Autism

BY SADHGURU

Questioner: Can you comment about children born with disabilities like autism?

Sadhguru: There are no autistic children; there are children with different types of capabilities; there are different kinds of bodies and minds. There is no need to label them. Different children come in different ways. Nature's creations do not always happen the way you think it should; the production line is not automated, fortunately.

Compared to a man of certain intelligence, even people who consider themselves normal and who can be medically certified as normal, would look autistic, isn't it? Similarly, compared to an international athlete, the way you walk and run, you are autistic. Yes or no? If a human body can do all that and yours can only go like this, this is a certain level of disability, isn't it? But because you have so many people around you who are in the same level of disability, you call this normal.

So if you set up things in such a way that every human being must be capable of doing this or that, and when somebody cannot, if you label them, then it is not the child who is sick, it is the society which is sick. It is not necessary to label children. Maybe the intention is to provide them with the necessary care and assistance, I understand that, but still the label causes more damage than help.

Every human being has come with different possibilities; you do not know what he is capable of. But because we have set up production lines to serve our industry, corporate sector, schools, political systems, etc., we need cogs that fit into this system so we reject some human beings as unfit. This process of labeling children is a horrible crime. If these children were born in a tribal society, the elders would have had the wisdom to see, 'Okay this child can only do this,' and they would have put him into that kind of activity; they would not have tortured him with any other kind of activity. It would have been very simple without having to label him. But because you have standard systems for everybody, you want to put everybody through the same extruder - everybody should come out with the same shape, same degree, same nonsense. A lot of people do not fit in.

Many children manage to come through, but the process of learning is such a suffering for most of them. For a lot of children, going to school is a suffering. I would say, only about 30 to 35 per cent of children can actually fit into the present education system without too much crushing. Another 15 to 20 per cent will fit in with a little bit of kneading, but the rest are definitely suffering. This is simply because you want everybody to come out in the same shape, which is a horrible crime against humanity.

A child is the most exploited being in the world. Women claim they are, but no - it is the child. Both man and woman exploit the children. When I say exploit, I mean you putting all your nonsense - your ideas, emotions, philosophies, belief systems and religion - into them. It is the worst crime. Just because he is helpless and receptive and is looking up to you, you are loading him up with all the nonsense that your parents gave you and which never worked for you.

So instead of labeling children, if we see what part of life they can easily fit into and encourage them to do that joyfully, they will be fine. Maybe the child will not run a company, but maybe he will play an instrument. Each child has to be attended to as it is necessary for him. If somebody has the time, the patience, the love and wisdom, they must attend to that child as that child needs. You cannot treat a rosebush like a coconut tree. What they need is care and a wiser and more compassionate way of looking at them. It is not treatment. It is about structuring our societies in such a way, we must structure our life in such a way, that every kind of human being can fit into some part and play their role.

(MUMBAI) will be hosting its first ever Inner Engineering Program by Sadhguru for 10,000 people this December. Venue: MMRDA Grounds, Bandra Kurla Complex Date: December 16 to 18. Timings: December 16: 6.30 pm to 9.30 pm; December 17: 8.30 am to 7.00 pm (lunch included); December 18: 6.30 am to 7.00 pm (breakfast and lunch included)

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