
UNIT 2 ASPIRATIONS OF INDIAN SOCIETY

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2.1 INTRODUCTION

Today world has become a global village. India has to compete with super powers. We have tremendous achievements in different areas i.e. in Education, Science Technology, Agriculture & Communication, Trade and Commerce. But we still have to go a long way to reach the destination of a democratic, secular and socialistic society and to create a national system of education suited to needs and aspirations that we have committed ourselves. Ignorance, illiteracy, problem of women harassment and over population are the difficulties that still pose obstacles in the growth and development of our society. Even after launching so many educational and other social and economic schemes by the government, every individual of the society is not benefited.

Education has to play its role significantly; it has to bind people in unity. Social order and justice have to be maintained. A self-sufficient society has to be established, where everyone gets respect and shows commitment towards society's growth in reciprocation and where everyone is dedicated to participate in the interest of national development. The above Unit, thematically discusses all concepts described above specifically focusing on the aspirations of Indian Society and the role of education relevant to the Indian Society.

2.2 OBJECTIVES

After going through this Unit, you will be able to:

- describe various aspirations of Indian society;
- relate these aspirations to the prevailing scenario of India;
- analyse and discuss social order and social justice;
- explain the need of self-esteem and self-actualization; and
- discuss the role of education in achieving these social aspirations.

2.3 MAJOR AREAS OF ASPIRATIONS

India is a democratic country with equal rights to the citizens of the country. During the years of its independence, it has realised many up and down to actualising its democracy and practicing its constitution. By exercising its constitutional provisions it has become matured enough to deal the social as well on the other issues happen in the nation. Let us discuss its major aspirations in brief.

2.3.1 Nationalism

Nationalism is the force that binds the citizens of a country. It motivates the way for an individual to sacrifice its own good for the wellness of the nation. The patriotic citizens of a country sacrifice their own interests for the well-being of the nation. The spirit of nationalism makes the individual feel that nothing is above nation. The individual citizens resolve their differences and binds them in strong ties to achieve one goal, which is to serve the nation and safeguard it from the external dangers.

Education for Nationalism

An important aim of education is to socialize the individuals and to bind them in the bonds of unity. Education for nationalism in reality refers to education which is imparted for national unity and for the inculcation of the spirit of social service. It is oriented towards national reconstruction and national progress. The national unity/integration is possible only when citizens belonging to different races, classes, social groups, states, provinces develop a feeling of love towards their nation and strive together for the national progress and for further national interests.

Education helps in national progress when it leads to economic betterment of the country. Education should eradicate social evils. It must be ensured that people do not fight with each other on the issues of language, caste, creed and colour.

Petty issues pose obstacles in the way of nationalism like: (a) several religions, (b) different communities, (c) various political parties, (d) regional states, (e) several languages, (f) economic disparities, (g) social inequalities, (h) lack of worthy leadership, and (i) lack of appropriate education.

Today, Indian society has to aspire for the growth of a nationalistic spirit. Curriculum, teaching methods, and teachers all should strive to integrate multi-complex heterogeneous sub-groups into the mainstream of a cohesive national life.

Check Your Progress 1

Note: a) Write your answers in the space given below:
b) Compare your answers with those given at the end of the Unit.

1. What do you mean by Nationalism?
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2. How the national integration is possible?
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2.3.2 Social Order

There is an underlying law and arrangement according to which every institution or organisation functions. This is true about a nation as well as a society. The order or the sum total arrangement and discipline according to which the society functions are called 'social order'. Social order is nothing but arrangement of the society. It is responsible for proper social interactions and social relationships. The social order is the sum total of the traditions, processes, material, cooperation, control and freedom etc. Social order has also been defined as 'constellation of social institutions'. It has also been described as, "a certain quality viz. the smooth, efficient, logical, aesthetic and ethnic interactional functioning of individuals and groups within such totality". According to F.C. Lumley, "in general, the term 'social order' refers to the totality of human relationship and culture of any given area or time." (Rai, 1990, p. 47).

Social order is the integrated whole of the Society. In short, when various units of the society discharge their functions, according to their interactional relations, there is an arrangement which is known as social order.

Types of Social Order

Social order is an organisation of various units of the society. As a result of this social order various units function in a flexible manner. Flexibility is caused by changes in the circumstances. Social order may generally be divided into the following types:

i) Family and Kinship

The family is the 'potential teacher of the good society'. It is the family as a social group who has the responsibility for creating an understanding among children about their culture and to acquaint them with the conditions, problems and issues of changing culture. In India, family has always taken a high place in the development of the child. But now, its importance is minimized on the account of disintegration of the joint family system. In

contemporary India, family values are being tarnished, divorce rates are increasing, extra marital affairs, live in relationship and single parent children are among other phenomena which affect development of the children. The aspirations of Indian society should be to preserve and reinforce the Indian family ideals and values, which has always been an inspiration to the world social order.

ii) Economic Order

The term 'Economic Order' includes all those economic institutions and organisations that are responsible for the economic welfare and prosperity of the society. The institutions that deal with the production, distribution, exchange etc. are called economic institutions. This economic order changes according to the development of the society. The economic order may be classified under the following heads like hunting stage, roving stage, agricultural stage and industrial stage.

Education of every society is very much governed by its economic factors. For example, education imparted in hunting stage cannot be useful at present. A person who has better economic status can afford to give better education to his/her family. On the other hand, education also influences the economic prosperity of a particular society. It can be said that relationship between the education and economic status is reciprocal.

Educational expansion and economic growth run parallel. Education has a relatively long productive life as compared to the other forms of non-human capital. It can be said that investment in education brings a high return in the form of accelerated economic growth.

iii) Political Order

Political order is nothing but that part or aspect of the social order in which various political institutions exist. Governments and allied agencies are the main factors and elements of the political order. State is the most important agency. Other political institutions are more or less subsidiary and secondary to it. State plays a vital role in education. In this section, the word Country or State has been used synonymously. It represents a formal government and structured political system.

It will be worthwhile to study the situation of a country and its relationship with the education. The education that is imparted with the help of the machinery in the country is bound to be according to the political system by which the country swears. Through education, country tries to develop and groom the citizens who can be helpful members of the society. If the country has a democratic system, its education is bound to be of the type that would train the citizens in the art of democracy.

State, according to great ancient thinkers was synonymous with society but in the modern days it is treated as a separate political identity. Society is a more comprehensive term while State is a political institution that has limited scope and organization. It is political organization that is responsible for maintaining law and order in the society and also bringing about its development.

iv) Religious Order

India is a multi-religious country. People of various religious faith live in the country with love and unity and have adopted the principles of secularism

in their sociopolitical life. The constitution of India ensures religious freedom to its citizens.

Religion induces human beings to lead a moral life. Influenced by it, people try to mould their character according to those ideals which religion establishes. Religion has taught us conducive civic life, humanity, fellow feeling, universal brotherhood national and emotional integration among the groups, sub-groups, and individuals of society since the ancient times.

But in contemporary India, on the name of religion, people are breeding hatred and narrow mindedness in the place of love and generosity. Horrible atrocities have been committed on the followers of other religion.

Religious order has to be maintained. For it, religion should become a strong medium of human welfare. It should be a tool of discipline and spiritual upliftment of the society. Children should be familiarized with the basic principles and ideals of all religions. It is therefore the human and other related values inherited in various religions should be a part of school curriculum in forms of stories, narrations and brain storming.

v) Legal Order

Whatever be the form of Government, laws are essential to every society as rules that have been devised for the conduct of social life. Under the Jurisdiction of Indian Constitution 'Right to Education' is meant for everyone. Globally, Right to Education derives its legal basis from article 26(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which states that everyone has the Right to Education. Obedience to law is mandatory and violation of law is punishable by that organized force of the community or redressed by the judiciary machinery. Who is to decide how much of the Nation's wealth can be used and for how long shall Education be provided free? This is to be followed in a legal manner to maintain social discipline in the Society. The Indian aspiration, in this regard, has to be in strengthening the legal order for efficient action and early redressal, so that the citizens have faith in it for their protection and security from the nefarious elements of society.

Check Your Progress 2

- Note:** a) Write your answers in the space given below:
b) Compare your answers with those given at the end of the Unit.

3. How would you define social order?
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4. What are the components of social order?
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5. How is the economic order concerned with all other orders?

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2.3.3 Social Justice

All over the world, society is differentiated by hierarchies based on social stratification. The social patterns are distributed unequally within society.

In the words of Young and Mack, “In most societies people classify one another into categories and rank, these categories ranging from higher to lower. The process of defining such categories is called social stratification and the resulting set of these ranked categories is called the stratification structure” (Mathur, 1992, p. 268). The categories themselves are called strata, popularly known as classes. In India, the gap between the rich and the poor, the male and the female, the worker and the employer are the basic problems. There can be three types of social characteristics used in stratification system, considering the entire spectrum of societies. These are: (1) biologically grounded factors such as: age, sex, race and kinship; (2) class characteristics such as: occupation, wealth and power; (3) any number of idiosyncratic characteristics such as: talent and personality.

But sometimes, stratification serves also as a cohesive social force. Belief system is a unifying force; the society becomes more cohesive through the stratification practiced by it. It may, therefore, be asserted that stratification can mean both divisiveness and cohesion.

There is an unequal distribution of property, income and basic services in our society. Still, there are a number of people who do not get two meals a day. Women still don't get equal treatment in some societies/areas. How can the concept of social justice fit into such a scenario? It is through education that the problem of stratification can be solved. This is a typical situation in the Indian society. On one hand, efforts are being made to cut the barriers of stratification along the caste lines on the other hand; more stratification on class lines is being inculcated through a class conscious educational system.

When a person serving at a lower job moves to a job which provides higher position and status s/he has altered his/her position in the class structure. The person can be described as socially mobile when s/he moves from one social group to another social group. When an individual member of the society moves upward in social or economic hierarchy s/he is said to have undergone **vertical mobility**. In **horizontal social mobility**, the movement of the individual from one group to the other is at the same level. There is no change in the status but only in the affiliation.

In order to bring social justice, education must play its role. No doubt, government has launched various policies for providing equal opportunities to all male and female belonging to any caste, creed or faith. There are various ways which can bring changes. People achieve progress as a result

of improved ideas and thinking. They have to learn how to adjust in the society. Education can inculcate desire for progress and improvement in the people. Moreover, people have to learn social loyalties also.

Social Mobility

Social mobility shows the nature of dynamism and change in the social systems. We have experienced many changes in the society in terms of occupation, living standards, job profiles, work nature, conservatism to open mindedness and acceptance of many social dealings/happenings. This is because of the factor of social mobility. Social mobility may be of many types such as: horizontal mobility, vertical mobility, upward mobility, downward mobility, inter-generational mobility, intra-generational mobility, and occupational mobility. Let us have certain discussions on each type of the social mobility. You will study more on social mobility in Unit-3 of this Block.

Horizontal Mobility: In this type of social mobility person changes his/her status or occupation but overall, social standing remains same. For example, if an engineer or a doctor changes his/her occupation and becomes a teaching faculty in an engineering college or medical institute, then the original status of the person remains same. Such social mobility is called as the horizontal mobility.

Vertical Mobility: Vertical mobility refers to change in the occupation, economic status, and political status from one position to another. It may be ascending or descending vertical mobility in the society. For example, if a Sarpanch of a Panchayat becomes a Member of the Legislative Assembly or Member of Parliament is called as ascending vertical mobility. Here the mobility goes from downwards to upwards. On the contrary, if happens from high social or occupational status to low status, which called descending vertical mobility.

Activity 1

As per the discussion of social mobility, cite one example each of upward, downward, inter-generational, and intra-generational mobility.

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Check Your Progress 2

Note: a) Write your answers in the space given below:
b) Compare your answers with those given at the end of the Unit.

- 6. What are the criteria of social stratification in Indian Society?
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- 7. What do you mean by social mobility?
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- 8. How does education help in the provision of social justice?
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2.3.4 Universalism

The very concept of universalism is extensively inclusive. It means that it extends to all, without exception and therefore, includes all in the class or category under consideration. It necessarily comprehends an ‘allness in oneness’ which allows for no exception.

Universalism is a religious, theological and philosophical concept with universal application or applicability. With the advent of worldwide socioeconomic relations, the planet is considered one single unit or a global village. The actions and interactions among different areas that are taking place in different countries are coming closer and are crossing the geographical limits. We as an individual or nation cannot survive by being isolated. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru was a visionary, who realized it early on; friendship, feelings like love and tolerance are essential amongst all nations. So it is not a new concept. But we have to understand it keeping in mind the historical background and present scenario so that our future is secured.

The greatest danger to world peace or universalism is the political and economic circumstances of different countries. In its individual interest one nation does not want other nation to make progress.

People’s greed for power and prestige is a danger to achieve universalism. It is high time that all nations realize that even the First World War was

fought due to this rivalry between Germany and other Nations. The loss caused by that world war should not be forgotten.

Efforts at all levels should be made to bring universalism. For developing international understanding, an environment of cooperation, tolerance and mutual trust, dependence and friendship should be created. This is the need of the time.

Teaching for world understanding should pervade every educational programme. We have to plan and design our teaching and learning process in a way that the children can grow as global citizens.

Check Your Progress 4

Note: a) Write your answers in the space given below:
b) Compare your answers with those given at the end of the Unit.

9. What do you mean by the term 'universalism'?
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10. What is the danger to universalism?
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11. What can be the role of education to promote universalism?
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2.4 ROLE OF EDUCATION RELEVANT TO INDIAN SOCIETY

It is now widely held that a society wishing to change or modernize itself uses a number of means among which education is perhaps the most important one to achieve the desired goals. Education is considered to be of immense help in realizing the ideals of democracy, secularism, and national integration.

Education is expected to change the values and attitudes of the people and to create in them an urge or the necessary motivation for social change. Education can prepare the needed competent individuals who are self-sufficient to go for self-actualization.

In the Indian context, education has to be an influential tool in achieving the cherished aspirations of Indian society. This can be accomplished as discussed under the following headings.

2.4.1 Self-esteem and Respect

In sociology and psychology, self-esteem reflects a person's overall subjective emotional evaluation of his or her own worth. It is a judgment of oneself as well as an attitude toward the self. Self-esteem encompasses beliefs and emotions such as triumph, despair, pride and shame. It can be defined as what we think about the self. It is the positive or negative evaluation of the self and how we feel about it. Self-esteem is attractive as a socio-psychological construct, because, researches have conceptualized it as an influential predictor of certain outcomes such as academic achievement, happiness, satisfaction in marriage and relationship and criminal behaviour. Self-esteem can apply specifically to a particular dimension or a global extent. Psychologists usually regard self-esteem as an enduring personality characteristic though normal and short term variations. The other terms used for self-esteem are: self-respect, self-integrity or self-regard.

We all know that self-esteem can be an important part of success. Little self-esteem can leave people feeling defeated or depressed. It can also lead people to make bad choices, fall into destructive relationships, or fail to live up to their full potential. Self-esteem levels at the extreme high and low ends of the spectrum can be damaging. So the ideal is to strike a balance between somewhere in the middle. So your pride in yourself is called self-esteem. Think of self-esteem as you value yourself. If you feel like you are not worthy of good things, you may have low self-esteem, confidence, self-direction, optimism, ability to solve problems. Good self-care and ability to take the courage are some of the signs of positive self-esteem.

People of low self-esteem remain frustrated. They always blame others, cannot respect religious values and beliefs of other. Education should inculcate among individuals the skills and right attitudes with required competencies to develop positive self-esteem.

2.4.2 Society and Environmental Awareness

There is an urgent need to develop a global understanding about perspective of the ecological, economic and moral consideration of all. In the present context, it has become essential to improve all ecological relationships including the relationship of humanity with nature and people with each other. It becomes imperative that every nation, according to its culture, clarify for itself the meaning of such basic concepts as: 'quality of life' and human happiness in the context of the total environment; with an extension of the clarification and appreciation of other cultures; and beyond one's own national boundaries. It has to be realized which action will ensure the preservation and improvement of human potentials and develop social and individual well-being in harmony with the biophysical and human-made environment.

Education has to play a key role in this direction to make the people aware. We need to develop a world population that is aware of and concerned about the environment and its associated problems like depletion of natural resources which has the knowledge, skills, attitudes and commitment to work individually and collectively towards the solution of current problems of

society and the prevention of new ones. Individuals must be helped to have an awareness and sensitivity to the total environment and its allied problems. Education must inculcate such knowledge and values in the individuals that an attitude change takes place and they acquire social values, strong feelings of concern for the environment and the motivation to play a part in the protection and improvement of the society. Schools must enable the individuals to evaluate environmental measures and education programmes in terms of ecological, political, economic, social, aesthetic and educational factors.

Check Your Progress 5

Note: a) Write your answers in the space given below:
b) Compare your answers with those given at the end of the Unit.

12. How self-esteem and respect of an individual is essential for the functioning of any society?

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13. How can environmental awareness among people help them to solve the problems of the society?

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2.4.3 Need for Self-sufficiency

Let us make you understand what we mean by self-sufficiency. It means to be economically independent, self-reliant and self-supportive. Society must be self-sufficient for its growth. It can be defined as ‘needing no external help in satisfying one’s basic needs, especially with regard to the production of food. Our society has to make provisions that people in all sectors should be self-sufficient.

Our main potential asset is our people, whether using a plough, driving a truck, designing a still mill or typing business letters, the human factor is common and vital to all branches of economic activity. Education has an essential role to play in the structure and effectiveness of the country’s workforce. As the economy develops and diversifies, the number of occupations increases and it requires educated persons to fill. Education must be geared up to enhance the economy of the country.

At every level of education (primary, secondary and higher) strong emphasis must be laid on the application of knowledge in the farm, in the workshop, the laboratory and the factory.

In various stages of education, children get an understanding of the world of modern technology in the relation of society; they get basic theoretical

concepts and practical in using tools and materials in various technical fields. In both the developing and the industrially advanced countries, technology is being introduced as a subject for all students as a part of general education.

Work experience should be emphasized in curriculum at least at school level. Natural resources must be utilized well and judicious.

Of course, education has provided the scientific and technical know-how essential for progress. But the benefits have not reached to all. Poverty, ignorance, malnutrition and above all the problem of population are the obstacles in the self-sufficiency of the people. If we want our society to survive in the global context, its people have to be self-sufficient in economic as well as other fields.

2.4.4 Self-actualization

Human being has higher order needs other than the biological needs like hunger, thirst, etc. S/he needs love and respect also. Abraham Maslow developed his theory of self-actualization which offers a positive approach towards motivation and growth. He arranged human needs in two divisions: (a) deficit needs; (b) growth needs. Under the first category comes all the physiological needs, safety needs, belongingness, love and esteem needs. The growth need refers only to the need for self-actualization. After the satisfaction of physiological needs, the next higher order need becomes prominent.

Of course, it is true that first of all biological needs of a person should be fulfilled. But on this earth, one has to perform the duties of higher order also. Education has to play its role so that such an environment should be created where there is a focus on the complete education of an individual, where s/he thinks of progress of the society and think of fulfilling the need of self-actualization. School has to ensure that the relationships are not based on wealth, social status and material possession. The higher order eternal values like, honesty, sincerity, tolerance, cooperation, respect of nation and other people should be inculcated in children so that they develop as a committed and dedicated citizen.

For self-actualization, one needs congenial environment, so that the government has to see that all get equal opportunities for the growth of the individual and the society as well.

Check Your Progress 6

- Note:** a) Write your answers in the space given below:
b) Compare your answers with those given at the end of the Unit.

14. Why is self-sufficiency essential for any society?

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15. What are the obstacles in the way of India's self-sufficiency?

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16. What do you mean by self-actualization?

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17. What contribution can be expected from people with self-actualization?

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2.4.5 Participating in National Development

Education has a very significant role to play in promoting national development. It must aim at preparing citizens full of nationalism. There has been increasing economic integration and growing economic independence between countries in the world economy. We have to compete with other developed countries. Education is an influential instrument to bring about national development. Thus, education in India, for encouraging participation in national development, has to aim at the following goals:

1. **Healthy Change in outlook:** Education should bring about a healthy and positive change in outlook of the pupils towards individuals, groups and nation as a whole and towards things, institutions, events and processes as the part.
2. **Development of human resources:** Education must focus on providing skilled and efficient persons in the field of economic, industrial, technological and social spheres.
3. **Development of Attitude:** Education must emphasize on new knowledge, skills and attitudes that can help in national development of the country.
4. **Development of Democratic and Secular Values:** Education must inculcate among its citizens the democratic and secular values.
5. **National consciousness:** Education must provide ideological articulation; promotion of national consciousness to help people to see their needs and problems in national perspective.

6. **Increasing the physical quality of life index:** Education must focus on biological well-being of mankind and ratio of intellectual labour value to total labour generated in a society.
7. **Social and National Integration:** Education must teach for social and national integration.
8. **For Economic Progress:** Educational progress must be for national development. Education must emphasize on economic well-being of individuals and the nation.
9. **Synthesising scientific spiritual and cultural values:** Education can bring harmony between spiritual and scientific values.
10. **Peace and International understanding:** Education must inculcate in citizens the feeling of peace and international understanding.
11. **Prevention of Environmental Degradation** is the must.

At the end, some other issues like gender equality, controlling population growth, environmental awareness and respect for all irrespective of caste, colour and creed are to be included in education. We hope that all these aspects when taken care of, will lead to national development.

Check Your Progress 7

- Note:** a) Write your answers in the space given below:
b) Compare your answers with those given at the end of the Unit.

18. What are the various factors affecting national development in India?

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19. What do you mean by education for national consciousness?

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2.5 LET US SUM UP

In this Unit, we tried to explain that the spirit of the nationalism makes the individual to feel that nothing is above the nation. We also explained that social order is the arrangement of the society. Maintenance of social justice and social order is essential. We also explained how the world has turned into a global village. There is an urgent need to develop a global understanding in all perspectives. There is a need that society must be self-sufficient. All the citizens have their self-esteem and self-actualization. We also illustrated that all the above aspirations are likely to be fulfilled, when education plays

its role. All the citizens are encouraged to contribute their role in national development.

2.6 UNIT END EXERCISES

1. Assuming you are a teacher in a rural area, how would you spread the message of family planning among the masses?
2. Discuss the obstacles in the way of achieving national unity.
3. Despite efforts, people fight on the basis of language. What could be the reasons? Suggest some remedies.
4. The economic order leaves a lot to be desired in this country. Comment with examples.
5. What are the reasons that social justice is not maintained in our society? Give your view point.

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2.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

1. Nationalism is the commenting force that binds the citizens of a country in unity.
2. When the citizens of different caste, colour and creed develop a feeling of love towards the nation and strive together for the national progress.
3. The sum total of arrangement and discipline, according to which the society functions.
4. Family, economic, political, religious and legal aspects.

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5. Economic order influences all other aspects. Economically sound person can perform all other duties well.
6. Prosperity, power and prestige.
7. Movement of people from lower strata of society to higher strata with the help of education.
8. Education promotes social mobility by providing equal opportunities, minimizing the gap on the basis of caste, colour and creed.
9. Universalism is a religious, theological and philosophical concept with universal application or applicability.
10. People's hunger for power and prestige and narrow nationalism.
11. Educational programmes should be designed in a manner that the children can grow world minded.
12. A person with self-esteem and repute will be able to think of welfare of the society.
13. Can have strong feelings of concern and commitment towards the society and its upliftment.
14. For being able to maintain independence and effective structure of society.
15. Poverty, ignorance, illiteracy, over-population and depletion of natural resources.
16. Higher order needs where human being thinks of welfare of the society first.
17. Bringing values like honesty, tolerance, cooperation and respect for all.
18. Prevention of environmental degradation and environmental awareness enhancing the physical and spiritual quality of life and population control.
19. To help people to see their needs and problems in national perspective.