

Education Disaster and Social Disorder

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Years ago this writer read Bertrand Russell's "Education and Social Order" where it was shown that an education system is necessary to serve the interest of the ruling class. From the dismal condition of the present Indian education scenario, the public administration and the judiciary, it is very difficult to identify the ruling class, something of which there must be, but that is so invisible and diffused that it is difficult to see it. In early or pre-British periods there was little of what can be called an education system, but there was something based on religion and mythology that served the extant feudal interests. The British introduced a colonial system of education to raise an interpreter class who would be Indian in flesh and color, but English in intellect, opinions, tastes and morals.

With independence the political power became vested in a rootless urban elite class having nexus with feudal or rising Indian capitalist classes. They are still in power, power of the State Capitalism, which is eroding fast and now they have become puppets of the forces of the Global Economic Imperialism whose nature is aptly described in the following quotation in *Globalization : The Human Consequences* by Zygmunt Bauman. Polity, 1999.

"In the cabaret of globalization, the state goes through a strip-tease and by the end of the performance it is left with the bare necessities only : its powers of repression. With its material basis destroyed, its sovereignty and independence annulled, its political class effaced, the nation –state becomes a simple security service for the mega-companies.

The new masters of the world have no need to govern directly. National governments are charged with the task of administering affairs on their behalf".

The present Indian situation is bewildering and shocking, everything degenerated and in disarray with little sign of revival or regeneration anywhere and West Bengal's rapid downfall is shocking. The present reviewer and the author of the *book under discussion had their life periods that practically witnessed all the three phases mentioned above. Most of the remaining intelligent and conscientious intellectuals possibly shed tears in private and fall back into passive dejection. There are some who cannot rest, actually they feel restive, but not knowing exactly what can be done, they do something which is positive and helpful in assessing the problems in wider perspectives and interconnections. Manas Joarder, a prominent physics teacher and long time member of the Calcutta University's Senate with his wide experience in the field of higher education including technical education has laboured much and the present book is another of his contribution which consists of 25 of his essays / articles published on contemporary education, social and public affairs of India, with a bit more emphasis on West Bengal.

The Quiz Contest : Q'S

1. What is the name of the Indian Company comprising of 545 members in its Board of Directors in which charges of murder, rape, extortion and dacoities are pending?
2. Who in 1997 secured the prestigious position of First Class First in MA LLB without appearing even in seven papers out of eight?
3. What is the address of the office where from vice-chancellors of State Universities of West Bengal are appointed like the Viceroys of British India?
4. What is the name of the famous Cardiac Surgeon of Calcutta who wrote in Desh magazine : "From all the Indian Medical World Science, Intellect and healthy professionalism has been banished leaving only unscrupulous business and vulgar politics?"
5. What is the name of the Physics Nobel Laureate who finding that his scientific works had been exploited in war and human destruction in tanks, bombers, missiles etc. lamented at the end of his scientific career : "it would have been better for me if I took the profession of a farmer than being a physicist."
6. Which Delhi High Court Judge was arrested by the CBI for accepting money to give favorable judgement?
7. Which Supreme Court Justice once said : Twenty percent of the judges are dishonest.
8. Who gave the call for Total Revolution from Lal Quila in Delhi on 6th March, 1975 leading a procession of ten lakhs?
9. Who occupied the prestigious position of First Class First in MBBS in Bihar in 1999 but did not get admission through normal JEE but through CM's quota?
10. What is the most famous Indian state that excels all others in awarding honorary doctorate degrees to their Chief Ministers?
11. Peruse the two lines from T S Eliot and answer the question thereafter :
Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge. Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?
Do you think that students of this generation with access to TV, I-Net, Beautiful books and Journals and Xerox facilities are superior to those, say from 50 years earlier?
12. Who is superior : Bihar's former CM or WB's Present CM?
13. What is the position and score of India in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) Scale (0 to 10) of Transparency International?
14. What is the name of the IPS officer who incurred the wrath of the Maharashtra Home Minister and other high ranking police officers for writing a novel entitled "Carnage by Angles."
15. Who where claimed when two examinees died in police firing to check copying in exams? "Tum chorise sarkar chalte ho, hum kiu nehi chori se pass karen" (When you run the government by thieving, why then we would not pass (exams) through thieving?"

The Quiz is open to all and prepared from Joarder's Book. Mail your answers to the following : mnmkv349@ hotmail.com. □□□

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