

***THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN KNOWLEDGE BASED SOCIETY IN  
21ST CENTURY***

**By Hegade Navnath Dharmaji**

**Abstract**

The Indian education system improvement is required at many levels– from primary schools to higher education and research institutions of national excellence. At all levels, there is a need to improve both access and excellence. India's Universities and centers of excellence are falling behind the best in the world both in terms of human capital and in terms of physical infrastructure. Public libraries are an extremely important element of the foundation of a knowledge economy. The Knowledge Commission has proposals aimed at improving excellence in research and teaching, especially in the frontier areas of mathematics, science and technology. This is the time to create a second wave of institution building and of excellence in the field of education, research and capability building so that India is better prepared for the 21st Century. The increasing extent of services in the economy, the pace of technological changes, the advanced level of information and knowledge, as well as the size of the industrial and social reorganizations, all give good arguments in favor of the knowledge based society. The main component of economic and social development becomes knowledge. ICT is used to ensure rapid, cost effective and reliable communication, networking and access to and publication of information which, in turn, is used to enhance productivity, education and development. In a society of the future, education will play an essential role in creating the new way of life specific to knowledge and learning based society. At present knowledge tends to grow at an exponential rate in the world. In order to create a world class knowledge society, every one of us has to be knowledge worker for making India a knowledge super power.

**Keywords**

Role, education, knowledge Society, century etc.

### **Introduction**

Knowledge is defined as “information and understanding about a subject which a person has or which all people have.” The notion “knowledge society” emerged toward the end of the 90s and is particularly used as an alternative by some in academic circles to the “information society”. The proposition 'knowledge society' acknowledges the might of the brain power over of any other kind, be it economic or military or political. The position that a country enjoys in the present day world is determined by its ability to make best use of its brainpower. The capability created by knowledge is the foundation upon which our future is to be built. A knowledge-based society refers to the type of society that is needed to compete and succeed in the changing economic and political dynamics of the modern world. It refers to societies that are well educated, and who therefore rely on the knowledge of their citizens to drive the innovation, entrepreneurship and dynamism of that society's economy. With the innovation of mobile communication, internet penetration, availability of higher education and every knowledge seeking young community India is going towards the knowledge enabled society. Students, universities, colleges and Indian young community are really the knowledge seeker. They want to acquire new knowledge, work with innovations in each and every field.

### **Meaning of Knowledge Society**

Knowledge society is a strategic term which – like “postmodern society“, “postindustrial society“, “experience society“, “consumer society“, “risk society“, “media society“ or “information society“ and similar terms – aims to divert attention to a certain aspect. Aspects that are particularly highlighted by the term ‘knowledge-based society’ are knowledge and education.

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### **Characteristics of a Knowledge Society**

- Its members have attained a higher average standard of education in comparison to other societies and a growing proportion of its labour forces are employed as knowledge workers.
- Its industry produces products with integrated artificial intelligence.
- Its organizations –private, government and civil society are transformed into intelligent organizations.
- There is increased organized knowledge in the form of digitalized expertise, stored in data banks, expert systems, organizational plans and other media.
- There are multiple centers of expertise and a poly-centric production of knowledge.
- There is a distinct epistemic culture of knowledge production and knowledge utilization.
- The price of most commodities is determined by the knowledge needed for their development and sale rather than by the raw material and physical labour that is needed to produce them.
- A large portion of the population attains higher education.
- A vast majority of the population have access to information and communication technology and Internet.
- A large portion of the labour forces are knowledge workers, who need a higher degree of education and experience to perform their job well.

### **Few Suggestions for making the knowledge-based society**

Knowledge has always been an essential and distinguishing characteristic of human society, for human beings are unique among all species in their extended capacity to formulate, systematize, preserve and consciously transmit organized bodies of knowledge from one individual, community, generation and location to another. That is the essence of all that is known as education. There are few suggestions for making the knowledge-based society-

- a. Transferring knowledge through education and professional training;
- b. Disseminating the knowledge by publishing;
- c. To improve working conditions and ensure dignity of worker.
- d. Utilizing knowledge in the society's best interest, especially through innovation;

- e. Foster increased collaboration among the R&D institutes, Universities and private sector enterprises and leverage upon their cumulative strengths in designing and implementing various innovation programs.
- f. Create new interface structures to forge partnerships between academia and industry.
- g. Reducing the cost and improving the reach and quality of public services;
- h. Reducing transaction costs and transaction times;
- I. Empowering citizens and increasing transparency’;
- j. Re-engineering of processes for greater efficiency and productivity; adopt more active approach towards increasing the visibility of the library and its services to the society through various social marketing strategies; Producing new knowledge through research activity.
- k. Building the motivation to learn and adapt to the perpetual learning process in all; individuals at all levels of the educational system; Providing the information and know-how, both as a substance and as a process is a priority generated by the new technologies; Materials development (including content services); and Public libraries offer a public space where, people from all strata of society come to read.

#### **Knowledge and Knowledge based society**

1. It is transferable;
2. It has meaning and significance;
3. It is acquired through experience and learning;
4. It is contextual; depends on time and space;
5. It is an information with a meaning, an information that is acting.
6. It is based on the cognitive capacity of individuals;
7. It has an intrinsic value greater than the one of information and data; It can not be found in a row form; it is a human and cultural product;
8. It involves the interpretation of information which are processed data;
9. It is a mixture of different elements: experience, values, education etc.;
10. It has a strong intuitive character which makes it difficult to capture in words; it can be fully understand only through logic processes;
11. It makes money and it can be obtained with money.

### **Knowledge Based Society**

1. It ensure the dissemination of knowledge to all citizens through the Internet, electronic books and e-learning;
2. It seeks to extend and deepen the scientific knowledge and the truth about life;
3. It provides a sustainable society – from the ecological point of view – through rapid technological adaptations;
4. It focus on the use of technological and organizational knowledge;
5. It aims to produce new knowledge through innovation;
6. It promotes and develops the knowledge based economy in which innovation plays a decisive role and converting new knowledge in products and services.
7. It sustains the phenomenon of globalization;
8. It facilitates the translation to a new stage of culture.

### **Role of Education in the Knowledge Based Society**

Education has played and is still playing an important role in forming and training the individual throughout his existence. Nowadays society, however, enforces some specific traits of the whole educational process that are anchored into the reality of the present. On a global level, education is regarded as a phenomenon, one of those activities that can favor communication through its very specific functions, as well as establishing close communication links between various countries, geographic areas and across various cultures. The revolutions in India, green and white, are examples that demonstrate the benefits of the application of technology to boost grain and milk production. We cannot overlook education's role of forming and informing the individual, being a social phenomenon that in turns constitutes an important dimension of any philosophical approach of education. Education is not only about putting the individual in contact with values, but also raising him to the level of these values, than extending this process from the individual level to the society level, thus increasing its value and functionality.

Education leads to lower incidence of health problems, reduced mortality and increased life expectancy. Health education, if included in the general education, tied to common organisms or other means of communication, can be more effective and less costly. In a world of evolution, of technological know-how, education plays an essential role. It is a top rank social

institution that can contribute to increased democracy and equality, facilitating the rapport between man and nature. According to Toffler (1995) *“we are living a moment in which the whole power structure that kept the world together is falling apart and a new power structure is being born, affecting the human society on every level, and this power structure is knowledge”*. Thus, the developed countries of the world will rapidly evolve on the coordinates of a so-called knowledge based society, and the new direction of society will be towards knowledge and learning. Given this context, education stands as the basis for a society focused at the future, and knowledge becomes the key component of economic and social growth.

In the knowledge-based economy, the individuals need to be trained across the various levels specific to the professional forming system, adapting to the demands of the knowledge based society. The new society is a certainty and is one of organizations, where the primary resource is knowledge. A knowledge based society implies a large demand of overly-qualified workforce, forcing the population to learn how to operate with information and knowledge. Therefore, the development of the knowledge based society is dependent on the creation of knowledge, on its spreading via education and tuition and on its dissemination via communication and on its involvement in technological innovation. The link between the knowledge-based society and society itself is made by combining four interlaced elements: the build-up of knowledge, its transmission via education and training, its dissemination as information via media and its utilization in technological innovation. Reforming education policies and regulations, particularly those designed to increase supply and quality, should be an urgent priority. India must preserve traditional knowledge and subject it to scientific enquiry and application.

### **Conclusion**

The Indian education system improvement is required at many levels – from primary schools to higher education and research institutions of national excellence. At all levels, there is a need to improve both access and excellence. There are fiscal and administrative challenges to be tackled and there are intellectual and leadership issues to be addressed. However, quality is an additional problem. India’s Universities and centers of excellence are falling behind the best in the world both in terms of human capital and in terms of physical infrastructure.

Public libraries are an extremely important element of the foundation of a knowledge economy. It suggests ways in which the Central and State Governments can improve rules and regulations and the capacity of policy-making institutions that deal with knowledge institutions.

Knowledge Commission has proposals aimed at improving excellence in research and teaching, especially in the frontier areas of mathematics, science and technology. This is the time to create a second wave of institution building and of excellence in the field of education, research and capability building so that India is better prepared for the 21st Century. The increasing extent of services in the economy, the pace of technological changes, the advanced level of information and knowledge, as well as the size of the industrial and social re-organizations, all give good arguments in favor of the knowledge based society.

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