

SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION (1952-53)

One of the most important events that has taken place in the realm of secondary education during the post-independence era, is the appointment of Secondary Education Commission in 1952 under the chairmanship of Dr. A. Lakshmanswami Mudaliar the Vice-chancellor of Madras University. The commission is also known as Mudaliar Commission. The major recommendations of the commission regarding Secondary Education are-

Aims of Secondary Education

Secondary Education Commission formulated the following aims or objectives of secondary education

- Development of democratic citizenship
- Improvement of vocational efficiency
- Education for leadership
- Development of personality

Duration of Secondary Education

The Commission has recommended that the secondary education should be for children between 11 to 17 years of age. It has divided this seven years' education into two parts-(1) Junior High School stage for three years and (2) High School for four years. The Commission has recommended the introduction of three years' degree course. For this secondary education should continue up to the eleventh class and the twelfth class should be added to the first degree course (B.A., B.Sc. or B.Com.) of the university. Thus the Commission has suggested the abolition of intermediate colleges existing in some parts of the country. (The Commission has suggested the following changes in the secondary school curriculum:

1. To open multi-purpose schools according to the varying interests of students.
2. The multi-purpose schools should be opened near the industrial institutions. The students of these two types of institutions should learn from each other.
3. Agriculture should be made a compulsory subject for schools in villages.

4. In big cities 'technical area' should be established on the demands of the local public.
5. Home science should be made compulsory for girls and other subjects should be common for both boys and girls.

Medium of Instruction

The mother tongue or the State language should be made the medium of instruction in this connection; the Commission expressed the following ideas also:

1. The students should be taught at least two languages at the junior high school stage.
2. The Commission has suggested that at the secondary stage a student should learn at least three languages, the national language, the mother tongue or the regional language and a foreign language.

Curriculum

The Commission has emphasized the necessity of reorganizing the secondary school curriculum in order that the aims of education may be realised. In this connection the Commission wants that:

1. The curriculum should be recognized according to the interests of the students.
2. It should be determined for meeting the social aspirations.
3. It should be reorganized keeping in view the demands of the times and those of the country.
4. It should be so organized that the student's time and leisure may not be wasted.

Subjects of Lower Secondary Education

The Commission has suggested mathematics, general science, languages, social studies, physical education, art, handicraft and music etc., for this stage.

For this stage the Commission has suggested seven groups of subjects as below:

1. Humanities.
2. Sciences.
3. Agriculture.
4. Fine Arts.
5. Industrial subjects.
6. Commercial subjects.
7. Home Science.

Selection of Text Books

The Commission has opened that text-books should be selected on the basis of their merits and utility. For this purpose the Commission has recommended the appointment of a High Power Committee which will select books for all the classes.

The standard of production, printing and paper used and pictures and illustrations incorporated and suitable content will be the basis of selection. In the opinion of the Commission the following persons will constitute the High Power Committee for selection of text-books:

1. A High Court Judge.
2. A Principal of some government educational institution.
3. A member of the Public Service Commission.
4. A Vice-Chancellor of a university.
5. Two eminent educationalists and the Director of Education of the State.

The Commission has further suggested that the text-book once chosen should not be changed soon. In addition to text-books each school should have some such books which may impart general knowledge to students. The teachers should also be provided with new literature and books in order to keep up their interests alive.

Character Formation

Character formation is an important aim of secondary education. This is useful not only for the individual but also for the nation. In fact the character of the nation is reflected by the character of its citizens. Therefore, for raising the character of the nation the character of the students should be well formed.

Health Education

All the students should be medically examined at least twice a year. Full medical facilities should be available for ailing students. They should be given knowledge of health principles also.

Teaching Method

For improving the standard of teaching the Commission has suggested that the Central Government should appoint a Committee of Experts which should make research for finding out ways and means for improving the teaching methods.

Improvement of Teachers status

1. Trained teachers should be appointed to teach higher classes.
2. The policy of same pay for the same work and ability should be adopted.
3. Teachers should be given handsome salary in order that the society may respect them.
4. Teachers should be given pension, provident fund and life insurance benefits in order to give them some economic security. The Government should provide these facilities."
5. The children of teachers should be given free education.

6. Teachers and their dependents should be given free medical service.
7. Separate committees should be appointed for removing the difficulties of teachers.
8. The retirement age for teachers should be 60 years.
9. The teachers should not be permitted to take up tuition of students.

Training and Qualifications of Teachers

The Commission has suggested that for junior classes at least higher secondary school and for senior classes at least graduate teachers should be appointed. These teachers should be given two years training.

Management and Administration of Secondary Schools

The Commission has given the following suggestions in this respect:

1. The post of Education Director should be equivalent to the Joint Secretary of the secretariat and he should advise the minister in this capacity. (Mahak)
2. Central and State Committees should be organised for giving advice on secondary education.
3. The District Inspector of Schools should not only find faults with teachers but should also assist them in performance of their duties. They should solve their problems arising from time to time and should acquaint them with latest developments in the field of education.
4. The Secondary Education Board should be organised under the chairmanship of Education Director who should arrange for secondary education in his State.
5. A Board for teachers' training should be established.
6. New schools should be recognised only when they fulfill all conditions.

7. The State Government should organise a Committee for management and administration of schools. This Committee should be responsible for the management and administration of schools, but it must not interfere with the work of the Principal.

Finance

For this the Commission has given the following suggestions:

1. The Government should be responsible for providing vocational education.
2. Industrial education should be levied for the development of vocational and technical education.
3. The Centre should give financial aid to States for education.
4. No octopi and toll tax should be levied on goods purchased for education institutions

Duration of Session and Leave

1. The school should be opened at least for 200 days a year.
2. The schools in rural areas should be closed at least for 7 days at the time of sowing and harvesting in order that the students may help their family in agricultural pursuits.
3. The number of holidays is reduced.
4. At least 35 hours should be devoted for teaching per week.
5. The principal should be empowered to decide, about local holidays and school hours.
6. The student should get at least 10 to 15 days' leave during a session. The summer vacation should be for two months.

Arrangement of Buildings

1. School buildings should be away from noise and cities. They should be situated in peaceful atmosphere.
2. The school building should be adequately ventilated.
3. A class should not consist of more than 40 students.
4. There should be proper desks and chairs in the schools.
5. Each school should have a big hall where all the students may assemble for some group programme. This hall should be decorated with pictures of great national leaders of different walks of life.
6. There should be a well equipped reading room in each school where the students should get newspapers, periodicals, magazines and other literatures of general knowledge.

Mehjabeen Hussain
Assistant Professor
College of Education, Nagaon
Email- mehjabeen11jan@gmail.com