

MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this research paper is to understand the meaning and significance of secondary education. It primarily focuses upon meaning and significance of secondary education, and factors promoting identification of the meaning and significance of secondary education. In the secondary education, the students are teenagers and they usually realise their responsibilities towards learning. In this system of education, the students not only acquire information in terms of academic subjects, but they are able to augment their knowledge and competencies in terms of extra-curricular and creative activities. In secondary education, the teachers make use of technologies and other pioneering methods. When the students are working on an assignment or acquiring an understanding of the lesson plans, they too make use of technologies. Therefore, it can be stated that use of technologies and other modern, technical and pioneering methods have rendered a significant contribution in the achievement of academic goals and in enriching the overall system of secondary education. In urban communities, this system of education is in a more well-developed state as compared to rural communities. In this education, the students usually develop interest in subjects, which they would pursue as career goals. For instance, when the develop interest in science, they would choose this subject in pursuing higher education.

Keywords: Educational Objectives, Goals, Improvements, Schools, Secondary Education, Students, Teachers

Secondary education is regarded as the education and training that children receive during the teenage years. During this age, the children are different from each other in terms of number of aspects. These include, personality traits, learning abilities, natures, attitudes, caste, creed, race, religion, ethnicity, gender, age and socio-economic background. They are different from each other in terms of these factors, but they have objectives in common, primarily related to acquisition of education. These are to acquire an efficient understanding of the academic concepts, achieve good grades and achieve the desired educational objectives. Research has indicated that in the secondary level of education, the students recognize the significance of education, they inculcate the traits of diligence, resourcefulness and conscientiousness and put in their efforts towards the generation of desired outcomes. In the acquisition of education and in understanding of the academic concepts, the students normally experience challenges and setbacks. But the traits of diligence and conscientiousness and obtaining assistance from others will help in overcoming setbacks and in providing solutions to problems.

The difference between the lower-secondary education and upper-secondary education is useful within the global framework. The reason being, developing countries are sometimes able to make provision of some access to lower-secondary education, whereas, the upper-secondary

education is still beyond the national level. In order to understand the meaning and significance of secondary education, it is necessary to generate awareness in terms of methods and strategies that how it is proving to be advantageous in meeting the needs and requirements of the students and in enriching the overall system of education. Secondary education renders a significant contribution in bringing about improvements in self-sufficiency. The educational systems are varied in all nations. But in India, there is a need to bring about improvements in the system of secondary education primarily in rural areas (Eubanks & Eubanks, n.d.).

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It is comprehensively understood that the early childhood education has the main aim of creating a foundation for the children towards learning. After the foundation has been created among individuals for learning, they acquire elementary education and upon the completion of elementary education, one begins his journey towards the acquisition of secondary education. Secondary education is characterised by transition from primary education for minors to tertiary. Secondary schooling system within the country comprises of two years of lower secondary and two years of higher secondary education. The lower secondary level is for students aged, 14 to 16 years. The admission requirement is the completion of upper primary school education. Secondary education should provide learners with the opportunities to acquire the knowledge, and competencies and abilities, which are necessary to lead to progression of oneself, communities and nation as a whole.

In order to enrich the system of secondary education, it is vital for the teachers to possess the required educational qualifications, competencies and abilities. The heads, administrators, teachers and other staff members need to possess the required educational qualifications as well as skills and capabilities to carry out their job duties in a well-organized manner and enrich the system of education. The teachers are the ones, who are required to render a significant contribution in imparting knowledge and training to the students in terms of academic concepts and in up-grading the overall system of education. The hiring authorities of the school, need to take into account certain factors, when they are to hire teachers, these include, their educational qualifications, skills, experience and personality traits. Furthermore, the teachers need to possess effective communication skills and approachable natures. They need to be helpful and co-operative towards not only students but other members of the educational institutions as well. Therefore, it is vital for the teachers as well as other members of the school to contribute effectively in up-grading the overall system of secondary education.

Secondary education is comprehensively believed to make provision of optimum setting for the preparation of teenage students. The teenage students need to be prepared in terms of various aspects. These include, differentiating between appropriate and inappropriate; recognizing the significance of morality and ethics; development of skills among themselves, i.e. communication, analytical, time management, leadership and decision making; realise one's responsibilities towards family as well as community members; using one's educational qualifications and skills to turn out

to be productive citizens of the country; working towards well-being of the deprived, marginalized and economically weaker sections of the society; implementing peaceful conflict resolution methods in case of occurrence of conflicts and disputes; possessing a co-operative and helpful nature; learning to exercise control on the feelings of anger and frustration and generating awareness in terms of the measures and approaches that are necessary to turn out to be good human beings and enriching their overall quality of lives. When the individuals have augmented their understanding in terms of secondary education, they are able to participate in social, political and economic spheres.

For countries to compete in the global economy, a significant number of citizens need secondary education. The reason being, they need to develop the competencies and abilities that are necessary to cope up with problems and challenges that may take place in one's daily lives. Research has indicated that within the course of acquisition of secondary education, in some cases, children do get engaged in part-time jobs. This is usually observed among the children, belonging to deprived, marginalized and economically weaker sections of the society. As finances is a problem for them, therefore, the parents encourage them to get engaged in part-time jobs. Hence, after the school hours, they get engaged in part-time jobs in various fields, such as, tea stalls, eateries, shops, small grocery stores, garages and so forth. The meaning and significance of secondary education is realised, when the individuals are engaged in jobs, within the course of its acquisition. Therefore, it can be stated that secondary education makes provision of knowledge and understanding to the individuals in terms of how they would carry out their job duties.

Socialization is regarded as an important aspect that individuals need to focus upon. In secondary education, the students are able to acknowledge the meaning and significance of socialization. They are well-aware of the fact that socialization does not only takes place with ones' own family members, but individuals need to socialize with other individuals as well outside the home. These include, teachers, fellow students, friends, relatives and community members. The secondary education teaches the students that they need to socialise with others in a polite and decent manner. In some cases, there are occurrence of conflicting situations and disagreements. When these take place, they need to be prevented from assuming a major form. Therefore, through secondary education, the individuals generate awareness in terms of implementation of peaceful conflict resolution methods. Hence, it can be stated that when the individuals put these into practice in an appropriate manner, they are not only able to curb the occurrence of conflicting situations and disagreements, but also are able to maintain effective terms and relationships with others.

In not only India, but in other countries of the world as well, secondary education is comprehensively recognized to be of utmost significance, both as the cause of instability and division. Furthermore, it is regarded as an agent for nation building and social cohesion. When the secondary education is well-planned and adequately resourced, it will be able to reinforce the potential to create an environment, where large number of teenagers can augment their knowledge and skills, which are needed to render a significant participation in the social and economic society. Furthermore, they will also be able to contribute effectively in curbing risky behaviours and leading

a healthy life (Jacob &Lehner, 2011). Through secondary education, the individuals are able to generate awareness in terms of various factors that are needed to live a healthy life. In secondary schools, focus is put upon making provision of knowledge and understanding to the students in terms of factors, which are necessary to promote good health and well-being. As when the individuals will maintain good health, only then they will be able to render a significant contribution in enriching their lives.

Bringing about enrichment of the personalities is also regarded as one of the important aspects that needs to be focused upon. Through the acquisition of secondary education, the individuals are able generate awareness in terms of factors, which are necessary to enrich their personalities. These include, having a pleasant personal appearance, the individuals need to wear clean attire, keep their hands, feet, and hair neat and clean and have a pleasing personality; they need to implement morality and ethics in not only the implementation of tasks and activities, but also in dealing with others; they need to possess normal facial expressions and appropriate body language; effective communication and interactive abilities and possession of tolerating abilities is regarded to be of utmost significance. When the students have experienced setbacks in academic assignments and have experienced unfavourable outcomes from their teachers, it is vital for them to possess the tolerating capacity and implement diligence and conscientiousness to bring about improvements. Therefore, it can be stated that through secondary education, the individuals are able to bring about improvements in their overall personalities.

In secondary education, the students are able to acquire an efficient understanding of extra-curricular and creative activities. The main reason that these activities are focused upon to a major extent is, apart from acquiring an efficient understanding of academic concepts, it is of utmost significance for the students to participate in these activities. These activities render a significant contribution in stimulating the mind-sets of the students towards learning. Research has indicated that when the students get engaged in understanding academic subjects and do not get engaged in any kinds of play or creative activities, they may feel tedious and find learning monotonous. Therefore, in order to lead to enrichment of the secondary system of education, it is important for the students to participate in extra-curricular and creative activities. The various kinds of extra-curricular and creative activities, which are imparted to the students in schools are, artworks, handicrafts, singing, playing of musical instruments, dancing, role playing, sports, games and other physical activities. When the teachers are imparting knowledge and understanding to the students in terms of these activities, it needs to be ensured, they possess appropriate knowledge. Therefore, it can be stated that through secondary education, students are able to understand the significance of extra-curricular and creative activities.

In secondary education, in the present existence, the usage of technologies have acquired significance. The students are learning how to make use of technologies to acquire an efficient understanding of the academic concepts as well as to prepare assignments, reports and projects. In the impartment of knowledge and understanding to the students in terms of lesson plans and academic concepts, the teachers are making use of technologies. This is mostly prevalent in urban

schools. Whereas, in rural schools, there are not usage of technologies in imparting knowledge and understanding to the students in terms of academic concepts. When the teachers make use of technologies in classrooms and classes are also organized regarding providing computer skills to the students, they are able to generate awareness in terms of the fact that they need to make use of technologies to do well and achieve academic goals. The teachers as well as the students are making use of internet to a major extent to augment their understanding in terms of lesson plans and academic concepts. As through internet, one can even observe images and pictures and augment their knowledge in terms of various subjects and concepts. Therefore, it can be stated that through secondary education, the students are able to make use of technologies.

In secondary education, the students are able to understand the significance of social work. In some secondary schools, primarily in urban communities, teachers encourage the students to participate in social work. They generate awareness among students that they need to work towards promoting welfare of individuals, belonging to deprived, marginalised and economically weaker sections of the society. The secondary school students usually carry out social work by teaching students, belonging to these communities, giving items such as, clothes, food, blankets, heating and cooling equipment in accordance to the weather conditions, stationary items, bags and so forth. The main objective of social work is to promote well-being of the community. When the students participate in social work in schools, they are able to render a significant contribution in promoting well-being of their domestic helpers as well. Therefore, it can be stated that secondary education makes provision of knowledge and understanding to the students that they need to participate in social work activities and contribute towards promoting well-being of the deprived, marginalized and economically weaker sections of the society.

The secondary education renders two important functions that are enriching upon the lives of the individuals, one is preparation of individuals for getting enrolled in higher educational institutions and another is for the acquisition of employment opportunities. In secondary schools, the students usually make selection of the fields in which they are interested. Such fields include, mathematics, English, Hindi, science, social science, technologies, arts and crafts, music, singing, dancing and sports. When they are interested in a particular field, they aspire to enhance their career prospects in that particular field. For instance, when they are interested in science, they will take up science courses in higher educational institutions or pursue medical or engineering. Secondary education also renders a significant contribution in preparing the individuals for employment opportunities. When the students are pursuing secondary education, usually they get engaged in part-time jobs. When they have a family business of production and manufacturing of goods, they may assist their parents in the implementation of production processes and in marketing of products. Whereas, in other cases, they may seek employment opportunities in restaurants or grocery stores. Therefore, the meaning and significance of secondary education is recognized, when the students are to prepare themselves for getting enrolled in higher educational institutions or in obtaining employment opportunities.

In one's lives, individuals, belonging to various age groups experience number of problems and challenges in terms of various aspects. These include, management of finances, studies, jobs, family, home, relationships and so forth. In order to cope with these problems and challenges, it is vital for the individuals to generate awareness in terms of various methods and approaches and make wise decisions. Within the course of acquisition of secondary education, the students are provided with information in terms of making effective decisions in terms of these factors. Within the classroom settings, they are given cases, in which they are required to conduct an analysis and make effective decisions. Hence, through solving cases, the students are able to bring about improvements in analytical, problem-solving and decision making skills. When the students are able to put into operation, these skills, they are able to generate contentment and bring about improvements in their overall quality of lives. Therefore, it can be stated that secondary education renders a significant contribution in leading to improvements in analytical, problem-solving and decision making skills of the students.

FACTORS PROMOTING IDENTIFICATION OF THE MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

When understanding meaning and significance of secondary education, it is vital to generate information in terms of the factors that enable the individuals to acknowledge the meaning and significance of secondary education. Within the course of time, it is vital to put into operation the measures, leading to up-gradation of these factors. These have been stated as follows:

Teaching-Learning Methods – The teaching-learning methods are referred to the methods, which are used within the classroom settings to make provision of adequate knowledge and understanding to the students in terms of lesson plans and academic concepts. These are referred to the general principles, pedagogy and management strategies that are used for classroom instruction. There are number of factors, on which the teaching-learning methods are dependent upon. These include, educational philosophy, classroom demographic, subjects and mission statement of the school. In the effective implementation of the teaching-learning methods, it is vital to take into account the teaching theories. The teaching theories can be organized into four categories based on two major limitations. A teacher-centred approach versus a student-centred approach and a high-tech material use versus low-tech material use. It is necessary to bring about improvements within the course of time in teaching-learning methods. In secondary schools, it is necessary to make sure that improvements are brought about in teaching-learning methods within the course of time. The teaching-learning methods, the direct instruction methods makes use of passive learning, or the idea that students can learn, what they need to through listening as well as observing precise instruction (Teaching Methods, 2020). Therefore, it can be stated that implementation of teaching-learning methods is essential in understanding the meaning and significance of secondary education.

Instructional Strategies – In secondary education, it is vital for the individuals to put into operation various instructional strategies, which would be essential in acquiring an efficient understanding of the meaning and significance of secondary education. The various instructional

strategies that are put into operation are, visualization, co-operative learning, inquiry-based instruction, differentiation, technologies, behaviour management, professional development, understanding of academic concepts, creative activities and gaming and discovery. These instructional strategies are regarded as effectual in all levels of education. Their initiation takes place in the field of early childhood education. But in secondary education, the teachers are making use of modern, scientific and innovative methods in instructional strategies. In other words, they are required to bring about advancements in instructional strategies. The main objective of these instructional strategies is to make sure that students are able to acquire an efficient understanding of the academic concepts. The teachers need to make use of these techniques and methods to meet various learning objectives. These strategies render a significant contribution to walk on the path of independent learning and augment their abilities to achieve academic goals. Therefore, it can be stated, implementation of instructional strategies would contribute efficiently in understanding the meaning and significance of secondary education.

Teaching-Learning Materials – Teaching-learning materials are the materials that are put into operation by the teachers in teaching as well as implemented by the students in learning academic concepts. The main objective of these materials is to make sure that students are able to acquire an efficient understanding of the academic concepts. The collection of materials, including animate and inanimate objects and human and non-human resources that have been used within the classroom settings. The teaching-learning materials used in education to the teachers and learners aims to make provision of necessary knowledge and competencies along with the collection of proper interests, abilities and attitudes among them for the effective utilization of resources and instructional aid materials and equipment in teaching and learning. In secondary education, the teaching-learning materials that are put into operation are, audio aids, visual aids, technologies, textbooks, articles, papers, and other reading materials. The teachers and the students need to work in collaboration and integration with each other in an appropriate manner in order to put into operation the teaching-learning materials in an efficacious manner and generate the desired outcomes. The main factors that need to be taken into account in the effective implementation of these materials are, grade levels of students, academic subjects and overall system of education.

Technologies – The technologies are the electronic tools, systems, devices, and resources that generate, store and process data. Well known examples include, social media, online games, multimedia and mobile phones. Digital learning is any type of learning that uses technology. The technologies that have been put into operation within the classroom settings make use of physical hardware, software and educational theoretic to facilitate learning and bringing about improvements in the performance of the students by creating, using, and managing appropriate technological processes and resources. Research has indicated that through the usage of technologies within the classrooms, the teachers as well as the students are able to carry out their tasks and activities in a well-organized manner. Through the effective implementation of technologies, the individuals are able to carry out their job duties in a manageable manner. Furthermore, they will be able to achieve the goals in a less time-consuming manner. The various types of technologies that have been used in secondary education are, computers, visual aids, projectors, printers, scanners, mobile

technologies and so forth. It is vital for the teachers as well as the students to make use of technologies satisfactorily to generate the desired goals and objectives.

Extra-Curricular and Creative Activities – In secondary schools, the implementation of extra-curricular and creative activities is regarded to render a significant contribution in enabling the students to understand the meaning and significance of secondary education. The various types of extra-curricular and creative activities that are imparted to the students in secondary schools are, production of artworks, handicrafts, singing, playing of musical instruments, role playing, various forms of sports, and physical activities. Research has indicated that in secondary schools, there are recruitment of well-qualified and experienced teachers to impart knowledge to the students in terms of extra-curricular and creative activities. In secondary schools, normally the students are imparted knowledge in terms of all activities. But in some cases, students develop interest in a particular activity and may acquire additional training apart from schools. When the students develop interest in a particular activity, they may even take them up as careers. In secondary schools, in the effective implementation of these activities, it is vital for the teachers to make use of modern, scientific and innovative methods. In the implementation of these methods, the teachers need to impart information to the students in terms of advanced concepts. Therefore, it can be stated that extra-curricular and creative activities contribute in understanding the meaning and significance of secondary education.

Infrastructural Facilities – In order to up-grade the system of education, it is vital to focus upon the development of infrastructural facilities. The infrastructural facilities that need to be developed within secondary schools are, school buildings, classrooms, computer centres, libraries, playgrounds, laboratories, offices, staff rooms and the overall school environmental conditions (This is Why, 2017). In addition, it is vital to ensure that there are provision of civic amenities, restrooms, clean drinking water and heating and cooling equipment in accordance to the weather conditions, tools, materials and furniture. Well-equipped laboratories enable the members of the schools to carry out the lab activities in an appropriate manner. When the infrastructural facilities will be in a well-developed state, the individuals will be able to organize workshops, seminars, exhibitions as well as extra-curricular and creative activities in a satisfactory manner. It is vital for the members of the schools to work in collaboration with each other and put into operation the resources in an effective manner that are needed to up-grade the infrastructural facilities. Within the course of time, it is vital to put into operation, the resources, time and efforts, which are necessary in bringing about developments of infrastructural facilities. Improvements in these facilities leads to up-gradation of the overall system of education. Therefore, it can be stated that development of infrastructural facilities is essential in acquiring an understanding of meaning and significance of secondary education.

Evaluation Methods – The main objective of education is to ensure that students are able to acquire an efficient understanding of the meaning and significance of lesson plans and academic concepts. Another purpose of evaluation is to determine the worth of the program (Carpenter, 2019). After the teachers have completed imparting them information in terms of lesson plans, they

need to find out how much the students have learned. Whether, they are able to acquire an efficient understanding and whether the teaching-learning methods and instructional strategies that have been implemented by them have been efficacious or not. Hence, they need to implement various types of evaluation methods. The various evaluation methods that have been implemented in the secondary system of education is, class assignments, homework assignments, tests, exams, competitions, quizzes and encouraging their participation in other class activities. When the students perform well, the teachers generate pleasure and contentment among themselves that they are carrying out their job duties in a well-organized manner. On the other hand, when the students experience setbacks in their performance, it is vital for the teachers to bring about improvements in the teaching-learning methods and guide students accordingly. Therefore, it can be stated that appropriate implementation of evaluation methods is essential in acquiring an understanding of meaning and significance of secondary education.

Workshops and Seminars – The organization of workshops and seminars are regarded to be of utmost significance in up-grading the overall system of secondary education. Normally, these are organized once or twice a year. The educators and the administrators are vested with the authority and responsibility of organizing workshops and seminars. These are organized on the basis of a particular topic. When the organizers of workshops and seminars form this viewpoint that it is essential for them to impart knowledge and understanding to the students in terms of particular topics or concepts, they organize workshops and seminars. In workshops and seminars, usually teachers, guest speakers, educators, administrators and researchers are even invited from other educational institutions. They give presentations and speeches, which would enable the students to acquire an efficient understanding of the topic. Furthermore, there are organization of dance and musical activities as well by the students. They also in some cases give presentations and speeches. In this manner, the students are able to enhance their communication skills as well. The organization of workshops and seminars promotes collaboration among all the members of the school and they are able to form connections with other individuals, belonging to other educational institutions as well as organizations. Therefore, the organization of workshops and seminars have contributed effectively in enriching the overall system of secondary education.

Activities and Programs – In secondary education, the organization of various types of activities and programs have rendered a significant contribution in up-grading not only knowledge and competencies among students, but also the overall system of education. The activities, which are organized in secondary schools, which aim to up-grade the knowledge and competencies of the students are not only extra-curricular and creative activities, but other activities as well, such as, assisting the teachers in their work, monitoring and controlling the class in the absence of teachers, and participating in voluntary activities. When there are organization of exhibitions in schools, such as, related to art and craft, then some students volunteer in the organization of exhibitions as well as perform other tasks. In secondary schools, there are organization of various programs, which may promote student participation. One of the common programs is implementing social work. The students, belonging to marginalised sections of the society make visits to the schools and students conduct classes for them. Therefore, through the implementation of various activities and programs,

the students are able to realize that in secondary schools, they are not only generating information in terms of academic concepts, but also are able to participate in various activities and programs.

Leadership Skills – In the secondary system of education, the teachers are required to inculcate leadership skills among students. The initiation of these skills takes place, when the students are assigned the responsibilities of monitoring and supervising the classroom. In each classroom, one or two students are appointed as monitors. They are vested with various job responsibilities such as, controlling the classroom in the absence of teachers, maintaining attendance, maintaining discipline and ensuring that infrastructure, furniture, tools, equipment and other teaching-learning methods within the classroom environment is well-maintained. The teachers are vested with the authority and responsibility of imparting knowledge to the students in terms of implementation of leadership skills. Research has indicated that in some cases, in the absence of teachers, the students are even given the responsibility of teaching the lesson plans to the class. In such cases, they themselves are usually unaware of the lesson plans, if they have not studied them before, therefore, they are usually assigned the task of dictating notes. The knowledge and understanding in terms of leadership skills are regarded to be rendering a significant contribution in leading to effective growth and development of the students. Therefore, it can be stated that students need to up-grade their leadership skills on a continuous basis and these would help them in performing their tasks and activities in a well-organized manner and achieve academic goals.

CONCLUSION

Secondary education is regarded as the education and training that children receive during the teenage years. During this age, the students are able to wholeheartedly understand that, it is vital for them to acquire education in order to enhance their overall quality of lives. In secondary education, the students are not only able to acquire an understanding of lesson plans and academic concepts, but they are able to augment their understanding in terms of other factors as well. These include, extra-curricular and creative activities, social work, and so forth. Factors promoting identification of the meaning and significance of secondary education are, teaching-learning methods, instructional strategies, teaching-learning materials, technologies, extra-curricular and creative activities, infrastructural facilities, evaluation methods, workshops and seminars, activities and programs and leadership skills.

It is not only vital for the students to generate awareness in terms of these factors in an effective manner, but it is vital for the teachers too to recognize these factors. It is necessary for the teachers and students to work in co-ordination and integration to reinforce these factors. These involve the formulation of measures and approaches. In this manner, they will not only render a significant contribution in facilitating teaching and learning of academic concepts and generate the desired outcomes. The understanding of the meaning and significance of secondary education will lead to development of motivation among students towards learning. Finally, it can be stated that it is vital for members of the schools to generate information in terms of these factors, so they are able

to not only acquire an efficient understanding of the meaning and significance of secondary education but also up-grade the overall system of education within schools.

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