

# True Education

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We all know the importance of Education. Education gives up opportunities and it makes us complete. Today, I am going to talk about what True Education is and more importantly what role we as parents play in imparting true education to our children.

## **True Education**

True Education means more than the academic value. Academic knowledge alone is no great value. Sure, it helps us to earn a livelihood but True Education should go much beyond the preparation for earning a living. It should prepare one for the challenges in life morally & spiritually. It has to do with the whole being of the person and should bring a harmonious development of the physical, the mental and the spiritual powers.

It is very obvious that children who are encouraged to develop harmoniously will create new ways of life for themselves and for others as well. When I say harmonious development, I mean three things:

1. How does the child react to various issues in life?
2. How well the child treats & interacts with peers, elders and neighbours?
3. How well is the child socially connected to the other people - Is he concerned about the poor and less privileged in the world OR is he making fun of them?

True Education must address things like this, provide direction and make a person GOOD human being and not necessarily a SUCCESSFUL human being.

## **Parenting**

Whether we agree or not, we as a parent should be responsible for imparting True Education to our children. Parents are supposed to be the Primary Character Trainers for the children and also the first and most powerful role model for them. It is predominantly through their example and influence that the children become what they are. So, the role of parents is very vital in bringing out the GOODNESS of their children.

The family unit serves as a training ground for the children to develop kinship, cooperation, empathy, sharing and understanding. Unfortunately many young kids now are totally oblivious to the importance of dedicating their lives to great ideals. Si, it is up to the parents to endeavor to make sure their children lead purposeful lives.

Here is what typically happens: When a child is born, we are so excited to welcome the new baby into our world. For first few years, we take lot of care and offer so much attention to the child. We carefully watch the baby - is she walking quick enough, is she speaking well enough, is she growing at the rate she is supposed to etc. But as the children get older and start interacting with the outer world, we tend to get busier with our daily routines and the amount of time we spend with our children gradually goes down. For some reason, we totally ignore that fact that it is the time that we need to spend more time with them since they are exposed to many different things in the world both good and bad and it is our responsibility to keep them on right track. That should always stay on top of our priority list.

If we fail to understand our children and can not keep track of their strengths and weaknesses, we are seriously violating the fundamental principle of parenting and it may cost us a lot. We have to realize it before it gets too late.

# True Education

## Just to put together

True education should never start and end with academic knowledge. It has more to do with bringing out goodness in the child. It should tell us how to live for others. Parents are responsible to impart true education to their children.

Let us take a moment to think through some questions:

1. Am I spending enough time with my children?
2. Am I doing a good job in keeping track of their strengths and weaknesses from time to time?
3. Last but not least, let's THANK our parents for having worked so hard, for imparting True Education to us and thus making us what we are and where we are today.

I will end my talk by sharing a small story of a father and son. The father is a very busy and hardworking business consultant, works for almost 15-16 hrs a day and hardly has any time for himself and his family. His 8 yr old son loves to spend time with his father but never gets a chance to do so. One day, when the father comes home little early,

The son asks: "Daddy, may I ask you something?"

Father: "Sure"

Son: "How much do you earn?"

Father: "What, you want to know how much I earn, why do you want to know?"

Son: "Please Daddy, tell me how much you earn"

Father: "Ok, I earn \$300/hr"

Son: "Oh! \$300 per hour, that's a lot of money Daddy"

Father: "I know that, just go and finish your homework."

One month after this happened, the son comes to his father again and asks:

Son: "Daddy, can I ask you something?"

Father: "Now, what?"

Son: "Can I borrow \$100 from you?"

Father: "What, \$100? But why, what do you want that much money?"

Son: "Please Daddy, it's very important to me. I'll pay you back"

Father: "Are you crazy, at your age, you should not even think about \$100, that's a lot money. No way I am giving you that much money. Just go to bed"

The son gets very upset and slowly walks into his bed room. After few minutes, the father realizes "may be I shouldn't have shouted at him like that. Let me find out why needs that money, may be it is very important to him". So, he then comes to his son's room and says: "Son, I am sorry for shouting at you. I shouldn't have done that. Here is your \$100. Take it. But tell me what you want to do with it, I am little curious".

The son jumps out of the bed, he is so happy, hugs and kisses his father and says "I love you Daddy, Thank you so much and give me a minute". He walks back to his cup board, picks up his little wallet and takes out few dollar bills and lot of coins. He says "Daddy, this is my pocket money that I saved for last one year and it is \$200. With that \$100 from you, I have a total of \$300. Now, with this \$300, can I buy an hour of your time tomorrow so that we can have dinner together, please, because tomorrow is my birth day".

Just imagine the situation that the father is in. We definitely don't want to get that busy in life.

THANK YOU  
Suryaprasad Padala  
[padalasurya@yahoo.com](mailto:padalasurya@yahoo.com)