



Bal Bharati PUBLIC SCHOOL

Sector – 21, Noida

Phone : 0120-2534064, 2538533 / E-mail : bbpsnd@yahoo.co.in

Website : <http://bbpsnoida.balbharati.org>

Date: 06 June 2018

Dear Parent,

There are several incidents which took place in the year 2017-18 and continue thereafter across the school's in our country.

There is a strong reaction within Principal Fraternity and I often wonder 'What we have come to'.

I have expressed my feeling in the form of an article 'INVITATION TO CANDLE LIGHT DINNER'. I am attaching herewith the same for you to read and suggest critical inputs, if any to enhance our learning.

With kind regards and best wishes

Asha Prabhakar

(Principal)

Encl: As Above

स्वच्छ भारत

एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर



INVITATION TO A CANDLE LIGHT DINNER

I have reached that stage of my life where things scarcely ever shock me. It was one of the rare occurrences that I read in a newspaper that a Class VIII student of a well-known Gurugram School had the audacity to invite his teacher to a candlelight dinner and sex thereafter. One does hear of such relationship once in a while in the west but it was certainly unheard of in India until recently.

From Gurukuls and Guru-shishya parampara where pupils held teachers in high esteem, look, what we have come to - sex relationship between a female teacher and a male student. What a fall!! I wonder what kind of environment prevails in the homes of such boys. It is almost certain that either these are disturbed families or the mother and the father have no time for their progeny. I cannot image that such parents have ever sat for any meaningful interaction with their children. Children have their own anxieties, fears, hopes, joys, passions, aspirations etc. When children do not get proper outlets to vent their emotions, they turn to the seedier side of life; consequently, they fall prey to morally and socially unacceptable temptations. In the process it is easy to pick up undesirable and deviant habits.

Whenever such an incident is reported, my mind harks back to the upbringing of the present day child. Perhaps, parents have not mentioned the child properly. Quite, possible, no responsibility was given to the child or he was not guided to set a short or long term goal for himself. When a child drifts in life, rudderlessly, without any aim or goal, he is bound to go astray. It appears that no positive self-image was created in the mind of the teenager. Self-esteem of a child is extremely important. When he feels worthless he will go into a shell or show aggressive behaviour and indulge in bragging or worse.

In this IT age there is deluge of information available to children. Often conflicting views on the net confuse the child. Additionally, innocent children have free access to porn websites as well. Watching titillating videos arouse sexual desire and they begin to fantasise not knowing the full significance and the ramifications of their bizzare thoughts or actions. It causes great damage to their psyche. It is the easiest way to give an electronic device to a child to play with or ask him to watch the TV to amuse himself. But the parents don't realize that by shirking their own duties they are harming the child, for he will get addicted to the electronic media which mostly will prove harmful to him.

I can recall in 1950s ,60s and 70s school were treated like temples of learning. There was unshakeable trust between schools and parents. If a child was reprimanded at school and if he complained to his parents at home about the punishment, he was further chided that he must have done something wrong. But unfortunately, over the years, the scenario has changed. The very forces that used to mould society have changed.

Virtuous persons with values were respected but now with a materialistic approach, disconcertingly, rich people are considered great. Mammon is the new god of the world. At the moment, it is a topsy-turvy world. To see the world straight one has to stand on one's head. Sadly, parents have started thinking of the school as one of the service providers who are paid for the services rendered. If this trend continues, I am afraid, we shall soon reach the point of no return. Respect for schools must not be allowed to diminish. Incidents that happened at Gurugram or Yamuna Nagar schools must be dealt with suitable, corrective actions.

Many teachers have strayed into this profession by the process of elimination, not choice. At the school level we have mostly lady teachers. Ladies join this profession either to augment family's income or to avail of convenient timings and many holidays in schools. It is not a calling for many of them. In addition to teaching they have to look after the family and ensure that the household chores are done satisfactorily. Saddled, on the one hand, with family pressures and obligations, they have to manage large classes on the other. As a result the teacher often employs the technique: one size fits all. They lose sight of the fact that every student is unique and, therefore, needs "customized" attention.

Schools are also, partly, to blame. The principal and the staff should not allow the authority of the school to be eroded. It is not necessary to coerce the child into submission. Counseling should explain to him the norms of the society to which he belongs. Occasionally, an errant child will still be there who must be dealt with firmly but generally children do come round. What is absolutely necessary is that the culture of the school to do the right thing, should be so strong that the child cannot even think of delinquent behaviour. I am not suggesting regimentation, for that will curb creativity, but the child should be imbued with such values through the very ecosystem of the institution that the inner voice propels him to avoid deviant behaviour. Acceptable conduct should become second nature to him. When a child is admitted to a school for a consideration he develops simmering resentment towards the school as he grows older, leading to breach of discipline.

Unfortunately, the society hardly has any role models to offer to teenagers to emulate. When youngsters see the Mallayas, Modis and Choksis fleeing the country with the connivance of power that be, with crores of rupees, what is there for them to look up to!

Occasional outbursts of children are warning signals to all stakeholders - schools, parents and society---to wake up and restore accepted norms of behaviour for students. At least educational institutions should remain secluded from the rot in the society. Education should not be thought of in terms of a commodity. It cannot be treated as a purchasable item. It should be received in humility as a benediction. Teachers should be made aware of the problems of the digital era child regularly. The education system should not constrict the child by a narrow, bookish curriculum: it should aim at unlocking his/her full potential. It could be restructured to make it compliant with the child's capacity and experience. The objective is to prevent the child being alienated for the study material. Teaching pedagogy should think of experiential learning. A conducive atmosphere for learning should prevail in educational institutions. All concerned with the overall growth of the child should synergise to ensure that the psychological bandwidth of self-belief is broadened and self-actualization takes place.

In Billy Graham's words "The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children is, not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith (in oneself)". If we wish to cultivate positive values in the adolescent, we must focus on the 5es i.e. engaging, enabling, empowering, enthusing and energising him/her.

Asha Prabhakar
(Principal)

स्वच्छ भारत

एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, NOIDA