Introspecting self - for the good of the society

The rather unfortunate and undesirable turn of events in the state has left the public the worse for the wear. And to put it bluntly, things are set to turn for the worse, going by the looks of it. The naïve public has been taken for a ride by various groups with vested

interests who surprisingly are slowly uncovering the thin veil that were masking their myopic agenda by themselves.

What is surprising is the amount of blind trust and irrational support that the public has

accorded these self-serving and self-professed misleaders of the expectant mass, even after the state government has categorically declared that its decisions will not harm or infringe on the interests or resources of any individual or group. Though we would like to hope otherwise, perhaps the people in the state have yet to experience the darkest hour as a collective society before realization sets in, albeit at a cost everyone of us are neither willing nor able to afford. Perhaps a rigorous churning of the society is what is required for the easily excitable and often misdirected public to come to its senses- that the real power to make ourselves better lies not with those who wield power and influence, but within ourselves.

But to come to such a state of enlightenment, we need to look inward, to introspect with detachment, without the mirage of our egos which has been the greatest drawback to shedding our baseless pride and narrow views.

We need to realize that the greatest enemy to our own happiness and contentment is ourselves.

What could be the basis of the fear psychosis consuming the minds of the people in the hills of Manipur which made them to overlook the grim realities of the past to forge alliances with the declared aim of battling an illusionary foe?

Since when have we started considering anyone or any group casting even a shadow of doubt on our unhindered flights of fantasy as our arch enemies? Do we not wish to have friends who make us see our mistakes and shortcomings without mincing words rather than people who offer us lavish praise and spoil us only to further their personal gain? Do we reject friends who point out our mistakes because it might make annoy us? Are we intellectually so weak that we believe every misinterpretations and rumours, especially those which concerns our belongings and pride without feeling the need to

find out the truth?

Our life, or our society for that matter, is what we make of it. We need to inculcate the habit of finding out the facts before drawing conclusions and passing judgments. We need to exercise restraint and communicate better. But above all, everyone of us need to develop empathy and a rational approach. If we are as concerned about our roots as we portray to be, we should be trying to leave a better world for our children. The only way that can be done is by showing them by example the ideals and values we want them to imbibe, and we would not certainly want them to indulge in mindless violence with a herd-mentality.

Draft National Education Policy revised; choice of available languages left to state boards

Agency
New Delhi June 4,

The Kasturirangan committee has revised the Draft New National Education Policy and effected some changes in the three-language formula.

The committee yesterday informed the government that there had been an inadvertent error in the draft submitted for public feedback.

The committee said the revised draft has now been uploaded for feedback from states and public for a period of 30 days.

The government has clarified that the draft was recommendatory and has been revised to say the students be given flexibility over choice of language under the three-language model in the schools. In the revised draft thee choice of available languages has been left to the state boards.HRD Secretary R Subrahmanyam has reiterated that the draft is not government policy but recommendations of the committee.External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has also said that the all stakeholders - general public and state governments - will be consulted before taking a final call on the three-language norm.

Religious Fanatics: A Gift of BJP to India

By : Inamul Haq

Finally, India's election is over, and BJP led by Narender Nath Modi, has made a clean sweep of majority seats. Celebrations were held across the country till midnight. The other parties like the Indian National Congress and UP Gathbandan did not win the favour of people even on gandhigiri or caste politics and identity. On what manifesto, was the 2019 election fought in India? According to sources, unemployment rate increased during the first regime of Modi and, it is noteworthy that the figures show such an increase after 45 years. The worsening conditions of farmers across India was also a big issue which surfaced throughout the campaigning of the 2019 election. Education, demonetization, GST, water, roads, electricity and people friendly schemes were some of other issues raised as well. While the manifesto of Congress denoted all these issues, BJP's was only based on national security and the repeal of Article 370.

This time the Indian election 2019 was the signal of division. Supporters and advocates of BJP believe that the alternative of winning the election is to divide the people on the name of religion, rather than caste and identity. In the darker depths, this election was at ease with a particularly virulent brand of nationalism. In different rallies, BJP leaders spoke against Muslims, by calling them outsiders, traitors, anti-nationals. They made it openly known that only BJP can sweep 'the Muslim menace' away from the country. On WhatsApp university, videos were made under the theme of Hindu-Muslim and this theme remained a part of the conversation in the circle of friends, either in school or playground. Religion-based bullying is rampant all over India. BJP did not remain confined on the division, but they have started to hiken ultra-nationalism among the people. Ultra-nationalism seems to reach its heights when Kashmir issue is discussed, and BJP seized the opportunity to bank on the conflict in Kashmir, reaping a huge success among its supporters and even its non-supporters. Militarization took the upper hand. According to political analyst, Tanveer Alam, the rhetoric espoused by Modi and BJP has also intensified violence in Kashmir and post - Pulwama attack on 14th February, changed the election discourse. Pakistan involuntarily was dragged into it. Soon after government responded with threats against Pakistan followed by an air strike in Balakote region. In retaliation, Pakistan shot down two Indian aircrafts from which a wing commander namely, Abhinandhan, was taken into custody. Later, PM Imran Khan made the decision to release him as a peace gesture. This issue was politicised by the Modi government and even crossed the limits by called Indian army as *Modiji ki Sena*. The air strike on Pakistan and banning of Jammat-e-Islami and JKLF, detention of Yasin Malik and other separatists evoked a ultra-nationalism euphoria among the people, that only BJP can save the country. On the other hand, parties like Congress and communist parties of India were known collectively and derisively as the Lutyens club and pseudo-seculars raised the spectre of Hindu terrorism, when BJP gave ticket to the Malegaon accused Pragya Singh Thakur from Bhopal, who cursed Hemant Karkare and later announced the man who assassinated Gandhi, Nathuram Godse, a 'patriot' (*Deshbhakt*). Whatever drawbacks and shortcomings obvious during the 5 years BJP ruled the nation, left no impact on the voters. Instead they felt incarnations of God in Modi, whom they believe can give them Kashmir and destroy Pakistan, a sentiment Modi successfully instilled in the people and which influenced them to come in large droves to re-elect him.

In recent times other countries have seen a significant shift politically with secularism getting the centre stage. The trend being; people rejecting religious fanatics and voting for secular forces. The best example is Pakistan, where a global terrorist Hafiz Sayed also contested in the elections. However, he was defeated as the rest of people know that he will spread venom against the minorities and these forces can further weaken the economy of the country. In Malaysia, for instance, the multi-racial population united to end the 61 years of ruling by BarisanNasionalparty mainly due to racial politics being used as a weapon to divide the people and for the former prime minister being involved in the 1MDB scandal which points at a high level of corruption. It is interesting to note that 70 % of the population of Malaysia is made up of Malay Muslims, same as the former PM. Yet, they decided to reject him. The people both majority and minorities united and voted against him to save the country from further destruction. Similarly, during the recent presidentialelections held in Indonesia, president Joko Widodo was re-elected. The president is known for his secular ideology and supporter of the LGBT community. He defeated Prabowo who is known as a religious fanatic and was against the Chinese minority and LGBT. The supporters of Prabowo started riots that turned violent, in the country. The fact remains that the majority of Muslims chose a secular leader as opposed to a religious one. However, in India alone, there is hardly scope for secularism. It is indeed not an exaggeration to say that secularism is facing a imminent death, if it is not altogether dead, in the New India. The majority, project themselves as minorities should and feel threatened by Muslims and Christians, whose population is increasing. The election of 2019 proved that there is no need for employment, education, development, research and better conditions of the farmers. The primary 'need' of the country is merely what is termed as, national security and whatever that is done to achieve this is justified, including destruction of Pakistan and controlling Kashmir with claws. Besides, the country has to prove that nation remains first, and other problems can be resolved by constructing Ram Mandir in Adhoya and repealing Article 35A and Article 370 from Kashmir.

The prevailing situation, is a harbinger of what lies ahead for India and its people , in the next five years.

***** The Writer is a Ph.D Candidate, (Central University Gujarat)

Adaptability to quality will boost the Indian Education system

By : A.K. Mishra, Chairman,
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Even though many initiatives taken by the Government have rising the enrolment numbers, but the actual education seems to be a bit lagging in some or the other way. Quality education is one issue that not only affects the children of today but also the future of India as well in terms of growth.

Many qualitative and quantitative initiatives were taken this year in the education system that has brought a revolutionary change. Technology and education has been merged and focus is on giving technology driven education. Our country has strived for this quality education since very long. 2017 has witnessed a rapid rise in the evolution of technologies and its integration with the education industry. This not only improves student-to-student interaction, listening and aptitude skills but also enhance students' involvement. This will effectively help them to grasp and understand the concept. The following benefits will help them better in understanding their role in the society –

Encourage curiosity and creativity

Enhance student involvement

Improves general aptitude

Boosts self belief and confidence

But lack of adaptability to the changes in many schools has been a hindrance in the development of a better education system in our country.

Indian Scenario - Education system in 2019

Our education system is facing immense pressure in learning these new innovations. Certain approaches and issues that are still to be worked on may be this year or next. Due to abject delivery of education across few states, people have been losing faith in public schools. Inadequate infrastructure and the dropping number of people opting for the role of teaching is on the rise especially since March 2017.

Employability is another issue that refrains in the Indian education system which is unlikely to be corrected with the intervention of sporadic policies but needs a drastic restructure.

Poor accountability - With the lack of a risk reward system, a teacher's encouragement to improve their students performance has been just a matter of personal choice which otherwise is their fundamental duty. While looking at the board results in 2017 across the Indian states, students' performance in these exams seems awful. There were many schools in Punjab with not even a single student obtaining pass marks. Only one student in Himachal Pradesh got distinction out of one lakh students who passed. Pass percentage across many other states coming down, none of the schools came forward to take accountability for the poor performance.

Quality education is missing – Another reason that withdraws our presence among other countries in terms of education is the quality. People have a priority to get good education so private schools are focused. But not all can afford costly schooling for their kids and with poor quality education being provided in some schools, nobody is to be blamed.

Maximum school drop outs – the ratio of students dropping out after high schools were elevated which can also be attributed to lack of creativity, skills and employability. Students from a low economic background do not find a reason to continue their studies that may fetch them a job and instead they opt for vocational trainings to generate a source of income atleast. Expenses rendered for many people during the schooling may be a certain validation for drop outs this year.

Reformation that may enhance our education system

Technology can only help in improvement of learning but it won't solve the problem. Trusting and empowering teachers is the key for change and improvement. Co-learning should be encouraged rather than hyper-competitiveness. Apart from learning, school should also aim in developing good human beings for the society. Public Education should be given. Knowing the economic aims of our country, will help students understand better about the Nation's development.

Develop new skills - Emphasize should be laid more on data-driven education techniques enabling students to learn new skills rather than just mugging up.

Ethical values – The aim should be to develop today's students with ethical values for a better human being of future. Including ethics and vocational training in the curriculum will be beneficial.