

Congress party Govt. destroying the education in India

sahastrabhuj

Total failure on education front

By **Dina Nath Batra**

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Policy of 50 per cent reservation for Muslim students in Aligarh Muslim University itself exposes the sectarian policy of the government. Setting-up of Minority Education Commission, making special budgetary provisions for the minority students, Andhra Pradesh government enacted a law for five per cent reservation for Muslims.

Government has failed in stopping the commercialisation of education. There is exploitation of students by the self-financial institutions. The proposals such as reserving 50 per cent seats for the management and recovering capital expenditure from student fees is a classic example of the present government's disinterest towards the student community.

UPA government has paved the way for entry of foreign universities in the country. We should remember what Max Muller had earlier remarked. "We have conquered this land once and shall conquer it again through education." Are we on guard against commercialisation, westernisation and permissiveness and are ready to combat onslaughts on our culture, living and life?

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The UPA Government has miserably failed to produce any tangible result or even to demonstrate any seriousness about implementation of any constructive programme in the field of education. Present HRD Minister Shri Arjun Singh is only busy in dismantling the systemic reformed achievements of the NDA Government. The first priority of Shri Arjun Singh was to put a political siege on institutions, victimisation and demoralisation of honest workers.

The Ministry at the behest of Marx and Macaulay manasputras banned the publication of the book Vedanta written by Dr Karan Singh, Trikusral by Thiruvallavum and global educational changes summarising the contents of 41 international reports on education and related areas. It was an insult to the whole teaching community. The book about the life and contribution of 21 school teachers who participated in the freedom struggle was also banned. It was a clear arrogant display of power and authority in respect of NCERT, an apex level autonomous institution.

The comrades wanted the new history books brought out under the NDA regime to be removed and 20-25 years old books written by their fellow travellers be replaced immediately. A drama of three member committee was staged to go through the books. They came forward with the recommendations without making any useful suggestion. They saw saffornisation and toxification in the portions such as India is my motherland and Saraswati is a pious river. They termed these lines emotional and thus humiliated the nation by recommending the old books. Those books were brought back with vengeance. The books were full of many biased distortions, besides factual inaccuracies.

The students were forced to read that our ancestors were beef-eaters and Aryans were foreign invaders. The great freedom fighters and martyrs were extremists and terrorists. Guru Govind Singh was Mansab in Mughal Darbar. Guru Teg Bahadur, Jats, Sikhs and Shivaji were plunderers. Aurangzeb was a living saint. Is it not an insult to our history, dharma and national heroes?

The Hindi books are the worst ever produced. After a year of ideological dithering the NCERT allowed the textbooks that are vulgar and obscene all for providing realistic education to impressionable minds. At least four books Antra, Aroh, Sparsh and Rimjhim for 2007-2008 session have liberal use of filthiest colloquial invective. The Constitution may bar the use of words and expressions such as Bhangi, Chamar, Achut that can offend sensibilities but that is no sin for NCERT.

Now the Ministry of Human Resource Development in partnership with the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) has launched Adolescent Education Programme with sex education. We are aping the West. The objective publicised is to protect the students from HIVAIDS but the syllabus prepared for it is so much indecent, damaging and obscene that it will increase the disease on much higher rate.

The move of the Government has been vehemently opposed by Jain Acharya Vijayratnasunder Surishwar Maharaj, Chief Justice of Supreme Court (retd) Shri R.C. Lahoti, senior BJP leader Dr Murli Manohar Joshi, former ambassador Shri O.P. Gupta, Sant Asaram Bapu, Baba Ramdev and many other educationists, psychologists, social workers, sociologists and illumanries of the country. The move is gaining ground resulting ten state governments banning the sex education in their respective states. This is the failure of the adventure of Arjun Singh.

All these changes are being made in the name of National Curriculum Framework 2005 that militates against the wisdom and psyche of the nation. The National Curriculum Framework- 2005, prepared by the NCERT under instructions from the UPA Government, is a document of political, educational and moral depravity and delusions. This new Curriculum Framework, negating the basic objectives of education and aiming at distracting it from the desired goals, has been presented against the vision and aspirations of Indian thinkers, educationists and the people.

Elementary education is in a mess. It is a matter of shame that 90,000 schools don't have even blackboards. Ironically such state of affairs exist not only in rural areas but also in urban schools in some states. There are thousands of schools which also do not have buildings, drinking water facilities, toilets, boundaries and playgrounds. The shocking tale of neglect does not even end here. There are schools which have only one class room. To call them school is in itself a travesty.

Drop-out rate is a matter of alarm. It is 31.47 per cent at primary level, 52-32 per cent at middle level and 62.69 per cent at secondary level. In socially disadvantage groups, the rate is further higher. In case of Scheduled Tribes the drop-out is 79 per cent at national level. In case of Scheduled Castes this rate in classes I-X is 73.13 per cent.

Sarva Siksha Abhiyan has a very deceptive story to tell. At many places the attendance between 12 noon and 1.00 pm has improved because of the Mid-day Meal Scheme. Rest of the time they disappear from the scene or teachers are not available.

The policy of UPA Government is proving itself to stand for encouragement of minorities, commercialisation and corruption in educational institutions. The

majority in the country indeed feel that it is constitution of second class citizen. Many communities that are part of majority are trying to shed their majority identity and search for minority identity. The constitutionally devised schemes seem to extend the suspicion and distrust among the different communities. Articles 29 and 30 of Indian Constitution are hostile constructional imbalance between the majority and the minorities.

Policy of 50 per cent reservation for Muslim students in Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) itself exposes the sectarian policy of the government. Setting-up of Minority Education Commission, making special budgetary provisions for the minority students, the Andhra Pradesh government enacted a law for five per cent, reservation for Muslims. Many problems are being created due to increasing number of minority institutions. The students are converting their religion to seek admission in different courses.

The act of division among the students is on the increase. In practical terms the government of the day is setting clear signals that the national bodies like UGC, NCTE, MCI and others have neglected and ignored the concerns of minorities. Violent agitations in favour or against the quota reservation are becoming order of the day. Now constitutional bench will hear the Centre's plea seeking direction to vacate the March 29 order restraining the government from implementing the OBC quota law in central higher educational institutions. There is chaotic situation in the field of education.

The UPA Government has failed in stopping the commercialisation of education. There is exploitation of students by the self-financial institutions. The proposals such as reserving 50 per cent seats for the management and recovering capital expenditure from student fees is a classic example of the present government's disinterest towards the student community.

The government is not increasing the expenditure on education for its development. It seems that the government in the name of privatisation of education is escaping from its duty. Teachers' posts are lying vacant and in many cases these are filled on contract or adhoc basis. The quality of education is not being maintained. Attempts are made to reduce the scholarship amount for economically backward students and in fact such scholarships have been stopped in many states. The economically deprived students are facing problems.

Growing corruption in various universities is causing anxiety. Political vendetta between the governor (chancellor) and the state government has led to the

removal of six vice chancellors on the ground of corrupt practices. It has led to meddling with the future of thousands of students and autonomy of the universities. Political interference and corruption in the universities is telling upon the health of higher education.

The UPA Government has paved the way for entry of foreign universities in the country. We should remember what Max Muller had earlier remarked, “We have conquered this land once and shall conquer it again through education.” Are we on guard against commercialisation, westernisation and permissiveness and are ready to combat onslaughts on our culture, living and life?

The Knowledge Commission report states many ideals such as “excellence” “quality improvement”, “justifiability”, “development”, etc. The report does not explain these ideals in measurable terms to make them practical and workable. It is one dimensional report catering to the needs and aspirations of the industrial sector of the country. Most of the recommendations in the report are the repetition of the previous reports and a few are vague and impractical.

I conclude with the observation of Prof. Dayanand Dongaonkar, secretary general of Association of Indian Universities. We are the country of the contrasts. Some of the glaring feature are:

- * We are the third largest higher education system in the world, but only 7 per cent of our youth are enrolled in higher education (age group of 17-24).**
- * We say, we are a country of intellectuals supplying manpower to the world, but 35 per cent of the population is illiterate.**
- * We have a target of enrolment in higher education i.e., 20 per cent by 2020, but the school drop-out rate (1st to 10th) is 62.69 per cent (Some states and communities up to 90 per cent).**
- * The economy of the country is booming, but one-fourth of the population is below poverty line.**
- * We are ambitions to be nuclear super power but our human development index is 0.5595 and we are at 127th position in the list of 177 countries.**
- *We have got 73 per cent population residing in rural areas, but 90 per cent (approximately) of educational institutes are in urban areas (particularly in higher education).**
- *India’s national policy says “education is for social good”, but many governments are withdrawing from the responsibility.**
- *Our tradition says, Acharya Devo Bhava i.e teacher is like God, but what is the ground reality? (readers to judge).**
- *Our tradition says, Maatri Devo Bhava, i.e. mother is like God, but women illiteracy rate in the country is 45 per cent (Bihar 66 per cent).**

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