

LOST LITERARY TASTE

When we start searching for quotations and write-ups regarding necessity and importance of studying books, we find thousands of quotations and articles penned down by various intellectuals and philosophers in the course of history. Speeches are given in various conferences and seminars organised at different occasions regarding the imperative-ness of erudition in our lives. But still studying books has become an abandoned habit in our society. Most people among us especially our youths assume studying as a boring task. It seems that nowadays people have lost the literary taste and are detouring from books. We constantly see that with every passing day our kids loose interest in studying and it is observed that they mostly remain busy with TV programmes, internet and mobile phones. Our younger generation is spending most of their time on social sites like WhatsApp and Facebook. Another reason for detachment from exploring the literary world is tight schedule of schools, home work, tuitions etc. After all these things our children find little or no time for studying other books and literature beyond their prescribed syllabus.

Before proceeding further, an important question arises here that what does studying in its real sense mean. What it signifies ? Most of the parents are satiated that their children go to school regularly, complete their homework, prepare for examination, memorise the answers and finally clear their examination with good grades. For such parents, this all is what we can call as the process of studying. But in actuality, this all is the part of studying and not the complete erudition. There is a broad and vast world of literature beyond the prescribed books in our educational institutions. Nowadays the trend of getting maximum mark in examination has restricted our children to tuitions, tests and short notes only. The students have even lost the habit of reading their curricular books. The system of mechanical teaching learning process in schools has also kept the students away from the world of books.

When we have a glance at the developed countries of the world, we find that people in such countries still possess a good literary taste and are fond of studying books. It has been found that even in the present digital technology world 64% people in America read paper books while as 28% read digital books. During 2017, almost 80% readers in America were people in the age group of 18 to 29 years. 30 % people in America read books daily while as 25% people read a book once in a week. In India, 32% children read 24 books yearly.

The dream of a majestic and elegant future of a nation depends on its passion and enthusiasm for knowledge and knowledge is correlated to the love for learning as knowledge comes from studying. When we talk about bright and prosperous future of a nation, it is unavoidable to think about its children and how to develop the habit of studying among them. Let's ruminate some ways and methods in which we can develop the literary taste among our children:

It is the duty of parents to create a conducive environment for learning in their homes for bright career of their kids. We know that a person is molded by the environment in which he lives and unfortunately the atmosphere in our houses is least facilitative for studying. First of all there should be enough number of books for studying in our houses, but nowadays the most popular thing in our houses is TV sets. It is necessary to replace the popularity of TV sets by books in our houses. There should be small libraries in every houses with variety of books and a particular time for studying should be formulated replacing the watching of some futile programmes on our TV sets.

It has been found that people leave studying books if they find any difficulty in understanding a book. So it is advisable to help such people in studying a book. We should help them in knowing new words, idioms and phrases. In the initial stage, the children should be introduced to colorful books having lot of pictures in them so that the studying becomes an interesting task.

It is necessary to make book purchasing a routinely habit to create a conducive atmosphere for studying in our houses. We should spare some money in every month for purchasing some books. Most of us spend some money on wasteful activities which are rather harmful for us in the long run. We should divert that amount for buying books. Parents should develop a sense in their children for saving some amount from their pocket money for purchasing books. Giving books as gifts to people on special occasions can be a step forward in this direction. Different social and religious organisation should create a system of reading rooms and libraries in far flung areas where, otherwise, people are unable to access the books of their choice for studying.

Persuasion and encouragement acts as a catalyst in every work. So, it is desirable to persuade people towards studying by organising seminars, competitions etc. Children should be awarded suitably for reading a book and qualifying quiz competitions regarding studying various books. Target reading and prize awarding culture should be created in our educational institutions.

Visiting libraries

It is necessary to visit libraries with our families to introduce our children to the world of books, but unfortunately there are no libraries in our villages. we should take our children to different libraries during holidays so that they may develop an interest towards books.

There has been a custom of organising book fairs in big cities by different publishers. Besides helping us in purchasing variety of books, such fairs develop an interest towards studying books in us. Government should help the publishers and other stakeholders to organise such book fairs in rural areas also to help people in developing a literary taste.

Besides above there can be many more practical ways and inklings to motivate people specially our youngsters towards studying books as it has been said where there is a will there is a way.

(Abid Hussain Rather)

OFF 'D' CUFF

Interestingly, major religions that originated outside India -- Judaism, Christianity and Islam-as well as those that originated in India, like Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism, talk of the soul that survives the body after death. The former speak of only one life on earth but the latter speak of many. The Shoonya-v?da, the nihilism of Buddhism, may, in the ultimate analysis, deny any reality to the soul, which is a different matter. Buddhists do accept many lives of the soul of the Buddha himself before he attained nirv?na, enlightenment.

The soul, on a certain plane of consideration, is indestructible according to all great religions of the world. The difference between western and eastern thought is

Gita on matter of reincarnation

with regard to whether the soul shows up just once on earth or it does so many times.

Krishna does not mince words when he says, "O Arjuna, both you and I have had many lives!". That implies that the soul does not die when the body does. Krishna uses this insight to help Arjuna overcome his anxiety over the possibility of his kith and kin ceasing to be.

In an appealing illustration, Krishna says a soul takes a new body just as we pick up new clothes after discarding old ones. In the context of spiritual practices, the scenario that the Bhagvad Gīt? presents to us is that of a soul 'learning and growing' and, at the end of many lives, attaining perfection.

By Swami Chidananda

■BRIGADIER DR VIJAY SAGAR DHEMAN

Like other superpowers of the world China, too, had its focus on the region. Availability of mighty mountain ranges with isolated passes kept their strategic desires satisfied for a long time. With annexation of East Turkistan (present Xinjiang province) and Tibet, Shakasgam (trans Karakorum tract) region, of principality of Hunza in Gilgit-Baltistan under control of Pakistan, became a connectivity issue in strategic terms. This was the first time that Chinese looked towards the region and negotiated with Pakistan for control of this region. It appears that China, for a small economic aid package and a consignment of weapons, could extract gigantic strategic and tactical advantages for itself. Consequently, it built Karakoram HW through this region to update its connectivity between Tibet and Xinjiang and through Khunjreb Pass with Pakistan.

China conceived the idea of One Border and One Road (OBOR) in last decade. The vulnerability of Chinese commercial trade at Malacca Strait and availability of a warm water port in Indian Ocean at Gwadar in Baluchistan, the Chinese negotiated with Pakistan. This port could be connected to Kashgar in China due to the availability of Karakoram HW. China once again lured Pakistan to get the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through this region. Today, Gilgit-Baltistan has prominent footfall from Chinese manpower and material. China is involved in eight lanes HW, two lanes rail-ways, energy pipelines (all involving a number of tunnels) and fibre cable reels through this region. There are a number of hydel projects and massive exploitation of forests and mineral resources threatening the fragile eco diversity of the area.

The citizens of Gilgit-Baltistan never reconciled to the idea of enslaving this region by Pakistani Govt to China. Extreme deprivations, exploitation of the masses coupled with ethnic, cultural and political marginalisation, have resulted in uprising against the Chinese projects. Active terrorism against China has

■ANUJ K. VERMA

River Devak, which is considered by Hindus, as holy as river Ganga has seen worst of its condition during last two three decades. Recently, the Government of India has announced a package between 200-250 crores for rejuvenation of river Devak. The local Member of Parliament took keen interest to have this special package declared by the GoI. But, why need for this special package arose, that too for a river which is revered as younger sister of holy Ganga; why an apathetic & careless approach is adopted by the humans. There is no end to the human greed. We need to put a full stop on such practices and practically learn to respect mother nature.

When we travel via Jammu Pathankot National Highway and just reach around Chichi Mata Temple, often a view on right side comes before us where industrial wastes & hazardous chemical discharge from industrial estates flow down river Basanter. When a common man observes such severe damage to river Basanter, why can't the J&KPCB & SIDCO authorities see and act. These authorities need to check all such serious violations. As per my information, only a year or more back, the National Green Tribunal had imposed heavy penalty of Rs. 5 crore on SIDCO authorities for high levels of industrial pollutants in river Basanter. Authorities need to check all this and have to strictly implement concept of green industry here. No doubt, industrialization is good for growth of our economy and also to tackle problem of unemployment, but at the same time industrialists need to volunteer; themselves, for eco friendly "Green Industry".

Another major problem, reportedly, is diminishing of few natural water springs due to con-

taken roots in this region. The growth of terrorism is also account of emergence of terrorist groups in Xinjiang where Uighur Muslims are being persecuted and brainwashed by Chinese Hans. Uighur Muslim groups are in the process of establishing their training camps in Gilgit-Baltistan. The Chinese geopolitical strategic and commercial interests are being threatened by the rising terrorism in the region. China is also threatened by the terrorist groups in Xinjiang operating from safe heavens in Gilgit-Baltistan. These considerations have made the Chinese vulnerable and have forced the Pakistan to tighten the control in this region. After the deoperationalising of Art 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, the voices in India have started to demand reoccupation of POJK and Gilgit-Baltistan. In an eventuality, this would endanger the CPEC and jeopardise other Chinese investments in this region. Even the vulnerability of HW G219 connecting Tibet and Xinjiang will come to fore.

Pakistani interests

SURREPTITIOUS ENTRY OF CHINA

The twin rivers Indus and Shyok pass through this region. These rivers form the bulk of water supply system in Pakistan. If this region is taken back by India, it would severely affect the Pakistani water supply for agriculture and other purposes. This region also lends defence potential to Pakistan military in case of war against India at multiple points. Pakistan is also able to maintain its land connectivity to China and effectively block India's land connectivity to Afghanistan and other Central Asian countries.

Indian Operations

Deoperationalising the Art 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and converting it in two UTs directly controlled by Union Govt, has unnerved many an analyst in China and Pakistan. India has de facto integrated the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir in Indian Union with the credible declarations of reuniting the areas of POJK and Gilgit-

struction work for major national highway widening projects. The Government of India has really done remarkably good by constructing good number of tunnels, flyovers, bye-pass roads on Jammu Srinagar national highway, but I would like to request NHAI to take care of natural water springs & rivers tributaries while making DPRs of all such projects which come under danger of diminishing due to blasting or earth cutting activities. Rural population, in many areas, is still dependent on natural water springs to meet their drinking water needs. There should be a strict check over the contractors to adopt all preventive measures and ensure that site construction debrii are not thrown in river Chenab or river Tawi. The National Green Tribunal had imposed penalty on Gammon India and Hindustan Construction Company upto Rs 2 crore each for damaging environment by dumping construction debris into Chenab and Tawi rivers. Such serious aberrations need to be stopped once for all by a vigilant local administration as well as local environment activists. There is another major cause for increasing levels of pollution in river tributaries as well canal waters, which needs to be addressed. J&K UT is famous for its rice production, horticulture and vegetables' production. Jammu belt is famous for its basmati, whereas Kashmir valley is famous for Mushkbujhi & other varieties. A good amount of water is required in paddy fields; water upto one ft or above is required to be stranded in paddy fields, which often get mixed up with heavy sprays of chemical fertilizers & pesticides. Generally, poisonous levels of gases like nitrogen, phosphorus, caused by such hazardous chemical sprays, make water of local canals and river tributaries undrinkable enough. We are

invaluable services born of these moral values.

In other words, moral values help the students in finding out the true purpose of life. It is important to teach children sharing and caring. These days children buy Pizza worth 500 and throw it in dustbins if they don't like it but they are not willing to share it with the one who need food. We need to develop a feeling of sharing and caring for the needy among youngsters.

For the growth of the society, it is necessary to eliminate conflicts in the name of caste, creed, religion, region, culture and customs. Education based on moral values inculcate the feelings of respecting others by teaching tolerance, peace, love and patience, cooperation, fellow feeling and secularism.

COVID time is crucial but it is also a time when we have time to spend with children and teach them these ethics and moral values. Being parent it is our duty to give them the right education so that they can develop into a good human being.

Sugandha Sharma, Jammu.

Education system in India

Dear Editor,

Every education system has its advantages and disadvantages. So as a developing nation, the Indian education system has been developed on the pillars that support thorough theoretical knowledge and prepare the Children for some of the toughest competitive exams in the world. Whereas education systems of other developed countries are more flexible & allow students to pursue varied career opportunities other than the mainstream options.

We have incepted in the era of the fourth industrial revolution. We are living the renaissance of technology and in such a state, technology and education system cannot be kept apart. Students must be taught about technology

Managing water quality

■ G. I. KHAJURIA

The planning and development of water resources are the paramount perspective. The need of drinking water for the people and the live-stock have to be met in both urban and rural area Judiciously. The need for the domestic and the industrial purpose have largely been concentrated in and around major cities. But in so far as the demands of rural populace is concerned, this need also increased sharply in view of the fact that all the development programmes improve local economy of all parameters.

The demand for hydro and thermal power generation as well for industrial uses is also needed to be increased substantially. As a result therefore, the water as a scare source shall still become more scarce in future. This, therefore, demands to underscore need for the most effective and efficient water management and judicious utilisation.

The water quality, which of course, is the most important aspect seeking attention both at Government as well as public level, is fundamentally to be determined by bacterial and physio-chemical parameters. Water may be termed unfit for drinking purposes because of excessive impurities in respect of its unhygienic supplies either at source or thence through water pipes which most often are leaking from supply pipes whereas the department at the helm is least bothered about. It has mostly been seen by one and all that the water, which is predominantly the biggest necessity next to air, is least cared far. At places there is a acute scarcity so much so that the people cry for drops of water and then there is huge flooding of water accruing from leakages out of laid out pipes by the department.

While it is easy to understand point source of pollution involving wastes flushed into cities sewers or discharged directly by an industry, non-point source pollution is containing surface and ground water supplies, fishing areas, recreational streams and lakes. Moreover, any estimate of non-point pollution must consider specific area conditions such as opography, climate and land use. The specific contribution of each source is amply difficult to ascertain and determine estimate at any location and all these factor varies from area to area.

The predominant sources of non-point pollution are the agricultural activities, contributing as unabsorbed fertilizers, pesticide and deforestation activities contributing sediments, municipal and other solid wastes disposal contributing organic and inorganic pollutant through bleaching mine and spoil dumps contributing minerals through surface runoff from congregations at places of pilgrimages resulting in a significant quantities insofar as human and animal wastes are concerned.

The quality of water management in our country has necessarily involved certain regulatory measures as provided in the water Act 1974, Despite the existence of central and the state pollution Boards respectively over the decades, Negligible percentage of large and medium standard industries have adopted the necessary measures for effluent emissions of noxious gases. The most notable activities for the improvement of water supply taken up by the Government included National Drinking Water Mission (NDWM), Ganga Action Plan (GAP), Scheme of common Effluent treatment Plant and National Action Plan. All these are in hanging fire despite the fact that multi-hued planning and policies, have since long been formulated and action of course taken at certain location. Still, it is a matter of pity that the desired aims have not been achieved despite crores of rupees have been utilised.

Our most pious rivers like the Ganga the Yamuna and the Saraswate still give elation call for cleansing. Many hopes rest with the present government under the vision of Prime Minister.

In all such areas various scientific technologies have been put in practice to remove turbidity, suspended solid and coliforms water emission technologies, have been formulated and put into practice for water supply.

The technologies practiced in the areas of wastewater treatment, with a few exceptions aptently suffer from certain drawbacks as for example high initial and operational costs and land requirements.

right from the early years of their education so that it does not come like an alien thing in their later times. Indian schools must embrace technology and education with an open heart and propagate the same to the students as it is there, where their future lies. We can't deny the fact that Indian education has a long way to go before quality education can appear on the horizon for the country's youth. Even basic conditions for minimal educational standards, as defined with crude attributes which do not capture true depths of quality in education, have scarcely been met. One of it's basic reason may be the country being a developing nation lacks funds. But there is a need to gather funds and use them to enhance the education system. Beginning with more research-oriented education, there are a lot of things that we need to achieve, such as flexibility, updating the curriculum, global knowledge, etc. Another contributor to the lack of access to quality education in India is the rarity of wholesome learning environments in educational institutions. Poor quality of pedagogy is also one of its leading reasons between urban & rural education. We cannot deny the fact that the Indian government and institutions have been working to reform the existing education model. However, there are still several issues which are required to be taken care of. In fact, the new Education policy is remarkable in making changes at all levels but the devil lies in implementation. The need is it's proper & speedy implementation to bring the revolutionary measures & real aims of education in practice.

Present education system in India is challenging but needs some changes. The present education produces only money making machines. We are imparting theoretical knowledge based education. 'Everyone in India must get equal opportunity in everything'. I think life without education is a waste. It is worthless.

Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat Baramulla.

