

Speech at the Elphinstone College
College Day function on
23rd December, 1960.

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24/12

*Reminded
School Education
Society*
Congratulate Coll. on success

(64)

Professor Sidhanta (Lecture Broadcast: 15/12/60)

"the attraction and excitement of political fights is
~~was~~ disruptive of ~~the~~ harmony among the youth community".

"when group loyalties and party allegiances clash in
the university community, the atmosphere is fouled:
in the fog which is generated effective thinking is
impossible; persuasive communication of idea is
completely ruled out. Matters become worse when the
teachers, like the students, are ranged under
different flags and instead of a homogeneous commu-
nity we have a conglomeration of splinter groups."

Swatantra Party - Quote Statement of Policy

Education vs. Indoctrination

Background

Too few literates - Too many graduates -
Unemployment

British wanted army of clerks; therefore good
memory

Initiative and Independent thinking not favoured

13 years - But old curriculum

memorising; added burden

II

New qualities required by both State and Free sectors

1. Good intellect - initiative
2. Good health
3. Character - integrity, courage, service, compassion, discipline

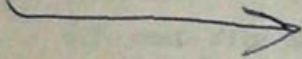
Objectives of higher education -

1. Development of Individual
Educere = To emerge

2. Production of elite - leadership

All rounds of the curriculum

3. *Specialisation for function.*



III

What changes are called for?

- (A) Intellectual - Shift to original thinking
Critical questioning - ~~the original~~

LSE: "Rerum cognoscere causas"

How many ask: "What does this mean?"
"Who said that and why?"

e.g. when your tutor tells you your composition is like a Curate's egg, good in parts, Have you ever stopped to ask which Curate, Sir, and which egg that can only be partly bad.

Origin - story in Punch:

"Bishop: "I am afraid you have got a bad egg, Mr. John."

Mr. John (Curate) : "Oh no, milord, I assure you parts of it are excellent."

When you are told you should be like George Washington who never told a lie, have you ever asked the origin of the story? This reputation is based on the story about a cherry tree that was found cut down. When asked by his father whether he did it, Washington replied, "You know I can't tell a lie, Pa, I did cut it with a hatchet."

c.f. comic film played by Bob Hope

Mark Twain : "Sometimes he stretched things a little, but by and large he told the truth."

Importance of scepticism and intellectual curiosity.

Tennyson: "There is more faith in honest doubt, "believe me, than in ~~credulity~~ *the creeds*"

In India there is ^{too much} ~~more~~ conformity
Gandhiji: 'India must learn to say NO'.

Socratic Method - 'midwifery'
Helping mind to emerge.

Three principles:

1. a passionate search for the truth;
2. honest, strenuous and persistent thinking, by which alone there could be any hope of discovering it; and
3. intellectual humility, springing from a clear recognition of the arduousness of the search and revealing itself in being ever ready to welcome criticism and trying to learn from it as well as in engaging in sincere self-criticism.

Democratic discussion calls for tolerance,
patience in listening to another, and
cooperative groping to conclusion.

(B) Physical and Emotional

Discipline - the other side of the coin

Gandhi : Only disciplined can be satyagrahi
e.g. Vinoba.

Importance of ^{team} games - Battle of Waterloo . . . *etc*

B.K. Gokhale's proposal:

To 800 marks in SSC add 200 marks

- 1) 75 for physical health (except cripples)
- 2) 50 for proficiency in games and sports
- 3) 75 for good conduct and discipline
based on progress reports

Partially in operation at N.D.A., Khadakwasla,
Roorkee *etc* and Public Schools.

Sacchini

Distinguish:

Sports - Archery, riding, running, boxing,
wrestling, shooting, rowing

Games: Cricket, chess, football, hockey
tennis.

Importance of field games - Mould character

Lot of idiom (2) "Not cricket" *

(i) "Play the game"

Other extra-curricular - ~~Physical~~
Sports, Music, Dances, Dramatics, - ~~Extracurricular~~
~~Programme~~
~~Ad's get back to it~~

Important for matches