Education and Spirituality

BY SADHGURU

If a child grows up unassuming, not influenced by people, by his own natural intelligence, then his turning spiritual is natural. Spirituality is not a part of most people's lives because they live by the education imposed on them and not by their natural intelligence. If you are allowed to figure out things for yourself, when you think about life and observe it, then turning inward is natural. If you only listen to Holy Scriptures or what this or that person said, then you do not turn inward.

One day it so happened that a lady professor bought herself a complex home appliance. At home she read the instructions and tried very hard to put the pieces that came in the package together, but she failed. So she left all those parts in a heap and went to work. When she returned in the evening, to her surprise, the appliance had been assembled and used. She called the maid and asked her, “Who fixed this?” The maid said, “I did.” She could not believe it. She said, “How did you do it?” Then the maid said, “When you do not know how to read and write, you have to use your brains.”

We must teach our children how to use their brains, not just to read and write. Reading and writing are important, but using your brains is more important. A lot of educated people, who are very successful in their careers, have messed up lives making it obvious that they are not using their brains when it comes to their own life. Education should stimulate your intelligence, not shut it down. Today, education scientists the world over are saying that if a child goes through twenty years of formal education, seventy percent of his intelligence is irrevocably destroyed. That means you are coming out of the educational institute a knowledgeable idiot, and that is a huge disservice to humanity, because the future of the world lies in these children's brains. Whether we are going to produce beautiful or destructive things simply depends on the coordination between our emotions and intelligence. This decides how he will use his intelligence which ultimately decides what he will produce in the world.

The most intelligent people in the world have contributed to all the violence on the planet. A certain segment of people have always been essentially violent. Initially, as a caveman man killed with stone, that is in the Stone Age. In the Iron Age man killed with iron. In the Bronze Age man killed with bronze and in the Nuclear Age he will kill with nuclear weapons. Some humans have always been essentially violent, but the scale of violence that can happen today is so because the best brains in the world have worked to create the most violent ways to kill. If the intelligent in the world had not cooperated, a violent man would have killed one or two with a stick or a stone. But only because the intelligent in the world have cooperated, a violent man can now kill millions at a go.

Intelligence twisted out of proportion against our own wellbeing is no intelligence. Intelligence is the biggest blessing that man has, but right now it has become a curse simply because man is not being groomed into a well-coordinated being. He has dislocated the human being within himself. This intelligence is dangerous. If you were like a donkey, the maximum violence you would cause is a kick, nothing more. But now man's intelligence has become so dangerous. What should have been a blessing has become such a curse, and education is definitely playing a huge role in this.

Actually it would be wonderful if this world was guided by little children because they are closer to life than anybody else. After all, everything that you wish to do on the planet is just for human wellbeing. Human wellbeing means human happiness. If you look at your children and yourself, definitely your children are a lot happier than you. When that is the case, tell me who should be a consultant for life, you or your child? If only the world learnt from children rather than trying to teach them, the world would be a very beautiful place.

(Next Inner Engineering Program starting from November 6 at Porvorim and November 13 at Margao Contact 9822481515, goa@ishafoundation.org) (Sadhguru is a prominent spiritual leader. www.ishafoundation.org)