



Editorial

An Institution Called Home

Academic education is without a doubt one of the most essential part of someone's growth and development in today's life. It is critical that every individual has access to academic education in order to be able to succeed in accomplishing material goals. It is no doubt the obligation of every parent to ensure that each and every one of their children receives academic education. Another important and crucial responsibility of parents, guardians, teachers and society as a whole is to ensure that, children not only receive academic education but also informal education like pursuing individual interests in sports, music, research, travelling and reading. Children need to learn how to go about life with skills they acquire in and outside the classroom. Wholesome education can ensure children grow into wholesome adults ready to face challenges with creative and perspective solutions.

Learning outside the classroom though personal experience, where the conversion of textbook concepts and ideas into actionable, usable, implementable tasks precipitates is very vital to the wholesome growth of young adults. This will allow for individuals to reach to and control various kinds of situations and settings that everyday life presents them with. A wholesome education can only be ensured when parents or guardians focus on the importance of textbook focused learning and out of the classroom experiences simultaneously. It is more often than not that the stress of formal classroom based education is at the centre of the entire family's existence and can cause for the student to shoulder the burden of excelling at levels and in areas that may not necessarily be great at or interested in. That burden can have a ripple effect on the relationship between members of the household and result in constant stress and anguish.

As teachers we are often requested by the parents to do whatever we can to teach sternly and drill subject matter into their children's very being. They ask us to be hard, not forgiving, rigid and to use any technique necessary to harden the kids for the real life! To discipline them. They often proudly narrate how the child never played, enjoyed music or participated in cultural activity. Often this process starts as early as kindergarten!

Home is one of the earliest institutions man has ever established and is supposed to be an environment of happiness, a centre for protection a place where morals and values grew. Home is a refuge and should not be an environment of constant pressure for academic progress and restless pressure for material success. Unlike the institution of home, all educational institutions function differently, are less flexible and more demanding. If a student makes desperate decision to take irreversible or worse, fatal steps, after failing a subject or facing some disciplinary action, the home is where it should be neutralised, the damage controlled and the student reassured that "the incident that transpired isn't the end of the world".

In the popular bollywood movie, 3 Idiots, one of the characters chooses to take his own life because he fails at his exam and can't bear the thought of going home and revealing his exam results to his family. Why should the student not have the option of going home with the confidence that his family will support him and shower him the love he desperately needed to get back on his feet? The home should be a solace for every individual. Parents and guardians need to strive to create a space of warmth, acceptance and love to balance out the experiences of the outside world.

Educational institutions should work with dignity and discipline, teachers and families should prepare children for facing realities and that there are challenges to meet and not to escape. Children should have the right to enjoy their childhood. Mental health and happiness should be at the epicentre of society's goals. Families, teachers and mentors should focus on the needs, wants and dreams of young adults and not sacrifice the well-being of children for their own lost dreams of not being able to become doctors and engineers themselves. Parents and guardians

should allow for their offspring to take advantage of the variety of opportunities at their disposal, to help them realise and embrace their own strengths and weaknesses. This will empower them to choose a career that they are sure to excel at.

The world today needs experts, scientists, explorers and entrepreneurs of all kinds because only diversity can make a society beautiful. Focus on the arts is as important as the sciences. An uninterested doctor is far worse than a dedicated photographer who may go down in history for having captured a moment in the present for eternity. An uninterested engineer is far worse than a chef who masterfully contributes to the culinary world.

Prof. Dr. Cyrus Shakiba

Professor and Head, Department of Orthopaedics,

Jalalabad Ragib-Rabeya Medical College, Sylhet. Email: cyrus.shakiba@gmail.com