps students to have a constant looking to knowledge and a depth meaning of subjects.

The S.T.S programming (science .teaching .science) is an appropriate program for starting the third millennium .This program is a combination of science which means theoretical knowledge and practical viewpoints. (Smith, Estali, Shorts, 1992)

Panser and Estezik also debated four effective elements:

1. Logical sequence of programming
2. Meaningful relations of educational programs.
3. A research relation of educational program
4. A useful relation of learning

Logical sequence of programming means the execution of basic learning and considering the learning requirements.

The purpose of meaningful relation which is based on knowledge structure, is the relation between the concepts and the knowledge hidden within them and are influenced by Hildataba's opinion.

The Characteristic of a Teacher in 21st Century

a) Information

The characteristic of a teacher is upbringing and updating information. In information discussion ICT has an especially place which we will consider it.

1. Familiarity with educational technology.
2. Familiarity with the universal standards of work quality.
3. Upgrading the public information.
4. Modern teaching
5. Participating in educational courses
6. Familiarity with the bases of educational psychology
7. Having a plan for teaching(Afrooz, 2003))

b) Innovation ,

Teachers must have the following features:

1. Creativity
2. Making a world of questions in the class.
3. Making a world of imagination in the class
4. Not to fear of defeat
5. Risking
6. Capable to change presumption
7. Recognizing the needs of students
8. To cure the disabilities of learning
9. To understand the individual differences

c) Skill and speed

The teacher must have skill and speed in the following cases:

1. Individual skills
2. Relationship skills
3. Teaching skills
4. Using the tools of educational aid(educational technology)
5. The skill of abstract thinking
6. The skill of analyzing problems

d) Moral characteristics:

1. To consider the social conventions
2. Cheerfulness
3. To have well ordered appearance
4. Broad-mindedness
5. Sincerity
6. To give personality to others
7. To be abide by commitments
8. Abstinence
9. Dutifulness
10. Kindness
11. Having a correct looking
12. To give priority to the society's benefit before herself or himself benefit

Conclusion

In universal declaration of public education, it is clearly mentioned that it is impossible for societies to provide public education unless other governmental and nongovernmental organization and religious groups and families have cooperation.

The method of cooperative management is based on the cooperation of all groups involved in the educational system. The participation in the educational system may fulfill all the great needs of people. They participate in all affairs from making decision to execution and they feel they have an effective role in the system. So they do their best to achieve the objectives of educational system.

In conclusion, it can be said that the educational system isn't the only rescuer to the pains of society, but without it we can't find any solution to the problems. However, regarding most of the misfortunes in the current century such as the fall of moral values, unemployment, the destruction of environment, poverty, superstitions, the tribe dogmatism, violence, the destructive diseases, destructive wars and addiction can all be solved by reforming the educational system.

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