

B.K.Gokhale, ICS(Retd.)

"Vihar",
36, Deccan Gymkhana,
Poona-4, December 18, 1960.

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Dear Shri Masani,

As desired, I enclose herewith a copy of my note "ON EDUCATION" which I hope will interest you. I would particularly invite a reference to paragraph^s 14 to 22 at pages 3 and 4 of this note.

Students and their parents naturally concentrate their attention on subjects for examination. Other subjects are neglected. I therefore propose that, in all examinations for students from age 10 to age 21, we should have in addition to academic subjects, three compulsory subjects - character, physique and sportsmanship. Each of these three subjects should carry 100 marks. The valuation in these subjects should be done by the Class Teacher, Physical Instructor, Games Teacher or Medical Officer jointly or severally as may be convenient. The result of the valuation should be recorded in a progress book to be maintained for each student from age 10 to age 21. The teacher concerned should then discuss the result individually with the student ^{and his} ~~with the~~ parents or guardians at the end of each year and suggest what improvements could be effected by the student during the ensuing year. I feel, that this will result in positive improvement in the character, physique and sportsmanship of our students without any increased expenditure or without any addition to existing equipment and facilities for sports, games and so on.

The rest of my note deals with implementation. The suggestions made can be varied to suit local requirements.

I was interested to hear from Dr. A.N. Khosla, Member of the Planning Commission that something on the lines which I have suggested is already being done for all students in the Engineering University at Rourkee. I have also been told by Rear Admiral Samson, Commandant of the National Defence Academy that much the same thing is being done

for all students in the National Defence Academy. It is also well known that many of these suggestions are practised in various public schools, convents and other institutions run by missionaries all over the world. I feel that there is no reason why all schools and colleges in India should not be able to follow these suggestions for all pupils from age 10 to 21 if only there is willingness on the part of parents, teachers and educationists to consider new ideas on their merits.

It is no use blaming students. They are what we make of them. We must therefore make a concerted effort for coordinated development of their bodies, minds and emotions rather than examine only their memory as is being done in our schools and colleges at present.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

B.K. Gokhale
18/12/60
(B.K. Gokhale)

P.S.

All India Radio, Poona will be broadcasting my talk on this subject on 1st January 1961 at 10.30 hours from Poona station 2 All India Radio.

Shri M.R. Masani, M.P.,
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Bombay-1.

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The attached note 'On Education' embodies a few suggestions to evoke the voluntary cooperation of students to improve their own health and discipline. It is felt that a psychological approach to this problem will be most effective.

The Progress Book suggested to be kept for all students from the age of 10 to age 21 will itself have a psychological effect on students and their parents and guardians.

These suggestions will supplement all other efforts to improve the health and discipline of our students. They do not involve any appreciable extra expenditure. Much will be gained and nothing lost by their acceptance.