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The Madras Agricultural Journal

Vol. XL

April 1953

No. 4

Editorial

Scientific Education in India. It is only a balanced scientific education that can help to create "a well informed public and enlightened citizen, that are the best security of a democratic State." The introduction of free and compulsory education for boys and girls from the age of six to fourteen made the western democracy practically sound and safe. In the words of the National Planning Commission we have to convert the mass of mere literates into a body of independent, intelligent workers and responsible citizen of a free democracy. We have to mobilise the entire man power of the country to fit into an over all national plan to work intelligently each in his or her own appropriate role, so that they become real architects of their own as well as their country's prosperity. The scope of the scientific education in India has been ably visualised in the report of the University Commission, constituted by a group of eminent American, British and Indian educationists and presided over by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the great educationist of international reputation. Dissemination of learning, incessant search for new knowledge, increasing effort to plumb the meaning of life, provision for professional education to satisfy the occupational needs of our society are the vital tasks of scientific education.

The solution of our industrial and other problems depends essentially on our scientific bias in education in India. National Laboratories and Research Institutes will play an ever increasing part in furthering the application of Science to industry. Universities which are really the fountain heads of knowledge must, therefore, supply a "constant flow of scientific workers and leaders imbued with zeal and zest for research." This is the opinion of Dr. Bhatnagar, who has also pleaded for much larger research grants to universities and other research organisations. The head of the State can help to suggest, as indicated by our contemporary Science and Culture Vol. 18. No. 1. 1952, that

(a) A directive that the States should spare at least 20% of their budget on education with a special bias for scientific education.

(b) That the Centre should spend 10% of its budget on education and

(c) That the sums allotted in the Central Government's budget should be spent through properly constituted agencies.

The Social responsibilities of Scientists trained through these institutions should, thus, help to promote 'Scientific integrity' in India which will be her great contribution to world thought and world peace.

The father of the nation thought, however, that there had been a fundamental error in the educational policy of our country through alien rule and to ameliorate its evil effects conceived of the basic education plan. Many advanced thinkers do believe that its craft-centred emphasis is indeed a form of appropriate scientific education for India.

In the new scheme of scientific education for India, the Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore offers great opportunities for the progress of scientific education and fundamental research, designed to canalise the energies of the workers and peasants coming to this institution.

In conclusion it may be mentioned that the co-operation of the public with the Government is quite essential for the successful working of a system of scientific education in any country. In this connection the marvellous examples set by other countries like the United Kingdom and United States of America are worth following in India. Particularly in transforming the results of scientific research in rural areas, difficulties to be encountered are not only many but also of varied complexities. For a successful solution in this direction the co-operation of the public with the State will be of immense value. Financially also the public can rely to a very great extent the various Scientific Institutions and make them function usefully and efficiently. The latest developments in India are fairly encouraging and it is fervently hoped that the needs of the nation will soon be solved completely and successfully by men of good scientific education.

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