

# Need for population education

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The authority has the power to select and then to cancel the same. But why the process should take one year to do so? Thus they did dis-service to the Population Education Programme and through it to the nation/country. Responsibility should be fixed up for such a colossal wastage of money, time and energy.

But they have no accountability for such actions. No body questions them for such a huge wastage. They shed crocodile tears for the success of Population Policy. Can anybody think of a bigger paradox than this?

During the autocratic regime, Mass Education efforts were stopped and the Population Education Project was not extended.

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reduced and extended to a great extent and a huge allocation of fund was made with the aim to human resource development and poverty alleviation. But although Propaganda have been made for all out efforts to make Population Policy a success through Population Education, Programmes implementation, Population Education, as development efforts, was not given such due importance.

As a result, Population Education was not taught in the schools and whatever progress was made earlier in Population Education teaching learning process was lost and has not yet been revived. NCTB (National Curriculum and Text Book Board), with the instruction from the Ministry of Education, and UNFPA Financial assistance, started a new project namely Institutionalization of Population Education in the formal school system. But till the present time (i.e. mid 1993) they have not yet been able to carry out its activities in full

swing. Recruitment of personnel has not yet been completed though three years have almost finished. Huge Funds invested in F. F. and Population. Many people working in Population and Family Planning. But the cent percent desired targets could not be achieved. This is due to lack of education.

Education and Education alone can help improve this situation.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF POPULATION EDUCATION

Population Education is a new emergence in the area of Academic discipline. It reveals a new horizon in Education. It is an innovation in Education. Unlike other academic discipline, it has some characteristics as given below.

- a) It is a goal directed subject
- b) It is a value laden

- c) It is a problem oriented subject
- d) It is a multi-disciplinary educational efforts
- e) Its practically is more important than its theoretical aspect

It is very difficult to teach this subject because of

## PART THREE

its technical nature and peculiar characteristics. Proper justice cannot be done to it by any body and every body. A person having higher degrees in any subject area cannot do justice to the subject unless and until he has practical training, experiences and developed expertise in the line. But in this country of unfortunate, this may not be known to the authority who might exercise power to determine

the fate of the programme in future. Its practical aspects is more important which should not be ignored.

We should not forget the characteristics of the subject that Population Education is a value laden subject. It is problem oriented and goal directed also. The study of the subject will provide the students to rational attitudinal changes and responsible behaviour.

This is not an easy matter and anybody cannot do it. To make the population education programme effective and to avoid the paradox the following suggestions may be given due importance:

- 1) To appoint suitable persons to do justice to the programme.
- 2) Population Education should be treated in letter and spirit as a priority programme.
- 3) There should be no contradiction any where in the programme.
- 4) Arrangement for

proper monitoring evaluation, and follow up should be made at every stage.

5) Population and for that matter Population Education should be treated as a socially viable programme by covering the whole education system to reach all teachers and students.

6) Non specialists should have no access in any process of Population Education.

7) Arrangements be made for in built system of accountability at every stage of the programme.

8) Extensive Training for teachers and others be organised.

9) Motivational measures be taken for all teachers and workers of Population Education.

10) Evaluative studies be arranged as and when needed.

11) Well-organised documentation, publications and Library services be ensured.

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