

Student Indiscipline

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Abstract

A problem to be reckoned with globally is student indiscipline. This is to be noticed right across all the continents and the problems are mostly similar in nature. Most of the psychologists feel that parental upbringing to a large extent is responsible for the behaviour of the child as it grows up. A child brought up in a friendly loving environment, being obedient to its parents develops later, in most of the cases, into a disciplined student and into a law-abiding citizen – case studies all over globally, account for this. Discipline is ushered in at an early stage as and when the child gets into adolescence. This paper deals with the causes of student indiscipline, types and its control. It is always better to start grooming the child from infancy, rather than wait till it becomes bad and then look for a recipe for disaster!

To quote,

Nelson Mandela, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Keywords Indiscipline, Undisciplined Behaviour, Adolescence, Teaching Inefficacy, Alcoholism & Drugs, Cyber-crimes, Consequences of Correcting Indiscipline,

Date of Submission: 18-03-2024

Date of Acceptance: 28-03-2024

I. Introduction

Factors that Contribute to Student Indiscipline

Student indiscipline starts from the time a child is sent to school in the primary stages. It can come from the parents sending the child to school without necessary books or uniforms dictated by the school authorities, or being late and not at the appointed school hours / time. Parental contributions at this stage have been found to be predominant in many of such cases. It could be attributed to poverty, environment, family attitudinal problems and social insecurity. This if allowed to continue, can cause severe damages to the future of the child. Recalcitrance or primarily resistance from the child to attend school, due to either unfavorable school locations, treatment to new comers at school, and a variety of other causes. Psychologists feel that the school teachers, in certain cases have not been handling the little ones with affection and gentle care.

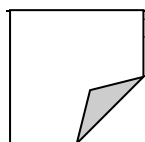
Indiscipline in the classrooms normally is mostly due to peer pressure or insubordinate/stubborn attitude of the student against the teaching faculty or the school itself. This is a mass problem to be dealt by the school authorities; parental interference with school discipline and confrontation of teachers were not significant factors contributing to school or classroom indiscipline. Classroom indiscipline could mostly be due to talking amongst students during the class time, disrespecting teachers, inter-personal problems with peers including aggressiveness, spoiling the class atmosphere by being inattentive.

Teachers are equally irresponsive to curbing such problems of inattentiveness, talking amongst students in the classroom, and stubborn attitudes of students. Early prevention should have been taken, as it could have been suppressed, if the teacher had been firm. This is normally misconstrued and the teaching inefficacy of the teacher could be in question.

In recent times, right across the world, it has been found that “Alcoholism & Drugs Menace, and

Gambling addicts” destroy the academic ambience in a classroom. A major role of the teacher and the parents is needed to prevent this curse from spreading amongst the student community. Further, unless speedy corrections are taken, the students involved could face a lifelong problem of achieving success. Most of these problems are mostly not-reported just to protect the name and sanctity of the institution. Zero tolerance policies to non-retributive, non-exclusionary discipline practices need to be considered unless the cases become irreparable in course of time; such procedures need to be pursued with dialogues between the teachers concerned and administrator, before the matter gets out of hand and safety in schools are threatened.

Cyber-crimes and pornography seem to threaten some sections of the student community. This arises from students learning from audio-visual tracks, films and the news flashed on TV screens of incidences occurring in real life. These make some adolescent students to take to cybercrimes like hacking personal accounts of bank account holders, hacking of personal data of friends and other agencies.



Restlessness and unprecedented scenes occurring in educational institutions are as a result of some students staying away from a decent academic program. Agitations, strikes, boycott of classes are frequent in schools, colleges and universities of and on. Students indulge in violence, arson, destruction of property. This could be that they are prevented to employ unfair means to get through examinations. The whole academic system is at stake, unless these are curtailed, and strategies to end such problems are taken.

Steps to Curb Student Indiscipline

Before initiating any action to be taken on student unrests, it would be better to assess the conditions under which the resentments have started. Reasons could be temporal or perhaps even permanent that has not been attended to over several months or years and that has been neglected by the authorities. Some unrests could just be for minor causes, and if attended immediately, would pass off without much effect. In the Indian context, most of the student unrests have been only an expression of discontent relating to trivial causes. Current academic, social and economic situations and environments could also be the main reason to be the basis for such eruptions – lack of academic facilities, political conditions, and perhaps the exorbitant fees and costs towards acquiring higher education, creating a frustrated and aggressive student community!

Addressing the Parents and the Student Community

In such cases of student's unrest, it would be proper if the parents and the students be addressed separately and jointly to allow them to blow their steam out; understand their problems and all sorts of complaints they may have against the administration and management of the particular educational institution. In such cases, there is possibly a good amount of understanding that could be reached. Even otherwise, it is possible that both sides may hear their part of the problems, and perhaps come to a compromise and avoid further unnecessary actions from either side.

Counselling Sessions with Parents and Students

There could also be some individual cases of a student being aggressive or disobedient with the faculties. In such cases, it is always preferred to have some counselling sessions, organised to treat both the parent and the student. In all likelihood, it is possible that due to misunderstanding both the teacher and student could be at fault. This could come out during the counselling sessions. It is also possible in extreme cases to have a psychologist participate in the counselling session.

Moral Classes and Therapy Sessions

Subjecting students to a regular exposure to moral classes and sessions helps. Many a time, it is observed Cognitive-behavioural therapy {CBT} helps individuals to recognize and change their negative thinking patterns and behaviours. It enables students undergoing certain difficulties in their lives to ask questions and clarify them through guiding and counselling. On the other hand, Humanistic Therapy focuses on individuals understanding their own motivations and goals and work towards self-satisfaction

Minor Punishments

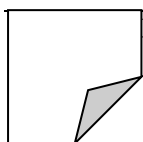
In the case of first-time offenders, students do feel psychologically defensive. In such cases small pecuniary punishments do help in correcting them, in abstaining from such behaviour later. This of course is not to be recommended, except when the student is a normally well behaved one.

Students' Indiscipline in the Classroom

This is a common type of indiscipline normally frequented, in order to settle their grievances, which is bottled up for some time. For example, when the teacher is not good and ineffective in teaching, or very unethical in behaviour, students tend to revolt. It is very important during such occurrences for the management should change the teacher from a particular class into another, or advise the faculty to abstain from such behaviour in the classroom or improve his teaching methods. If the problem persists, the management needs to take a view and change the faculty. At times, it could also relate to a class of students, aggrieved with the facilities offered, or perhaps high tuition fees, or perhaps dissatisfaction, or perhaps totally devoid of logical reasons. In such cases, it depends on the management to address their problems, however small it may be.

Adolescence and Behaviour

This is mostly the cause of many incidences in high school and higher educational institutions – Alcoholism, Drugs, Gambling, Cybercrimes, Sex and Pornography. This is a widespread problem encountered globally. Though every other problem could be dealt with, Cybercrimes evade control. Almost all of the Higher Educational Institutions globally are faced with all the five menaces, each institution seems to have any few or all of these problems to handle. It is universally felt that counselling alone can cure at least some of them. Some of



the countries do inflict harsh punishments on the students involved in such practices; but still the problems do persist. This could only be handled with the cooperation of the student's family/parents, society, the government and the educational institutions. With the advancements in the ICT sector and the technology, there seems these menaces to be a never ending and challenging problem. Psychological methods do seem to limit the increase of such menaces; still the end is not in sight!

In certain cases, like ragging and torture by senior students' cautious decisions need to be taken by the managements. If ragging entailing physical handling of the juniors by the seniors takes place, strict measures need to be taken; so that it is curbed immediately. Anti ragging rules must be promptly displayed.

Unsocial elements are mostly responsible for the introduction of spurious alcohols, drugs and pornography into schools, colleges and universities. Drug cartels need to be identified by the governmental agencies and put an end to. This is not possible unless the drug barons are brought to book by the systems in vogue. Governmental authorities need to swoop down on such centres and eliminate the selling and distribution of drugs and alcoholic substances, and crack down on sex and gambling spots.

Another strong reason for such illegal activities to flourish is the high percentage of school drop outs. One of the major reasons to account for is the high dropout rate of students from schools; happens to be a major cause of concern and problem for policy makers and educators. This dropout is measured in terms of percentage of students who leave school before completing their level or grade. UDISE {Unified District Information System for Education} data for 2021-2022 for India reveals that the overall dropout rate for schools is 1.5 %. Highest at the secondary stage {Classes 9-10} at 12.6% followed by upper primary {Classes 6-8} at 3% and primary {Classes 3-5} at 1.5%. The dropout rate at all stages is higher with girls than boys. Reasons attributed are poverty, total lack of access to quality education, too much stress at schools, lack of support from families {illiteracy}, social and cultural norms and priority of other activities over education. This is noticeable right across India.

India and the Sustainability Development Goal – 4

In order to reduce the percentage of school dropouts, the Government of India has taken to adapting the sustainability principles to education – NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Education have set “Targets 4.1 and 4.2: free, equitable, accessible, and quality primary and secondary education with childcare development” ; which incidentally aims at free and quality education for all, under which the following are to be delivered:

- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan {SSA}: SSA focused on providing free and compulsory education to all children aged 6 to 14 years.
- Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan {RMSA}: RMSA aims to enhance the enrolment rate in secondary schools and improve the quality of education by providing resources, infrastructure, and teacher training.
- Mid-Day Meal Scheme: Hitherto, the students of poor family backgrounds were not able to get a square meal a day. This scheme was launched with the aim to improve school attendance and nutrition among students by providing free midday meals in government schools.

Addressing Student Problems

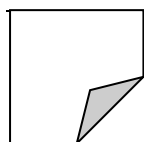
As can be ascertained from a section of the student community and parents, most of the unrest and rebellions, strikes and the like of disturbances could be brought down to a large extent, if some of the economic causes, like reducing the fees structures {admission, tuition, examinations, certifications etc.}; improving the quality of education {teaching efficacy improved, coaching classes at economic rates, behaviour of some in the teaching faculty towards girl students taken care of, reducing dropouts, eliminating the use of drugs and alcoholics in campuses}; maintaining and upgrading facilities {in teaching methodologies, adequate hostel and canteen facilities, better catering}; and avoiding {political influences in academic institutions} are taken care of.

These are some of the basic necessities of students that need to be taken care of, if we are to be freed from such student unrests! It is the speed and totality of settlement of the problem that matters.

II. Conclusions

Students unrest and indiscipline cases arise as a result of dissatisfaction or unwillingness of the student community to adhere to certain rules and regulations being introduced in schools, colleges and universities, by managements or governments. These phenomena of student indiscipline exist in all parts of the world, and not confined to any area or region. It is customary to note that an individual's case is entirely different from a group of students resorting to unwary ways, spoiling the peace and sanctity of educational systems. However, dealing with such issues affects the health of the institution and the State. In most of the cases, it is necessary expeditious solutions should be aimed to avoid unnecessary unpleasantness being created in the form of strikes and the subsequent loss to the infrastructure, which could also arise!

As far as possible, complaints if any raised by any individual student or a group, should first be quickly analysed and a solution found. The managements should also understand that the future of such students is at stake. Punishments should be meted out, but rarely, unless satisfactory causes/reasons are met. Parents, and



teachers should be taken into confidence before such actions are necessitated, and if the problem does not involve other student groups.

Acknowledgement

Acknowledgement is due to Er. A.C.S Arunkumar, President, Dr. M.G.R. Educational & Research Institute, for supporting this work.

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