

CLIMATE CHANGE

Habit of reading books is dying out among students, youngsters

Climate change refers to changes in global climate patterns. Our planet has seen changes in climate patterns over the centuries. However, changes since the middle of the 20th century are more clearly visible. There has been a huge increase in the proportion of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, due to which there have been many major changes in the climate of the earth.

In addition, several natural forces such as solar radiation, changes in Earth's orbit, and volcanic eruptions have influenced Earth's climatic conditions over the centuries.

There are many factors that have been responsible for bringing changes in the weather in the past. These include variations in solar energy reaching the Earth, volcanic eruptions, orbital changes, and plate tectonics. Apart from this, many human activities have also been responsible for bringing changes in the climatic conditions in the last few decades.

The recent change in climate conditions is also known as global warming.

Even slight changes in the Earth's orbit lead to changes in the seasonal distribution of sunlight over the Earth's surface. There are three types of orbital changes - changes in the eccentricity of the earth, precession of the earth's axis and changes in the tilt angle of the earth's axis while rotating on the earth's axis, etc. Together these three have a huge impact on the climate.

The movement of tectonic plates changes the shape of land and oceans on Earth, as well as changing the topography over a period of millions of years. Due to this the global climatic conditions also change.

The weather condition is getting worse every day. Due to the natural factors, the negative effect on the climate cannot be controlled, but such human activities, which are the cause of air, land and water pollution and which have a negative effect on the climate, must be banned. May go. Each one of us should do our bit to control this global problem.

Congress is losing inspite of its win in Karnataka

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

The assembly poll results are as per the poll surveys and exit polls as all have predicted the win of the congress inspite of the close, neck to neck contest between the ruling BJP and its arch rival Congress. In fact congress has won the crucial state assembly election and defeated the incumbent BJP. Congress has made a comeback as it is alternatively that the BJP and congress control the levers of power at Bangalore and rule the state. This time it was the turn of Congress to win the elections which it did. The Congress has won the comfortable majority in the assembly elections in Karnataka and has made the BJP to lick the dust by winning 135 seats and the BJP had to contend with merely 65 seats. But despite the emphatic win of the Congress, the grand old party is losing as it is unable to choose its chief minister and form the government. Thus despite winning a comfortable majority, it is miserably failing to name the chief minister. There is factionalism, groupism, lobbying, and indiscipline in the state Congress Party and there is chaos, confusion and suspicion about the name of the Congress, MLA to head the government.

The State Congress and the Congress High Command are both in a fix and confusion to nominate the chief minister of the state. The Congress has not still held the meeting of Congress legislature party meeting to name the chief minister. This is the history of the Congress. The Congress needs to learn from the BJP as to how the saffron party has in the past nominated its chief ministers in several states where more or less similar confusion was seen. See how in Maharashtra the BJP has given the government to Shiv Sena MLA Eaknath Shinde instead of nominating its former chief minister Devendra Fadnis. Not only in Maharashtra but in many states the problem of selecting and choosing the chief ministers have been settled by the BJP amicably. It is unfortunate that Karnataka congress is not able name its chief minister. The battle of choosing the chief minister has shifted to the New Delhi as congress president Kharge who was camping in Karnataka to settle the issue of nominating the chief minister returned back to the national capital. There is intense lobbying at both New Delhi and Karnataka but still the congress is not in a position to choose the chief minister. The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President D.K Shiv Kumar and former Chief Minister of Karnataka Siddaramaiah are the two main contenders for the top post and both of these are important for the congress and the high command does not like to displease any one of them. Both of these two candidates does not want to give the coveted post to the other and both does not like to sacrifice for the other and thus there is suspense, confusion and stalemate in choosing the name for the chief ministers post. Both D.K Shiv Kumar and Siddaramaiah have went to Delhi to get favors but still there has been no headway in nominating the chief minister; with the result Congress is unable to nominate the chief minister despite having a clear and empathetic majority. There is such intense infighting and lobbying in the Karnataka congress that it seems that even after anointing the chief minister it remains uncertain how long will congress government last. Karnataka Congress leaves CM decision to party high command. Earlier, Congress President Mallikarjuna Kharge had appointed Sushil Kumar Shinde, Jitendra Singh and Deepak Babaria as the observers for the legislature party meet.

The Congress legislature party unanimously resolved that AICC president would be authorized to appoint its new leader.

However they were unable to arrive at a decision on who should be the next chief minister.

Most legislators said that they would abide by the decision of the party high command - a euphemism for Gandhis -Sonia and Rahul.

There are several contenders for the post including two key ones - former CM Siddaramaiah and KPCC president DK Shiv Kumar. The latter aged 60, is a Vokalinga leader who has been elected for the eight consecutive term. Unlike 75 year old Siddaramaiah who started his politics in Janta Parivar on an congress platform.

Shiv Kumar is famously known for his troubleshooting abilities and has stayed loyal to Congress, but is embroiled in corruption-related cases. However, Siddaramaiah who joined Congress in 2006 is a powerful Ahinda (Kannada acronym for minorities, OBCs and Dalits) leader enjoys mass popularity. He ran a full five - year term Congress government as CM between 2013 and 2018 and is seen the frontrunner between the two. Besides the name of MB Patil, a former home minister and a Lingayat, as well as Dalit leaders G Parameshwara and Priyanka Kharge have been aired as possible contenders. Several proposals, including serving as CM by rotation for 30 months each between Shivkumar and Siddaramaiah are being floated. Apart from that, there is a proposal to have the four deputy CMs - one each from Lingayat, Vokalinga, OBC/Dalit and Muslim communities depending on which community gets the chief ministership. The party high command is likely to take a final call after the observers submit their report. It is hoped that the uncertainty and suspicion as well as the confusion will come to an end and a new leader of Congress legislature will be appointed very soon to end the stalemate and deadlock about the appointment of the chief minister and the new congress government will be formed in a day or two days so that the tag and stigma of the congress losing despite a comfortable win in the Karnataka assembly elections. It is hoped that good news will come from Delhi and a chief minister will be nominated by the high command and the crisis will soon come to end.

(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist).

It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.

-Mahatma Gandhi

■ TARA CHAND BHAGAT

Merely a century ago there used to be a good habit of reading books among the students and youngsters but slowly and gradually that continue got to be fade, droop and with the passage of time got diminished among the modern students and youngsters. However, there is no denying the fact that even after that period of time we may cite several examples of good readers whether they were of mediocre standards are intelligent ones. They all had the good habit of reading textbooks, books, religious books or the books of their own interests. This good habit of theirs had also told upon good impressions on their lives in such a way that most of them could be able to become great men. An example of Mahatma Gandhi is worthwhile to be quoted when he read a book of Satyavadi Harishchandra that revolutionised extremely his life style. He learnt a lesson of speaking the truth which ultimately became the fundamental principle in his life to be propagated for the integrity and national unity amongst the people of the country. He also used a weapon of Satyagrah peacefully to fight against the Britishers who had enslaved us for more than two centuries. Such is the power of speaking the truth that's why he believed in a principle of Non-violence not only to be driven out the Britishers from the sacred soil of our mother country but also preached this very principle not to kill any human beings, speechless birds and animals who do more good than humans for the maintenance of the ecosystem of the environment.

He also learnt a lesson from reading religious books of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, a principle of obedience and he used this principle by the name of 'Civil Disobedience Movement' against Simon Commission. Besides great personalities of India like those of Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Sarvapalli Radha Krishnan, Dr. Zakir Hussain, Sardar Vallabh Pai Patel, Netaji Subas Chandra Bose, Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and J.L. Nehru were the prominent figures whose mention I would like to present in a impressive manner that they were the greater read-



ers of several other books thoroughly despite of books prescribed in their syllabi that's why they could be able to be great writers whose vast literatures of any nature are there to be studied by the students and youngsters of the modern society.

The National Song-Jan Gana Mana is the finest creation of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore whenever is recited in a disciplined way inspires every Indian to be a patriot of modern India. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was also a great memorable renowned personality whose literature is also worth reading. He has had written several books to which one can get inspired to be a great leader. He was a great writer with the establishment of a library at Great Britain. He is considered to be the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel was not only a great writer but also a great patriot of 'Nationalism' who got united 560 princely independent states into one country called now 'Mother India'. It was only Sardar Saheb who could alone, none anybody else do this herculean task to which we can say proudly that modern India-right from Kashmir to Kanyakumari is one vast country. The name of such great persons will ever be remembered in the Indian history of the country. If one just happens to study the literature and books written by him, one gets inspired to be a true Indian. Such is the impression of

Empowering Women: Transformative Decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio

India is steadily advancing on the track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of reducing the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) to less than 70/lakh live births by 2030.

The targeted interventions by the Government of India with the objective of addressing all aspects of maternal care have translated into a consistent decline in MMR over the last nine years. MMR in the country has witnessed a progressive reduction from 130 in 2014-2016,

122 in 2015-17, 113 in 2016-18, 103 in 2017-19 and 97 in 2018-20. The Government's major focus area, in striving to bring down maternal mortality, has been to address the actual causes of mortality and morbidity among women and deliver solutions to eliminate these causes. The emphasis has been on ensuring a continuum of care to address maternal and child health in a holistic manner; by providing excellent healthcare facilities to pregnant women, right from the early stages of

the pregnancy to postpartum care. Schemes, like Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN), Labour Room & Quality Improvement Initiative (LaQshya), POSHAN Abhiyaan, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana among others, are being implemented keeping in mind the requirement of a range of medical facilities, right from testing and regular check-ups, to facilities for smooth delivery and postnatal care of both mother and child.

Gradation-Is it right way to evaluate one's Ability or Knowledge?

■ VIJAY GARG

Grades refer to standardized measurements of a person's ability in a subject, area or field. Grades can be assigned in letters, for example, A, B, C, D, E, F, as a range for example 4.0 - 1.0, as descriptors, for example, excellent, great, satisfactory, needs improvement, in percentages, or as a Grade Point Average (GPA). Gradation in Academic sense thus means a relative position in a graded series. The GPA can be used by educational institutions for educational assessment and evaluation and to measure potential and progress of students. Marks are generally given in percentages to encourage perfection and good presentation. Some schools often give grades too in lower classes in primary school. In higher classes, percentage differences up to two decimals are taken into consideration for ranking.

The Board exams are given by students all over India in Class 10 and 12, also present the marks obtained in each subject in the report card. In colleges, a percentage or GPA system is optionally followed by various institutes.

But mostly, percentages are used. For many schools up to 12th-grade high percentage above 90% is supposed to indicate the excellent quality of a student while in many undergraduate and graduate courses scoring above 65% also is very difficult, though it varies depending upon the board or University. A Cumulative Grade Point Average is the mean GPA from all academic terms within a given academic year, whereas the GPA may only refer to one term. Most countries have individual grading systems unique to their own schools. However, several international standards for grading have arisen recently.

The Grading System in India varies. However, the most predominant form of Grading is the Percentage system. An examination consists of a number of questions each of which gives credit. The sum of credit for all questions generally counts up to 100. The grade awarded to a student is the percentage obtained in the examination. The percentage of all subjects taken in an examination is the grade awarded at the end of the year. The percentage system is used at both the school and university. The Government of India on 31st August 2009, announced that it will introduce

the Grading System in all Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) schools.

Advantages of Gradation/Grading System

The system is an effective way to communicate the achievement status of students to their parents and others. Letter grades offer parents and others a brief description of students' achievement and the adequacy of their performance.

It is a clear indicator of one's achievements and faults. When relating to learning it is generally accepted by both students and teachers as it is considered fairer.

The existence of grades and other reporting methods are important factors in determining how much effort students put forth. Most students view high grades as a positive recognition of their success and some work hard to avoid the consequences of low grades.

It also provides information to students for their own self-evaluation.

It facilitates the selection, identification of students for providing certain educational paths or programs for their benefit.

Grading system also provides incentives for students to learn and encourages them to do well.

It is an effective way to document students' performance for further evaluation of the effectiveness of instructional programs.

Grading system also separates students into smaller and better-defined categories.

The system creates a base on which the university can build its foundation stronger than before.

Regular checking on students' learning progress is an essential aspect of successful teaching.

Good Narratives as report cards are time-consuming and as teachers complete more narratives, their comments become increasingly standardized. Standards-based reports are often too complicated for parents to understand and seldom communicate the appropriateness of student progress. Parents often get confused about their child's achievement in comparison to other children. It also perplexes them about its accordance with the teacher's expectations.

Disadvantages of Gradation/Grading

System

Sometimes the pressure of Grades is too much and it itself becomes a distraction in teaching among teachers and learning among students. This may result in risky behaviours like suicidal tendencies and other disorders.

The grading system has a tendency to be misused. Some schools attempt to enhance the discriminatory function of letter grades by adding pluses or minuses, or by pairing letter grades with percentage indicators.

Grading is recognized as measuring tools for teachers evaluation and students as well. Whereas teachers do not need grades or reporting forms to teach well and students can and do learn many things well without them.

Narratives and standards-based reports offer specific information that is useful in documenting a student's achievement.

Student's cultural differences, their appearance, family backgrounds, and lifestyles can sometimes result in biased evaluations of their academic performance. Teachers' perceptions of students' behaviour can also significantly influence their judgments of academic performance. Students with behaviour and handwriting problems who otherwise maybe academically proficient can also affect a teachers' judgment.

Many times, students tend to withdraw from learning upon receiving low grades. And instead of promoting greater effort it prompts students to blame themselves for the low marks and a feeling of helplessness to improve prevails. In such a situation Grading becomes irrelevant and meaningless. Rather it discourages self-image.

Using letter grades requires the abstraction of a great deal of information into a single symbol. In addition, the cut-offs between grades are always arbitrary and difficult to justify. Letter grades also lack the richness of other, more detailed reporting methods such as narratives or standards-based reports.

What should be Done?

Grading is a method of finding out how students are doing, what they have learned well, what problems or difficulties they might be experiencing, and what corrective measures need to be taken. The process should be primarily a diagnostic and prescriptive interaction

book further down. The reading habit of books, literature, newspapers, magazines -fortnightly and monthly is disappearing at an alarming rate, as people especially youths and teenage groups becoming disinterested to study books rather showing keen interests for smartphones, internet and social media. But they don't understand the importance and significance of the culture of reading books is better for independent knowledge acquisition and impact of life-long learning. It gives rise to a good habit in a person the requisite and essential attitudes for self- advancement and national development. Unfortunately the electronic gadgets driven age has disturbed everything. Rather discouraging them to take up books for reading and learning out of the knowledge contain therein these good books.

Reading of books is very much essential for creating a variety of creativities and activities making healthy atmosphere for the literate people of the modern society. Habit of reading good books would definitely develop an intellectual activity. It not only nourishes one's intellect but also helps in developing mind and personality of a reader whosoever wants to be a thinker. It transforms one's lazy and indolent attitudes into good behaviour even as ones habits are totally altered reading good books. Simultaneously the character of a reader of good books automatically changes into the traits of truth, honesty, good-turn, rendering help to others to be obedient to his elders, parents, gurus, teachers and to be shown kindness to the blinds, the poor, handicapped ones are developed from the core of the heart of a reader.

I would again request all the parents, teachers and elders to cultivate the habit of reading books among the children, kids, students, youngsters which is the most fundamental and basic aspect of education. Reading of books, literature, newspapers is essential for the overall development and upbringing of all children, kids, students, youngsters and others. There is every scope of improvement in their physical, mental, character and conduct, behaviour and dealings with others if they try to turn their mood inclination and full involvement with digital gadgets.