

FOR COMPLETE EDUCATION

Although the budget allocation for education has progressively increased over the years and constitutes the highest sectoral provision now, the general standard of education has rather deteriorated causing an apprehension that the investment on may not give adequate return. Class rooms of various seats of learning seem to have substantially lost their import as institutional arrangement for imparting education to the young learners. Otherwise, why has private tuition lately thrived so much as an informal business or, if one would call it so, a thought industry? Why do the young learners need to receive instructions privately outside their class rooms? Why does the solvent section of worried parents engage private tutors to take care of education of their wards? And why do less fortunate poor parents often lament that their wards will not do well in the examinations for not being at the care of good private tutors? Clearly, many or most of our educational institutions are failing to serve their purpose as seats of learning. Who is to blame for it? Teachers, students or the authorities responsible for overseeing education?

Education is the process of intellectual empowerment to enable individuals to sharpen and fruitfully utilise their genetic potentials. It is an investment to create superior manpower for being the engine of growth. In the competitive world of our times education has to be qualitatively better than or at least at par with that of other nations to enable us to compete effectively with the rest of the world in production, services and ideas. Otherwise, we would be outdone by others in the global race for superiority in innovation, product development, trade, scientific research and every other pursuits that lead to meaningful advancement. But is it possible to ensure proper intellectual empowerment of all our young learners when class rooms have seemingly ceased to be ideal for acquiring knowledge? Obviously, no. The vast majority of students, who come from poor families and cannot engage tutors, will be deprived of intellectual empowerment to the extent their education in class rooms remains

incomplete. They will grow up as half-baked manpower, incompetent for any good job.

If quality education for better competition in the global race for advancing national causes is our motto and if we want to transform our people into superior manpower with competitive education, then the class rooms must be converted into effective institutional arrangement for learning. All our boys and girls, irrespective of their status on the economic scale, should receive the careful attention of and best instructions from teachers. They shouldn't require to engage private tutors to make up what teachers could not do in class rooms. The instructions on varied subjects provided in the class should be thoroughly explained enabling every student to grasp it adequately and properly so that he or she will have no confusion about the knowledge imparted. It may be an exacting task for the teacher. But without that kind of an education, the investment on may deliver disproportionately low return.

Again, if a little learning is actually a dangerous thing, then our very enlightened self-interest requires that our wards receive complete education, complete in respect of understanding and base of information pertinent for their individual level. How to convert class rooms into effective arrangement for wholesome education? While official supervision may be further strengthened to ensure that academic institutions run better, a new rule may be set requiring every member of a school committee to possess defined high level of education. It should also stipulate that a member of a school committee should be either a native of area of location of the school or should have at least a ward attending it. Another rule may impose the condition that a teacher will not receive govt. benefits if he or she is involved in private tuition and that the head of the institution will have to certify that he or she is not so involved on bills for drawal of such benefits. The rule may contain a provision that wrong statement on the bills will lead to cancellation of affiliation of the school concerned and termination of services of both the benefactor and the beneficiary. Bare prohibition of private tuition will not suffice to stop it.