

Frequent change of section at the primary level of different multi sectional schools : an observation

By

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Recently it is observed that different well reputed schools having multi section in the primary level adopt a policy to change the section frequently in an arbitrary way. They claim that due to this change there will be better intermingling among peers.

Seeing such policy a few questions coming to my mind. I think this issue or the idea behind this policy has some impact on the children, parents and also on our society in general. Recently many school are coming up with different facilities and purposes. I think this issue needs an observation.

Our children are going to school from their nursery level. After some initial misunderstanding among the class-mates a good friendly relation among the children develop And the guardians are also quite relaxed as expected. Generally in our education system and also in schooling system there is sufficient scope to interact with others. After class five automatically they have to leave one school and for which we, the parents and also the children are quite prepared. In any section there are several students of different mentality which is quite sufficient to develop power to adjust with peers. Our schooling is also divided in different phases such as Primary, Secondary, Higher Secondary and etc. So, in one's life there are sufficient scopes for intermingling with peers for few years in a regular cycle during their student life.

It is not clear to me how through this policy can the healthy intermingling of children be ensured. Like many other guardians I am also very much confused, unable to understand the outcome of this policy.

Being also a teacher, I find that recently there are many discussion/literatures are available about the child psychology, child-teacher-parent relationship etc. Recently few schools adopt this policy, though most of the schools do not implement this unless there is some administrative or other problems arise. Actually the concept of changes friends after a regular intervals are already incorporated in our existing school system, if we look carefully. This system is quite stable and very much dynamic at the same time. But still there are scope to improve this system if we have sufficient students i.e for a multi sectional school which I will mention later.

Children are being sent to the school for education and also to enjoy the company of their friends and teachers. For all of us there are some memories of the school days. School friends from primary, secondary and etc has different role in our life. Such friendships are really enjoyable in future since couple of years had been spent with them. Such friendships were developed without any terms and conditions. This was coming spontaneously from the innocent mind and heart which was free from the complexities of this world.

We are all social beings. In any society, however, we encourage stable and lasting relationship among individuals. Even if we like it or not, this is quite natural that for any individual there will be personal attachments/an association of some people and not of all the people though there will be healthy working relation with many others. By this association one can enjoy the stability, security etc. Responsibility, dependence, fellow feelings etc. grow in their natural way. Unless it is essential it will be not wise to disturb this stability without any such reason. Many problems may come in such case.

Schools may be considered a society in miniature where children are provided not only formal education but also a training to adjust with and play their roles meaningfully in the society at large. The school system also play a major role in the society, different relation are developed among the guardians in connection with their children. This relation is no doubt healthy and also helpful for the education purpose of the children which is also desirable.

This system of changing sections regularly may arouse a sense of instability, insecurity and uncertainty among students and this will tend to discourage long term friendship and congenial relation among both students and their guardians since all we know that the friendship would be difficult to maintain against a backdrop of arbitrary changes. I am also a little bit worried how these children will remember their friends. They will not get any friends as such as long as this process goes on. If we change the section frequently, they will meet new class mates every year. Each and everyone will be afraid to make friends because he/she knows that he/she will not be with him/her in the next year. I am afraid, in future the children will develop a mentality which will help them to treat all the people with a professional attitude. They will interact with people; they will also may help and cooperate others. But at the same time they will be deprived of the meaning of friendship. They will learn that people will come and go away and they will also handle the situation accordingly. The children would be confused and depressed and finally reckless and irresponsible in their social behaviors. We also be confused to guide them. There will be no responsibility in any relation.

I am not against for any new experiments and introducing new systems/concepts. But there should be definite data by surveying the opinion of the children or by any other means and also there will be a transparent basis for changing section. I can remember in one school, section was divided based on the even and odd roll number of the student. May be this is a stupid logic, but still there is a basis. Every individual has some aspiration and they struggle to achieve it. Different rules/regulations are being formulated to guide him slowly in a control way to achieve this target and every time the spirit of the policy should remind him that this world is not dull and stupid; it is going in a logical way. The major target of any administration particularly the administration of any academic institute unlike the administration of a corporate sector should uphold this spirit. If it is not clear to the child why one will go to Section X or Section Y there is sufficient scope for being frustrated. The changes may appear to someone as a punishment. It is also true that among the peers along with the friendship there is also a competition for doing better results. Many other minute things like this are there to think about. Children are extremely sensitive and need careful attention. If they do not find any logic, this world may appear as inconsistent and irrational to them.

Everyone of us remember our identity in relation to certain things. Children also remember their class, section and session simultaneously. They are really simple and innocent. If there is any genuine reason and if we make them understand, they will accept it gladly. We can do it if it becomes essential. Otherwise one may say we are enjoying the advantages by taking their simplicity. They will be deprived from their rights.

As mentioned I am not against to introduce some new concepts for improvement. Some common programmes may be initiated among the students of different section. As I know already there are some common programmes which may be extended further. Such programmes like sports, group discussion quiz, picnic etc may be introduced/extended with different sections. I hope these activities will be helpful to interact with students of different sections. Even I think it is also possible to arrange some common classes. A school having sufficient students in one class i.e having multi section have the advantage to introduce such concept. But to change the original section has really some problems.

Before I conclude, I just like to mention another point which I think one may appreciate and enjoy. Why the school friends are so memorable? Actually in any relation where our parents are involved has definitely some meaning. With school friends the parent are also being involved and some time they also introduce their child with other parent. Apart from the family members, school friends can recall automatically the memory of our parents for long time. Yes, primary school teacher has this much importance. School friends are basically the gift of their teacher and parent which is an asset of any individual for their future. Whenever one meets his/her school friends at least for a moment it touches the heart. It reminds our root. For any parent it is quite natural to have love and affection for the friends of their children. Children are also enjoying affection for the remaining part of their life from their uncle/aunty whenever they meet. They deserve it. Primary school can play a major role in the society, it has its specialty which is not even possible for an University if it is being highlighted properly particularly in our present society. The major strength of the primary school is the involvement of the parents along with their children. Parents are also regular visitors of the school. Children are doing classes inside and mothers, for whom it is possible are waiting/gossiping outside. [Even for the God it is not possible to remove tension and anxieties of the mother about their children]. Parents are also constantly helping the school administration in different ways. They are helping to settle many issues which are being faced by their children while interacting with their friends. They will also be confused to guide them, as mentioned before, if the section changes regularly. Early life of the children and their friends should be handled very carefully.

To make any change which is directly related to children's mind set up, there must be a critical survey/data where children will be allowed to offer their opinions. Without doing it if we simply change the section, it will be great injustice to them since they have really no power to defend. Unnecessarily one will take such responsibility. In course of time it will be a regular practice and the earlier system having sufficient advantages will be invalid basically for no reason.

I can write more to clarify further. But I think these few lines are sufficient to reflect my idea. It is my belief and anyone can also check that most of the children will not be happy with such changes.

I believe sufficient discussion is needed before the implementation of such policy. Recently many schools are coming up with different facilities. I know few schools are changing section regularly. People are also accepting it. I do not think they are getting better result by doing it. Instead of changing section, I will prefer to argue for not changing the section. I will prefer to recapitulate different aspects and importance of the school in the society etc

which may be meaningful for guardians, students and people in our society in general to assess any school and also take the advantages of our school system to make their life enjoyable.

Once again, I believe sufficient discussion is needed before the implementation of such policy.

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We have a small society where we try to provide training to needy students in the field of electronics and instrumentation. Also we discuss some issues related to education of our society. We also got appreciation from different sectors. The activity of the centre may be available in our website www.instrumentationstudy.org. The present write up has come as a part of this activity. Dr. Manik is acting as the President of this centre.
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