Education: Reflections, Issues and Solutions

Ashish Hattangdi,
Faculty of Management,
Alkesh Dinesh Mody Institute of Financial and Management Studies,
Mumbai University, India.
E-mail: ashish.hattangdi@admi.mu.ac.in

Abstract

Education is necessary for a civilized individual and a civilized society. No matter how many laws and policies we pass in favor of civilization, they will remain at least partially ineffective without the education of the masses. For example, we have the traffic signals so that the traffic can move smoothly in a relatively orderly way and prevent accidents. However if one is not educated about the traffic signal system, the individual will find it difficult to appreciate the value and the significance of the same. Penalties for violating traffic rules can only happen after the event/accident has happened and would be like wisdom in hindsight. Education gives us the foresight as well as the training to realize the value in the systems, even if they are imperfect, and to respect them. However, in the economic competition for resources, licenses, degrees and marks, individuals often value exams more than the educational process. While exams may be useful for a fair distribution of skilled labor in the society, education is much more important. The problem arises when exams dominate the mind as compared to the education process. Exams, to be objective and fair, require answers in multiple choice formats. Assessment of these exams can be outsourced to machines such as computers. As a result, this usually promotes rote learning of formulae and the speedy execution of them during the limited time in exams.

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