THE ETHICS OF EDUCATION IN MODERN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Education is a noble profession which can be defined as a process of making others knowledgeable with the knowledge you possess. Noble profession attracts noble minds that are dedicated to deliver not only knowledge but also the values of life, latest information related to the subject and their own inner knowledge to the learners. This is how the relationship of a teacher and a student is defined right from the emergence of the 'Art of Education'. Strength of this relationship has been able to keep the flow of knowledge from one generation to the next continuous. Somehow, if learning new subjects is a tough exercise, teaching has also never been an easy job.

Keywords: *Ethics, Art of Education, Modern India, Learners, Personality Grooming.*

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Introduction

Research Question

- Are educational practices ethical in modern India?
- What is the role of educators in modern India?

Hypotheses

H_0: Educational practices are ethical in modern India.

H_1: Educational practices are not ethical in modern India.

Methods and Materials

The research is empirical and exploratory both by nature. Primary data is collected to analyze the perception of Indians towards the element of ethicality in the education system of India. Secondary data is collected from books, journals and articles. For the survey, sample size is 24, 25 questionnaires were circulated but only 24 were received with responses. 16.7% respondents were from the age group- 18 to 25, while 83.3% respondents were more than 35 years of age. The respondents were from Indian states- Rajasthan, Gujarat and Kanataka, a small percentage of respondents were non resident Indians. The data has been analyzed to arrive at findings. Recommendations and suggestions for the decision makers of the education industry of India is based on these findings.

Education Industry of India

India is a maturing country and so are it's industries. Education industry of India is divided between public and private sectors. It can be evidently seen that public schools are poorly resourced while the private schools are known for their luxurious ways of educating the kids. High salaried staff, preference to English communication, focus on personality grooming, international exposure to the students are a few key highlights of private sector schools. But there is one good thing that the poorly resourced public schools are making education available to all the children of India. Though this approach is bringing inequality in the education industry, it has to be tolerated if the two goals- 1. upliftment in the level of education and 2.basic education to all, have to be met. Educators from both the sectors of the industry have different attitudes toward educating the kids.

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Higher education in India also operates with the help of the two sectors, but in higher education, Government institutions have earned a better reputation, because the private institutions are unaided most of the time. Limited resources hamper the growth of the institutes. India's educationists and educators should work on life sustaining social benefits for the welfare of the society.

Indian Ph D and doctorate level of education is known for its unethical practices. It was a news a few years back that sexual harrassment was very common from the male research guides to the female research scholars. Indian education system has education philanthropists also in it and private education entrepreneurs who contribute to both the goals for the betterment of Indian society. The Right to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 through Parliament. which became law in 2010 has brought some light to the dark indian education system**.**

Perception of Indians towards Ethics in Education Industry

The teachers are appreciated when the students score good marks, but they are blamed also if the student does not learn. Since imparting education demands a two way input,

- Input from the teacher in terms of his/her knowledge and expertise in delivering that knowledge

- Input from the student to give his/her hundred percent by focusing on the topic of discussion and analyzing the facts shared by the teacher. A learner also may collect more information related t8o the subject and enrich his own knowledge.

Hence the art of educating becomes a two way process, but most pressure/burden of this responsibility lies on the shoulders of the teacher. In the ancient era also teachers like Dronacharya were questioned by the society of learners:

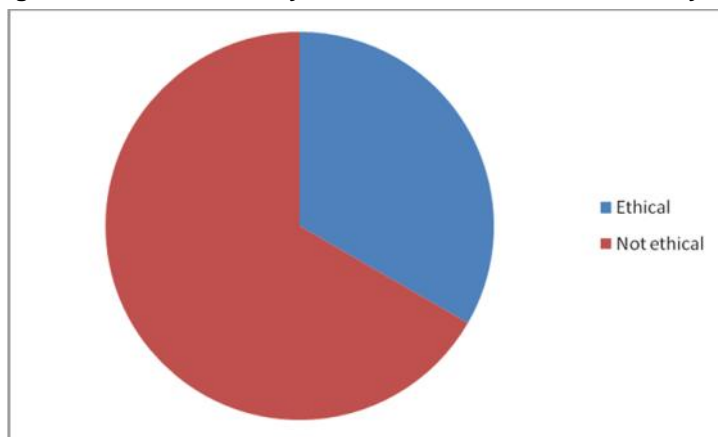Question: "Is it appropriate to attach politics to the noble profession of education?"

Answer: "It will take centuries for teachers to answer this question?

The answer given by Dronacharya stands true even today. The social and education systems are still trying to keep the profession of education, but unfortunately the 'power and politics' has engulfed this noble profession too. We as educators need to keep the ill effect of power and politics away from the nobility of the profession of education.

The following questions were asked from the respondents to analyze their perception toward the Indian Education System:

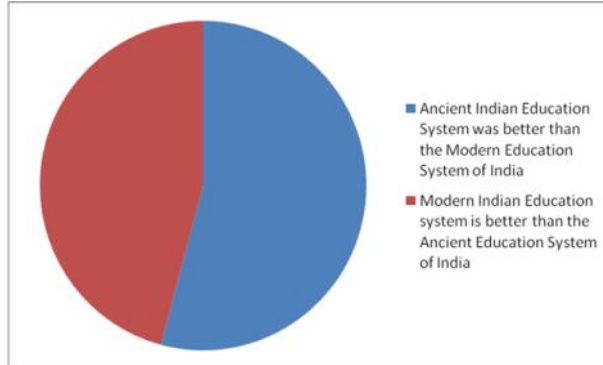- Education practices are ethical in Modern India?

Diagram1: Level of ethicality in the Modern Indian Education System

The diagram 1 above displays the perception of the Indian education system in the minds of Indian citizens. Perception is a strong indicator of the performance of a particular industry in an economy as it is the process by which individuals organize and interpret their sensory impressions in order to give meaning to their environmental events/happenings. Hence it becomes important for the researcher to study the perception of ethics of our education system in the minds of the customers of this industry. It can be seen from the diagram that 66.7% do not carry a very good image of the industry as far as the ethicality in the industry is concerned. Only 33.3% perceive the Indian Education System's practices as ethical.

Was the Ancient Indian Education system better than the modern education system of India?
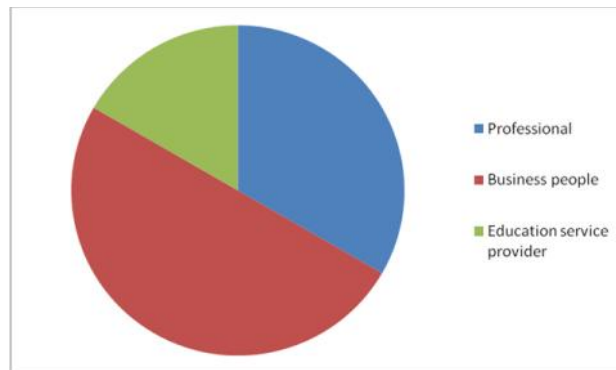
Diagram 2: Ancient or Modern Education System of India- Which one is better?

54% respondents perceive the ancient education system of India better than the modern education system, while 46% respondents showed a favor toward the modern education system. An open ended question was used in the questionnaire to find out the reasons behind this perception, discussed in the text ahead.
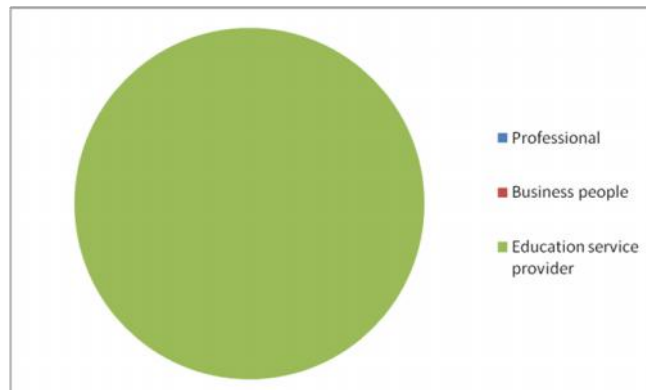
What is the role of educators in modern India?

Diagram 3: Role of Educators in Modern India

Fifty percent of the respondents perceive educators as mere business people, 33% as professionals and 17% as education service provider.

What kind of future role do you want Indian educators to play?

All the respondents want the educators to play the role of education service provider rather than business people or professionals. This clearly indicates the strong expectation of the customers from the industry.

The following table interprets the gap between present and desired state of the expectations of the customers from the industry.

Table 1: Gap Analysis of the Present State and future Customer Expectations from Education Industry of India

Role of Educators	Present status	Future Expectation
Professional	33	0
Business person	50	0
Education service provider	17	100

As Table 1 suggests the gap between the present status and future expectations for the image of education service providers needs to be reduced by improving the image of the educators in the eyes of the customers. In the services industry, it is defined as 'customer driven service standards which are based on customer expectations, customer experience and customer observations.

How can we improve the ethical standard of the modern Indian education system?

Indians want an education system that should have all the education service industry providers - no business persons, no professionals. 50% respondents believe that by applying ancient values of Ancient Indian Education System or following the age-old tradition of establishing a strong relationship between the 'Guru and shishya' the quality of education may be improved. They also want to include moral values in the modern curriculum of various courses taught to the students. The education should be less expensive, this hints at high fees charged by private schools, which becomes a burden for the parents. A few respondents stressed the need for teamwork oriented education with a practical approach rather than just theoretical knowledge. Need of teaching physical education and technological subjects to all the students was also identified.

Conclusion

The paper talks about the technical quality of ethics in the education industry of India. A gap exists between the present status of the customer perception and future customer expectations from the service industry - education industry. A comparison between ancient and modern education systems tells that the majority of education industry customers want to incorporate ancient moral and human values in the curriculum. Such a system needs to be will Increase national productivity, will achieve social and national integration and will cultivate social, moral, and spiritual values.If the customer defined standards do not match with the industry defined standards then this may be trouble for the industry, but education being the mother of all industries, will give us unethical industry leaders if the ethical standards expected by the customers are not met.

Recommendations

First and foremost recommendation for the education industry of India is to incorporate ancient life values to the modern course curriculum

Strategies in the industry should be designed to reduce the gap between the custom expectation and what is being delivered by the industry in terms of ethics, so that nobility of the profession can be brought back.

The educational institutes should also create an appropriate ecosystem for teachers, trainers and assessors so that ethical standards in the industry are not compromised. This idea has been highlighted in the ten recommendations in the UNESCO 2020 report.

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