



## **THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN PROMOTING SOCIAL WELL-BEING IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: TEACHERS' PERSPECTIVES**

**Dipankar Paul<sup>1</sup> & Rahul Deb<sup>2</sup>**

*<sup>1&2</sup>Research Scholar, Department of Education,  
Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University, Coochbehar, West Bengal, India*

### **Abstract**

The twenty-first century has brought significant changes to many aspects of people's lives. Education, communication, and working practices are becoming more flexible, allowing people to live tension free. Social well-being is defined as the exchange, development, and maintenance of social connections with each other. Regardless of our differences, it consists of social relationships, good communication, and mutual respect. The positive development of young people is significantly influenced by how effectively they are supported in their school and society, which enables them to perform well in society, their career, and life in general.

This investigation followed qualitative descriptive research strategies and intends to disclose a target audience's various behaviours and perceptions that drive something in connection to specific themes. In this study, the researcher's selected 21 teachers purposively from a government approved higher secondary school in Alipurduar, West Bengal. The researcher used a semi-structured interview schedule as the primary tool for gathering the required data. Individual codes were used to decode each teacher's responses to the open-ended questionnaire. Thematic analysis was used to determine the underlying themes and codes from the responses during data analysis.

In the 21st century, social needs are emerging day by day, and the role of education also changing to meet the present needs of society to promote social well-being. In our education program, the teacher plays the main role in transiting all types of transactional values which help to develop our society as well as social well-being. In this paper, the researcher tries to explore the present perspective of the teachers about the role of education to establish the principles of social being.

**Keywords:** *Role of Education, Social Well-Being, Teachers Perspective.*

### **Introduction**

The twenty-first century has brought significant changes to many aspects of people's lives. Education, communication, and working practices are becoming more flexible, allowing people to live tension free. Social well-being is defined as the exchange, development, and maintenance of social connections with each other. Regardless of our differences, it consists of social relationships, good communication, and mutual respect. The positive development of young people is significantly influenced by how effectively they are supported in their school and society, which enables them to perform well in society, their career, and life in general. The capacity to engage in society, feel appreciated as a member, and be a part of a larger social context are all aspects of societal well-being. Such include the environment in which we live,

society as a whole, and your local community. Personal happiness is increased when we believe we can have a positive influence on the people and world around us. Additionally, it can directly raise a community's standards, enhancing societal well-being.

In the present situation, the education system is also changing to fulfil society's needs. It is believed that education is a tool that lays the groundwork for people to develop and advance. Education gives people the power to alter their lives, improving not just their own wellbeing but also that of their communities and the entire country. Improving productivity, fostering social integration, accelerating modernization, instilling social, moral, and spiritual values, enhancing the learning experience and progress of the students, supporting students with learning disabilities, maintaining good terms and relationships with others, participating in employment opportunities, and managing the household are some of the aspects that highlight the role of education in promoting well-being. It is essential for individuals to utilise their abilities and expertise in an organised manner in order to carry out such tasks and responsibilities. In addition to these benefits, education enables people to improve their overall standard of living.

**Objectives of the study:** To investigate about the role of education in promoting social well-being in the 21<sup>st</sup> century considering Teachers' Perspectives.

**Methodology of the study:** This investigation is purely a piece of qualitative descriptive research that describe the 'who, what, and where' of events or experiences from a subjective perspective. The research intends to disclose a target audience's various behaviours and perceptions that drive something in connection to specific themes because the researcher intended to investigate the role of education in promoting social well-being in the twenty-first century.

**Participants:** In this study, the researchers' selected 21 teachers purposively from three government approved higher secondary school located in Alipurduar district, West Bengal. From the 21 participants, 7 are female and 14 are male. Criteria of selection were Government high school teacher whose teaching experience is more than 15 Years. The school was also selected purposively based on the accessibility of the researchers.

The purposive sampling technique is effective when a small number of participants can serve as the primary source of information due to the nature of the research design as well as its aims and objectives. So, the researchers used this sampling technique.

**Tool used in the study:** The researchers used a semi-structured and teacher made interview schedule as the primary tool to collect necessary data to explore how education plays an important role in promoting social well-being in twenty-first-century society.

**Data Collection and Analysis Procedure:** The interview session's arranged by the investigators with 21 participant teachers who were carefully chosen for the study. The researcher interviewed the participants to find out the role of education in promoting social well-being in the twenty-first century. Individual interviews were conducted in the school. All the interview sessions took approximately one hour depending on the participant's responses. Individual codings were used to decode each teacher's responses to the open-ended questionnaire. Thematic analysis technique used to determine the underlying themes and codes from the responses during data analysis.

**Result and Discussion:** All the participants responded with various perspectives on the role of education in promoting social well-being in the twenty-first century. Six major themes emerged from the categorized statements of the teachers. They stated that the role of education in promoting social well-being in twenty-first-century society is important because it provides behavioural Change, helps to cultivate values, promotes community involvement, maintaining good social relationships, Responsible citizens of the nation, Developing Nationalistic aspiration, and increases global awareness.

**Table – 1: Thematic Coding**

Emerging Theme	Transcripts	Codes	f
Positive Behavioural Change	The role of education is important in shaping negative thinking and negative behaviour into positive for the welfare of society.	P1M, P3M, P4F, P7M, P8M, P12M, P13F, P14M, P16M, P19F, P21M	11
Helps to cultivate cultural awareness and values	In today's society, education is extremely significant since it enables us to develop rich values that will improve both our society and our country.	P5F, P6M, P8M, P10F, P14M, P18M	15
	It teaches us how to contribute to society more responsibly.	P3M, P4F, P9F, P13F, P15M	
	Even after technological advancement, it provides us with a better understanding of our rich cultural heritage, traditions, and ideologies.	P1M, P2F, P19M, P21M	
Promotes community involvement	It is crucial because it motivates us to engage in social issues and help find solutions to various societal challenges.	P1M, P8M, P9F, P14M, P19F	13
	It fosters a community feeling while instructing pupils on the fundamentals of social life.	P5F, P8M, P12M, P17M	
	Give us the opportunity to contribute to society in various ways.	P2M, P7M, P13F, P16M	
Maintaining good social relationships	The role of education is most important to improve personal endowments, develop capabilities, overcome barriers and increase the available set of opportunities and become good social well-being.	P1M, P2F, P5F, P6M, P9F, P11M, P12M, P15M, P16M, P17M, P19F, P21M	12
Developing Nationalistic aspiration	The role of education is crucial in today's society because it helps us better understand both the identities of other nations and our own.	P5M, P8M, P13F, P16M, P20M	9
	Observe Gandhi Jayanthi, Republic Day, Independence Day, and other important days respectfully' to develop nationalistic aspirations.	P1M, P4F, P11M, P19F	
Increases global awareness	It increases awareness of the various events that are taking place in the country and around the world.	P7M, PPF, P12M, P15M, P16M, P17M, P19F, P21M	15
	It increases our understanding of how various nations communicate and how various international movements perform.	P2F, P4F, P8M, P11M, P14M, P18M, P20M	

(P-Participants, M- Male, F-Female, f-Frequency)

**Behavioural Change:** One of the most effective weapons we have for making the world a better place is education. Education can influence behaviour by enhancing our understanding of our surroundings and equipping us with the knowledge required to make healthy adjustments in society. Most importantly, it teaches us how to take responsibility for our own behaviours and how to make decisions that we feel will benefit both ourselves and society as a whole. One male participant shared that the role of education is important in 'shaping negative thinking and negative behaviour into positive for the welfare of society' (P3M).

**Helps to cultivate cultural awareness and values:** In 21<sup>st</sup>-century society, education promotes the formation of values. Students can process these values in order to contribute to the development of the country by learning from the mistakes of the past. One participant stated: "Education is very relevant today because we learn to respect our value system and adopt these principles in our lives" (P5, Female). The importance of education in developing values like empathy, sympathy, and respect among children to promote social well-being.

Another participant (P15M) agreed that education teaches students to be more responsible individuals. This shows how important education is in developing responsible and civic-minded citizens. The new industrial era and the age of digitization have caused a shift in times, but these values can be maintained and lived by people with education.

Students are being taught how to preserve cultural heritage. Education also improves students' attitudes toward preserving and fostering rich cultures as they grow into responsible members of society. Education, according to one respondent, "gives us a better understanding of our rich cultural heritage, traditions, and belief systems, irrespective of the technological innovation that is taking place around us" (P13, male). According to the response, education is important in promoting an understanding of various cultural traditions and belief systems among people in 21<sup>st</sup>-century settings.

**Promotes Community Involvement:** Cultural sensitivity is promoted by education. It motivates students to engage in societal topics and debates. It serves as a motivator to inspire students to start activities for society's development. One male participant stated that social studies are essential because they encourage people to engage in social issues and help solve various societal problems (P8, Male). It underlines the value of the common man in addressing societal problems and issues in order to create a more humanistic, democratic society. According to another participant, education is also important in the twenty-first century since it "gives us a sense of community while it teaches us the fundamentals of citizen life" (P12, female). This implies that the study inculcates in the pupils the fundamentals of civic involvement and societal participation.

**Maintaining Good Social Relationships:** Education helps to create a good relationship between society and himself which helps to develop societal change. One of the male teachers stated that 'the role of education is most important to improve personal endowments, developing capabilities, overcoming barriers and increase the available set of opportunities and become a good social well-being'(P11M). Teachers have provided more information through education which improves students' behaviour, skills, knowledge, and ability to think which helps to develop students' overall development. On the other hand, another female teacher stated that 'education provides good strategies and educated students to build social awareness which help the students to know everything happens in the society and tackle the situations and adjust themselves' (P1F). The development of society depends on peoples of the society and education shape peoples to become socially well-being and serve society for a better future.

**Developing Nationalistic Aspiration:** Teachers play an important role in developing students' nationalistic emotions. One of the teachers stated that they 'observe Gandhi Jayanthi, Republic Day, Independence Day, and other important days respectfully' to develop nationalistic aspirations (P4F). The national anthem is regularly sung in schools daily. Organizing competitions, patriotic songs, discussions on essential national issues, discussion on those themes, and creating photo albums containing

photographs of country leaders, the history of India's fight for independence, etc. Another teacher stated 'The role of education is crucial in today's society because it helps us better understand both the identities of nations and our own to develop the awareness level for the welfare of the society'.

**Increases Global Awareness:** Education always has significance because it helps people see the world from a wider perspective. The learners get the sense from education that they must think internationally as well as locally. The various areas covered by the subject, such as Asian studies, international history, the economy, and current trends and problems in the modern world, as a result, education is a key component in developing students who are mindful of and equipped for the international society. Education teaches people about the various events taking place throughout the world as well as in their own country, according to a male participant (P21M).

## **Conclusion**

In the 21st century, social needs are emerging day by day, and the role of education is also changing to meet society's present needs to promote social well-being. In our education program, the teacher plays the main role in transiting all types of transactional values which help to develop our society.

According to the findings, the role of education is very important in 21st century society as it helps positive behavioural change, helps to cultivate cultural awareness, values Promotion, community involvement, maintaining good social relationships, Developing Nationalistic aspiration, and increases global awareness. Education also supports economic efficiency, fosters cultural sensitivity, strong relationship with other and overcome negative behaviours. Every citizen has to think and act in a positive way to develop a better society as well as nation, education helps to reach this goal.

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