



Value Creating Education Pedagogy: Hope in the 21st Century India

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Abstract

This research describes Soka (value-creating) education - an educational theory propounded by the Japanese educator Tsunesaburo Makiguchi (1871 – 1944), who was Josei Toda's mentor in life. On November 18, 1930, Toda published the first volume of Makiguchi's Soka kyoikugaku taikai (The System of Value-Creating Pedagogy). Soka education is not a mere injection of knowledge, but a humanistic process that nurtures wisdom and enables the individual's potential to bloom to the fullest [1].

Mr. Makiguchi believed that the purpose of education is to bring happiness to children. The vision he cherished of the kind of teacher who would carry out that sacred task is not of someone who sits ensconced on the throne of learning as an object of veneration, but rather of a public servant who guides those aspiring to ascend that throne themselves. His was a revolutionary cry for humanistic education – “people foster people”. Soka education is not a mere injection of knowledge, but a humanistic process that nurtures wisdom and enables the individual's potential to bloom to the fullest. The fulfillment of Makiguchi's and Toda's vision for a Soka educational system was left to his disciple, Daisaku Ikeda who is the founder of Soka University of America (SUA). SUA is committed to the idea that a demanding curriculum that has the happiness and growth of each student as its central concern is the best way to prepare students to live as global citizens.

This paper is an empirical analysis of Indian students seeking to study at SUA. It aims to explore reasons why over the past one decade the number of students studying at this University has gradually increased. In-depth and focus group interviews were conducted with the Indian students who have graduated and are still studying at SUA.

The study identifies that humanistic education is the need of the 21st Century. The variables of this paper are limited to “Soka Education Pedagogy “as established by Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, the implications of these educational thoughts on the universalization of education in India and the scope of applicability of this educational thought in the 21st century India.

References

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