

Students Can Play the Role of Catalysts of Social and Economic Change in Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT

Education is one of the basic requirements of every human being and students are supposed to acquire this education only through study. Such a general thinking leads to another thinking that students stand for study only in all respect. But such thinking is nothing but confinement to contemporary believe of common mass. On the contrary all-out community development and national development mostly depends on active participation of people every class and section in main work-stream. Students community is a bigger part of our total population. So, with a view to engaging each and every member of our total population in productive and fruitful action, we can think about students' participation in humanitarian works and welfare tasks and the materialization of such thinking will surely result in meaningful national development.

Keywords: Education, students responsibility, social responsibility, competent citizen, humanitarian work, welfare task, ethos and values, community development, national development etc.

INTRODUCTION

Education is often viewed as the sole responsibility of students. Many of them feel comfortable to think that their only duty is to focus on their studies. However, this mentality fails to recognize the vital role that students can play in shaping the socio-economic circumstances of Bangladesh. It is essential that students recognize their responsibility to contribute to the betterment of society and participate in different humanitarian works and social services. The ultimate purpose of education is to make individuals competent, ethical, and complete citizens capable of navigating the complexities of the modern world. In Bangladesh, where socio-economic conditions can be challenging, students have an integral role to play in building a better society. Their active participation in social activities can help them fulfil their duties to their families, society, and country.

Background: In the present socio-economic circumstance of Bangladesh students are not found to be engaged in both study and work whereas simultaneous study and work is a very common phenomenon in many foreign countries. Again many Bangladeshi students who go to abroad for higher studies are commonly found to be engaged both in study and work. The students who take part in part-time job in foreign countries for managing tuition fees are not found to participate in work in native country.

Objective :

- a) To help students to change their conservative outlooks regarding active participation in social work force along with their respective studies.
- b) To inspire students for engaging themselves in different humanitarian tasks and welfare activities in society.
- c) To ensure active participation of all people of all classes and communities in all-out social and national development.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology of this research paper is nothing but a combination of qualitative research methods and it is mostly based on different research articles from multifarious sources, academic journals, journals on socio-economic circumstances of the existing Bangladesh, statements and information collected from common folk, students, teachers, intellectuals and many other social activists.

Students Participation in Different Avenues of Work :

The question of how students can contribute to society is often raised, and there are many avenues in which they can get involved in. Students participation in various social works will help them to be interacted with the people of society and such interaction will automatically be resulted in proper realization of the harsh reality. Students participation in different humanitarian works will help them to inculcate the sense of ethos and values which will surely

make them more humane to mankind. Such involvement will assist students to be grown and skilled with more competencies in present advanced world.

Students Participation in Making Healthy Environment:First and foremost, students can engage in keeping the environment clean. Cleanliness is crucial for an ideal environment, and all citizens must be aware of the basic rules of cleanliness to maintain a sound and healthy environment. Students can play a crucial role in making the illiterate mass habituated to cleanliness and keeping the environment clean. Reducing environmental pollution is also a significant challenge of our time. Mass people are often found to contaminate the environment by throwing garbage here and there and dumping waste in open public places. Students can take up this challenge and engage in awareness-raising programs among the masses against environmental pollution. Campaigns by students in the midst of illiterate mass people against such activities can help reduce environmental pollution.

Students Participation in Making People Aware of Health Rules:Another critical area where students can contribute is by making people aware of health rules. A very common proverb goes that health is wealth and having a proper idea and basic knowledge of the rules of health is the first and foremost demand of demand of having a healthy and prosperous life. Maintaining health rules is essential for the soundness of both body and mind, which is required for success in every sphere of life. However, many people are often reluctant to maintain basic health rules. Here, students can extend their helping hands to teach the illiterate mass people about the importance and necessity of basic health and sanitation rules.

Students Participation in Removing Illiteracy from Society: Illiteracy is a curse which hinders community development, social progress and national prosperity. Illiteracy is one of the main hurdles in achieving desired prosperity. Despite significant efforts, a considerable proportion of our total population remains illiterate. Students can take the initiative to arrange campaign programs among people in slums and rural areas about the importance and necessity of education. Through such initiatives, illiterate senior citizens will be encouraged to send their children to school for education.

Students Participation in Making Superstition Free Society :Superstitions are deeply ingrained in many societies, and Bangladesh is no exception in this regard. Superstition-stricken Bangladeshi society believe that everything in this world is preordained and predetermined by almighty God. So there is no reason to strive, to struggle and to fight for seeing the unseen and gaining the unearned. Students' helping attitude to illiterate and superstitious mass people can act as catalyst to make them shake off such orthodox beliefs. Some people have superstitious beliefs that education derails children from the true path of religion, and female children need not have education as they will be married off after a certain age. However, students can play a vital role in dispelling these beliefs and making people understand that education is essential for both males and females. Even female children can easily become a source of earning for their families after being educated.

Students Participation in the Promotion of Entrepreneurship : One more area where students can contribute to the development of Bangladesh is in promoting entrepreneurship and innovation. Bangladesh is a country with immense potential for entrepreneurship, particularly in the fields of agriculture, textile, and information technology. Students can play a significant role in promoting and developing entrepreneurship skills among their peers and communities. They can organize entrepreneurship workshops, mentorship programs, and networking events to encourage young entrepreneurs and promote innovation in the country.

Students Role in Disaster Management: Disaster management is a critical area where students can play a significant role. Bangladesh is a country that is prone to different natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, and earthquakes etc. Disaster-stricken Bangladeshi people face very severe difficulties to survive in some unexpected odd situations and circumstances. Students can play a crucial role in raising awareness about disaster preparedness and response. They can organize workshops, training sessions, and mock drills to educate their peers and communities on how to respond to emergencies. Furthermore, students can also engage in relief and rehabilitation efforts during and after disasters.

Students Role in Promoting Social Harmony and Peace: Social harmony and peace are mostly essential for the establishment of a well-balanced society. So, students can play an essential role in promoting social harmony and peace in Bangladesh. The country has a diverse population with different religions, ethnicities, and cultures, and communal tensions and conflicts have occurred. Students can engage in initiatives promoting interfaith and intercultural harmony, such as organizing cultural events, promoting tolerance and respect for diversity, and advocating for policies protecting marginalised communities' rights.

CONCLUSION

In fine it can be said that students are not separate from family and society; they are integral parts of both. The challenges of modern life and socio-economic circumstances touch them. It is only logical that they take up

responsibilities that fulfil their duties to their families, society, and country. Their active participation in different social activities will give them a sense of belonging and connection to society, which is essential for a cohesive and thriving community. Furthermore, the benefits of students' participation in social activities are not limited to them alone. Society, too, benefits greatly from their contributions. By engaging in activities that help keep the environment clean, reduce pollution, promote health, and eradicate superstitions and illiteracy, students can help build a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous society. Education should not be viewed solely as an individual pursuit but as a collective responsibility that benefits the larger community. It is time for students in Bangladesh.

Biography: Mohammad AtiqurRahman,Assistant Professor of English,Bandarban CantonmentPublic School & College.I have been serving as an English faculty for last 14 years . At present working as the Vice Principal of Bandarban CantonmentPublic School & College also. The area of my interest is English literature , language and psychological state of both parents and students.

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