



IS EDUCATION AND POLITICS INTERDEPENDENT?: AN ANALYSIS IN INDIAN CONTEXT

DR. ALOK KUMAR PANDEY ¹ | KAVITA PANDEY ²

¹ (ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, RANA PRATAP P.G. COLLEGE SULTANPUR).

² (STUDENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES, UTTAR PRADESH RAJARSHI TONDON OPEN UNIVERSITY).

ABSTRACT:

The relationship between education and politics is important; they are players in the same game and the two are interdependent. One of the main purposes of formal education is to inspire students to take a greater interest in civic responsibility. This means teaching them about political issues and encouraging them to take a position on those issues. In so doing, politics and education become linked together, so it's important to understand how one affects the other. As we know that Education and politics have a symbiotic relationship with each other. However, when one tries to overpower the other, there are negativities that set in. The main aim of this paper is analysis of the relation of these two. This paper explores this relationship based on secondary sources i.e. several research articles, newspapers, websites etc.

KEYWORDS:

POLITICS AND EDUCATION.

INTRODUCTION

'When learning is purposeful, creativity blossoms, When creativity blossoms, thinking emanates, When thinking emanates, knowledge is fully lit, When knowledge is lit, economy flourishes. So we can join our hands in placing our country and its economy as a hundred percent educated citizens.'

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

Above statement of our former president describing the importance of education, education is the root cause of a progressive nation. Like other field education influences politics too and politics influences education, in other words they are complementary. Education system is undoubtedly the foundation of a nation. Education makes man civilized and therefore the country. It makes the mankind literate in ethics and moral values. If we have a well nurtured and balanced education system, then half the task of the country's development is done. Politics is base of a nation's democracy and education make the awareness for democracy so we can say that both are interdependent but in Indian context there is a paradox, famous form of education-formal education is not compulsory for being a political person. Sometime I thought this is the biggest reason of corruption in politics in India.

To study the relation between politics and education is probably as old as philosophy itself, The Hegel's dialectic provides a model for examining the fracturing that occurs when politics begins to exert influence over education. It is known fact that no one can take politics out of education.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PAPER:

- ✓ To understand the relation of Education and Politics

- ✓ To identify the challenges for adoption of Education in Politics.

- ✓ To access the benefits of Educational usage for development of nation.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on secondary sources like books, Articles, Journals, Thesis, University News, Expert opinion and websites etc. The method used is **Descriptive Analytic method**.

WHAT IS EDUCATION?

Education is one of the concepts that is very difficult to understand fully even among philosophers of education. the more we come to know or understand a particular concept, the richer our facts of the concept becomes, hence our facts about the concept of education are in no doubt richer now than they possibly were some hundred years ago. Hence we are in better position to discuss the concept much better than we could have done to century back. It is vital for every society to develop a system of education through which it can inculcate to the young these vital things necessary for the survival of the society and the individual in particular.

Education holds the key to human progress. Education plays an important role in bringing change. **The Education Commission (1964-66)** has emphasised, '*Education is the one and the only instrument that can be used to bring about a change towards the social and economic betterment of India*'. So, education must be used as a powerful instrument of social, economic and cultural transformation necessary for the realization of the national goals. Inculcating 'Social Responsibilities' and 'National Integration Values' are a few of the national goals.

WHAT IS POLITICS?

The term politics has been well articulated by educators and social scientists on the subject. They have both agreed that politics is not just restricted to political parties. According to the American political scientist, **Harold Lasswell**, 'politics is defined as who gets what, when and how'. Politics involves the allocation of scarce social, economic and cultural resources to individuals, groups, regions and classes. Politics has also been defined as the governing of men/women. In his book *The Governing of man*, the American political scientist **Austin Ranney**, discusses the relationship between those who govern and those who are governed, between ruler and the ruled. He argues that this relationship is central to political life (**Nnoli, 2003**). Among academics, politics is often defined as the authoritative allocation of values. Emphasis is put on how resources are allocated by the system of authorities in society. Pioneered by the American political scientist **David Easton**, it has an abstract and comprehensive scope that makes it attractive as a possible source of laws of social life which some believe to be as unchanging as the laws of physical life. Politics could also be defined as all activities that are directly or indirectly associated with the emergence, consolidation and use of state power. **Okeke (2007)** sees politics as a civilizing agent and a way of ruling in divided society without violence. Therefore, whether defined in terms of man being a political animal; the art of the possible who gets what, where and how' the struggle for power; or the authoritative allocation of resources and values, politics has the state as its centre piece.

INTERDEPENDENCY OF EDUCATION AND POLITICS

In the past, politicians and educators perceived their roles as completely separate and independent. The myth had been propagated that politics and education do not mix. The reality however, is that there is no apolitical education system and, no educational system can be separated from political system that engenders and supports it. The proposition here is that considering their societal responsibilities and objectives, education and politics are inextricably related.

The politics adopted by any educational system are essentially drawn by the government in power (the political system). Educational policies are therefore those guidelines expedient both for political socialization and for national socio-economic and cultural development. Every government or political party is conscious that to ensure its political, social and economic success, the schools must be involved in the promotion of the interests of the governing power. Some handy examples of how the political system used the education system to promote the political programmers may be drawn Hitler's Germany, Lenin's Russia Victorian England, the Mao-Tse Tong China, the French Revolution and some Military Governments in Africa and in India ABVP, NSUI, ASA etc. On the other hand, the education system and educators need the

support and patronage of the ruling political system, the public and other governmental agencies in order to carry out their functions of socialization and training of the people. No educational system can survive without the financial support and protection of the government in power. Therefore, by having to unavoidably depend on successive governmental support and protection, education finds itself used for the promotion of political creeds and social views of successive government and political leaders

Another way of perceiving the education politics relationship is by arguing that while each government uses the educational system to achieve its mission, the educational system tends to replicate the political structures and creeds within its structures, programs and management. It seems that those who tended to separate education from politics have tended to take a restricted definition of politics. Other notable reasons for the relationship between politics and education are:

1. Education is a basic human right and its function is to develop the talents of individuals to the fullest possible extent
2. Every education system has political goals
3. Politics comes before education
4. Politics determines the type of education to be adopted
5. The education of the youths is probably the most fundamental takes of society
6. The political order of society sets the pace for education
7. Politics is an aspect of the political needs of the society
8. Education is the servant and product of politics
9. Education is regulated by government politics and politics
10. The rising costs of education are largely met from the public purse.

Nwankwo (1984) has deposed that education itself is the means by which values, customs, beliefs, traditions and culture of the society are transmitted to the young. The educational system therefore, provides all the procedures and methods whereby the larger society (the socio-political system) gives its members organized and controlled socialization in the various field and institutions of human endeavours. This is done for the purpose of the maintenance (functional and technical) and acceptance (ethical) of the social structure and the values which justify them. In line with this thinking, Okunamiri (2005:7) quoting Richard (1968) asserts that: There is no such thing as neutral educational process. Education either functions as an instrument which is used to facilitate the integration of the youngest generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity to it, or it becomes "the practice of freedom" the means by which men and women deal critically with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world. Education there is socialization. The political functions of determination and allocation of values (materials or symbolic) in the society

is carried out by the political system through the several social institutions and agencies in the society, one of which is the educational system. Every political system assumes the functions of perpetuating its cultures and institutional structures through time. This is mainly done by means of socializing influences of the primary group (informal groups) and secondary (formal groups) structures through which the young of the society pass in the process of maturation (Almond and Coleman in Okunamiri, 2005). In their submission, Almond and Coleman in Okunamiri (2005) sees political socialization as the process of induction into the political culture. Its end product is a set of attitudes towards the political system, its various roles, and role incumbents. It also includes knowledge of values affecting, and feeling towards the inputs of demands and claims into the system and its authoritative output. Thus, the symbolic relationship between politics and education can be seen from the following areas. Formal education plays the role of political socialization, selection and classification of citizens. According to

Almond and Coleman in Okwori and Ede (2012), the family, community, school, work groups, voluntary organizations, and media of communication, political parties and government institutions are among the agents of socialization within the primary and secondary structures, through later or manifest procedures that give the individual the pre-political citizenship education or experience. In addition to its functions of political socialization of the young, the educational system through its merit system or accreditation processes performs the role of political selection and classification of the individuals in the society. The schools do this by determining who "passed" or "failed" in examinations for the award of certificates or who will become artisans, engineers, teachers, lawyers, doctors, and leaders through definitions of passes or failures in such socioeconomic or political groups. In terms of merit, and in fact academic qualification, the educational system becomes a strong form for political selection where those who will rule and those who will be ruled are branded.

The educational system does this in accordance with the tenets or creeds of the particular political-structure and societal expectations. Symbolically, the educational system relies on the political system for its fiscal support and definitions. The political leaders determine, especially in the developing societies, the direction, type, location and process of education. It cannot generate enough funds for itself and any attempt to do so through payment of fees and other charges will penalize the economically disadvantaged (Okwori and Ede, 2012).

CONCLUSION

Politics is concerned with attracting, searing and maintaining the welfare of a community, state or nation. It involves laying down principles that guide the state in its operations. It is a device intended for finding solutions to the socio-economic and technological problems of a nation. The relationship between politics and education has been discussed and we have come to the conclusion that there is

a thin line relationship between politics and education. Politics apparently directs education. In Indian context Education and Politics are closely related but sometime the politics negatively influences the Education.

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