

# Does our education system kill the genius in a student?

ANITA KHUSHU

H R COLLEGE

## Abstract

*Our education system is primarily based on the idea of academic ability. The researcher conducted an offline survey by giving out questionnaires and then recording the responses. This survey was taken by 30 people, mostly students. The root cause for all problems due to the system is its rigidity and mechanical nature. This results in many highly talented, creative people to undervalue themselves due to the shortcomings of the system. Many undeserving candidates with poor academic performance are admitted to educational institutions due to the reservation.*

## Introduction

Each generation gives new form to the standards that shape education in its time. What emerges as a mark of our own generation is a concern for the quality and intellectual aims of education but at the same time without abandonment of the basic purpose of education which is training and preparing individuals to be responsible citizens. The education system is modeled in a way that it trains individuals to grow and mature in a gradual manner over the years. There has been a lot of work dedicated to ensuring that education is imparted in a systematic manner and curriculum planning is done in an efficient way.

Our education system is primarily based on the idea of academic ability. The reason for this is the lack of public systems of education before the 19<sup>th</sup> century. All the systems of education came into existence to meet the growing demands of industrialization during the industrial revolution. The hierarchy of education is rooted in the idea that most useful subjects for work are at the top. Today academic ability has dominated our view of intelligence because the universities designed the system in that way. The whole system of public education around the world is a protracted process of entrance into universities. The consequence is that many brilliant, creative people think that they are not good enough because the things they were good at wasn't valued at school. We cannot afford to go on this same path now, as this is indirectly killing the genius in the student. 'If you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree it will live its whole life thinking it is stupid.'

## Survey And Analysis

The researcher conducted an offline survey by giving out questionnaires and then recording the responses. This survey was taken by 30 people, mostly students.

Do you think examinations are necessary to gauge the performance of a student?

Options	Yes	No
No. of respondents	16	14
% of respondents	53.33	46.33

Just over half of the respondents think that exams are necessary to measure how a student is performing academically. This goes to show that it is believed that examinations form the backbone of the education system and there is no way around it. The necessity of having exams in the system is a sign to show the lack of other methods to judge progress.

: Do you think that the results of an examination are the true representation of the individual performance over the year?

Options	Yes, they do a decent job representing overall performance	No, just one test cannot represent overall performance
No. of respondents	7	23
% of respondents	23.33	76.66

An astonishingly high amount of respondents believe that exam results are not a true representation of the student's performance. Thus, exams fail on its primary objective of providing reliable results to judge overall performance. Most of the people believe that examinations do not serve their primary purpose. This also shows the widespread disbelief in students regarding exam result accuracy.

Do you think the reservation on the basis of caste is fair?

Options	Yes	No
No. of respondents	1	29
% of respondents	3.33	96.66

Almost all the respondents think that reservation on basis of caste is very unfair to the others. Caste based reservation has become old and outdated, making no sense today. Reserving seats for undeserving students is highly condemned because it is highly unnecessary as it serves no purpose.

What according to you is the biggest flaw in the education system?

Options	Standardized testing	Reservation	Stress on students
No. of respondents	13	12	5
% of respondents	43.33	40	16.66

People consider standardized testing as the biggest flaw in the system as it fails to accomplish its primary objective. The next big flaw in the system is reservation as it now is obsolete and makes no sense. Surprisingly, it is found not many consider stress on students as a major flaw in the system as students are able to cope with it.

Has the thought of being wrong ever stopped you from doing something?

Options	Yes	No
No. of respondents	26	4
% of respondents	86.66	13.33

Most people hesitate to try innovative things because they fear to be wrong. We are always taught that making mistakes is wrong and must be avoided; this stops us from creative thinking. The education system is responsible for hardwiring us in a way to try to always avoid mistakes.

## Discussion

The education system must be such that it caters to all the needs of the changing perception of people. Some fundamental changes to the system can be adopted from other countries. Children should be able to play for most of their days from sun up to sun down until the age of 5 or 6. In Denmark, Norway and Sweden, children do not begin academics until they are 7 years old. They should be able to try new things constantly as they wish, and be generally loved and valued and spend their time playing, enjoying, and learning what they want to learn. Nursery rhymes and children's songs are necessary fun. Additionally, they promote literacy. Children begin hearing similar phonemes and understand the concept of rhyme, rhythm and melody. This creates pattern recognition for linguistic development and is a precursor to reading readiness. Preschool education system must contain important information being conveyed in the form of songs and rhymes. Preschool is a place for making friends and playing, including making things with materials not available at home due to space, messiness, lack of funds to purchase materials, etc. Making and creating are two endeavours which occupy the ideal educational time at this age, beginning from 3 or 4, and continuing on throughout adulthood.

Elementary Education should be designed individually for each child. As far as reading and language arts are concerned, as each child begins to become aware of the alphabet, the sounds of letters can be introduced. It has been found that the method of teaching phonics to be superior in terms of reaching and teaching every single

student with a curriculum which is explicit, progressive, organized and systematic. Maths at a basic level can be individually designed and incorporated using as context making, creating, and new projects; maths also come naturally through daily life examples. Shapes and sizes can be introduced organically too. Memorizing mathematical facts are valuable throughout life. So is memorizing language we do not understand like pledge or poetry. Memorizing is helpful because it expands a child's ability to hold increasingly larger amounts of information in short and long term memory. It is a good brain exercise.

Students must be given an unconditional acceptance which makes everyone feel safe, and ready to greet the world with an enthusiastic and open mind. This means students must be encouraged to think outside the box and make mistakes while doing so. Mistakes should not be punished at this stage of education. Teachers must find material which interests the student. Keep finding more new material and interests, and allow interests to run deep as well as wide. The system must never stop learning what it is that delights a student. Teachers must focus on asking open-ended questions as much as possible.

As far as higher education is concerned there is a need to trim the bureaucracy & overly expansive curriculum. In other words, eliminate the matter in the curriculum that is just memorization but not the matter students really need. This will allow teachers more flexibility in the curriculum. This will also provide a systematic approach that allows teachers to selectively go deep, and allows others a higher standard for higher performing students. The education system must focus on creating a training, motivation, coaching, and mentoring for teachers. Let the teachers pick their own textbooks, not the university but the teacher. Most modern textbooks are designed in a way so as to teach the students content from an examination perspective. The textbooks give more importance is given to preparing students for the exam than for life. This method of teaching from various reference books, decentralizes the process of conducting examinations and removes stress off the shoulders of students.

## Conclusion

I would like to conclude that the education system is aimed at giving students the opportunity to grow and mature over the years. The root cause for all problems due to the system is its rigidity and mechanical nature. This results in many highly talented, creative people to undervalue themselves due to the shortcomings of the system. We are taught by the system that mistakes are counter-productive and are to be avoided at all costs. The reason why this does not make sense is that to be able to do something innovative, you must be open to the idea of being wrong. Failures are stepping stones to success; if an individual is not open to the possibility of failure, there is no chance of success. The fear of failure makes a person afraid of trying. The fact that people learn from their mistakes is often ignored.

I observed that the rigidity of the system does not let creativity thrive. Technical subjects are given more importance over the creative ones. There is very less scope for students to be creative sticking to the rigid curriculum. Innovative thinking is very limited in students owing to the constricted syllabus in educational institutions. The sole reason some students attend college is to obtain a degree.

Also, reservation of seats based on caste is unfair to the others and is biased. The system of reservation of seats was apt when it came into existence, but is obsolete today. Many undeserving candidates with poor academic performance are admitted to educational institutions due to the reservation.

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