

Need for Remedial Teaching among the Secondary School Students of Rural Kerala

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Abstract

Kerala, the first state to acquire cent percent literacy in the country, had given birth to many intellectuals and eminent scholars. It is evident that most of them attained the zeniths of fame fighting with the adverse socio- economic conditions in their life. Every victorious man points to their teachers who inspired and motivated them towards their goal. Proper inspiration and motivation made them to arise from the unknown parts of rural Kerala to conquer the heights of success.

This proves that through proper inspiration the teachers can give birth to great men from the rural areas. The rural areas will be backward in the social and economic conditions. They will be lacking facilities and the problems of the students from these areas will be much more that of the urban students. Compared to the urban areas the rural students have to face many problems for their education.

There are many factors which make the students from the rural areas slow learners. Through remedial teaching the slow learners from the rural sides can be converted to fruitful students. For that the teacher must analyze the student's social, economic and political environment. Based on the analysis of the teacher he/she has to employ effective teaching methods based on remedial teaching. The attachment of the teacher with the students plays a vital role in the remedial teaching. Proper communication between the student and the teacher is very essential for the remedial teaching method. This paper discusses the problems of rural students in Kerala and the remedy for their problems from the part of the teachers.

KEYWORDS: Kerala, secondary school students, remedial teaching, future, quality of teaching

Introduction

Full many a gem of purest ray serene,
The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear:
Full many a flow'r is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air. (Gray)

The great visionary poet of English literature Thomas Gray informs the world about the enormous talent and resources hidden in the unexplored areas of the world. The talents perish being unnoticed by the world, without any development as they are not directed and motivated properly. The immense talent hidden in the remote areas of Kerala

must be explored so as to make it useful for the world. In order to produce valuable gems from the interior parts of Kerala the teachers have to toil in picking the students and directing them to the goal with proper planning and patience at the period of secondary education. The teachers must explore the innovative methods of teaching deviating from the traditional methods. The duty of the teacher is not the completion of the syllabus alone. He has to make a bridging between the students so as to analyze the problems of the students. The students who are considered to be slow learners and useless by the parents and the teachers can be made productive with remedial teaching.

“...remedial teaching means a specific program set up to correct learning problems of earlier years, in order to return a pupil to the educational level he or she should have reached (Duminy 1996). Remedial teaching includes the selection of slow learners from the students and directing them in the right way diagnosing their problems in the learning process. “Remedial teaching services have increasingly seen their role providing support to the teachers and pupils within schools and classes...” (Gulliford 1992).The lack of interest in the academic process and the aversion towards the process of learning may be the reflection of the social and economic problems of the student. Since the secondary education period is one of the main periods in a student’s life, the teachers must take special attention for the problems of the students in this age. The teacher must be aware of the available facilities in rural areas and the conditions prevailing in the society. The teacher must analyze the problems of the students, which they suffer from the family and the society. There are many factors which impede the students from the process of learning and make them slow learners.

The poor economic condition of the student is the major factor in the rural areas which distracts them from learning. Most of the parents from the rural sides will be workers who toil to make both ends meet with the limited income they earn. They will be unable to send their students for higher studies. This will reflect in their attitude towards the education of their children. This thought makes the parent away from the matters concerning the education of their children. Most of the parents who took interest in the matters of the children’s primary education fail to pursue the interest in the matter of their higher studies as it is much expensive. This compels the students to wind up their education in the secondary period or in the higher secondary period. This thought and the experience of the former students from the rural side generates a negative approach towards education. The negative approach results in lack of interest and aversion towards the learning process. As a result of this the students turn idle and uninterested in the academic exercise. They develop the feeling that despite the hard work and academic entanglement they are not going for the higher studies and they had to confine their dreams in the locality. They think that their future is destined to work in the rural areas for their bread. The dreamless life makes them slow learners. Thus, in spite of the talent and abilities of the students come backward in the academic programs. The effective involvement of the teacher in these matters will make the students to overcome their problem and pursue their education for a better future. The teacher has to make acquaintance with the parents and have to inform their parents about the ways in which the students from rural, poor families can continue their education. This will help the parents to develop a positive attitude towards educating their children. The funds and

financial assistance from the part of government and other NGOs can be made possible for the students from the poor families.

It is not only poor children show an aversion towards learning but the students from the elite families discard the process of education. The aversion towards the academic process is because of the luxuries and comforts they enjoy in the time of education. They think that the enormous amount of money will be sufficient for their future life and there is no need of their job and earning for the family. The present condition of the rich boys is that even after their failure in the academic process they are either rooted in some business or placed in some foreign countries with the help of their parents. They never think that the luxuries and comforts will never remain forever. So after completing their secondary education they roam around until they are placed by their parents.

Another attitude which is evident in the elite parents is over expectation in the future of their children. The over expectation in the future of the student make them to compel the students to learn everything ignoring their taste. The parents watching the highly employed persons in the society want their children to imitate them for their future. This makes confusion among the students. The students are forced to study different things at a moment. The parents ignore the capability of the students and put several burdens on them. It develops an aversion among the students and makes them slow learners. Both these attitudes among the rich can be remedied by the proper approach of the teacher. The teacher have to make the parents aware of the capabilities of the students and have to insist the parents to give the children lessons and load based on their abilities . The teacher can make use of the parents meeting for better interaction with the parents.

The students from the rural areas in the secondary levels are facing many problems from the society. The senior students and the school dropouts discourage them from learning and they encourage them to join some jobs in the rural areas so that they can earn even in the teenage. This attitude to earn as soon as possible makes them to stick for a job dropping from the school. They think that earning money at an earlier stage makes them matured. The compulsion from the elders makes the students slow learners. It is defect of the society that the younger generation is not well informed about the different options in the higher education arena. This ignorance makes them to select options according to the choice of their parents and relatives. This creates problem among the students.

There are instances in the gulf countries that the well educated are under employed and those with preliminary knowledge are posted in higher posts. This creates an illusion among the students that education is not a major factor for higher posts. They feel that money and power can make everything. This pulls them backward from learning. The society expects the children of traditional workers like carpenters, blacksmith to follow their parents and find their livelihood in the job. This compels the students to confine their education to the secondary level. As they need only to read and write and do fundamental calculation for their job.

The seeds of caste system still remain in the minds of the people, though it is wiped out from Kerala soil. The higher caste still believes that acquiring higher posts through education is the monopoly of the higher caste. This attitude of the people discourages the lower caste student to limit his education to secondary level. A saying in Malayalam is very famous in the rural areas as '*chermanu athikarippani*' which means the higher posts in the society will never suit the lower castes. The teachers have to make awareness in the society that the government is implementing many schemes for the education of the traditional workers and lower caste in the society. The lower caste students in the society must be pulled from their prejudices and must be made to learn making use of the funds from the government. The teacher has to inform them the vast areas that they can explore in the field of traditional jobs making use of the advancement in science and technology.

The environment in the family is a major factor which produces the slow learners. The clashes between the parents and unrest in the family will affect the students very much. The parents who are addicted to alcohol and drugs will be careless about the student's education. The children will be deserted in the house as they are never cared by the parents. The condition of the children of the divorced parents and that of the orphans will affect their education. The treatment of the parents develops both negative and positive attitude towards life and education. The disturbed condition at the time of learning in home makes them to remind of the unrest in the family whenever they open the book. This produces slow learners. The teachers making use of the parents and teachers association meetings can purify the family to make an atmosphere for the student to learn. The students having psychological difficulties can be treated with counseling. The problems in the society and family create psychological problems among the students. They develop pessimism and inferiority complex, which will affect their future. The humiliation from the part of the students, parents, relatives and teachers make the slow learners more slow. The arguments and compulsion from these authorities generates stress in the students and makes them slow learners. Proper counseling and patient approach can only bring result in the remedial method of teaching.

The atmosphere in the educational institution also influences the children. The 'no detention system' is a major concern. The students are promoted to the higher classes based on the attendance even though they score lower marks in the exams. This lack of base in the subject makes the students slow learners. Crowded class rooms make the teacher unable to analyze the problems of the students. The comparison of the slow learners with the brilliant students ditches them and affects their leaning to the negative end. The inefficiency of the teacher in the teaching methods and the lack of excellence in the subject affect the students learning process. "In adequacy in the studies such as the short duration of remedial teaching and the use of teachers without specific training render these failures..." (Hulme 2015)

Conclusion

Proper teaching with the help of remedial teaching will help the slow learners to come forward in the exams and the curricular activities. The hidden abilities and talents in the slow learners can be found and explored for the betterment of the future of the students through "... identification of the weaknesses and strength of the pupil." (Sharma 2009).

Remedial teaching in the students in the rural areas will help the backward students to come forward in their academic venture. Education can be redefined with the help of remedial teaching for better future. The revival of the education in the rural areas can be achieved through remedial teaching.

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“... identification of the weaknesses and strength of the pupil.” (Sharma 25).