

B.Ed. students' life experiences

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Abstract:

Life is a state that distinguishes organisms from non-living objects or dead organisms, being manifested by growth through metabolism and reproduction. A motivational, developmental meta-model of the meaning of everyday life experiences is presented. The model proposes that there are 3 fundamental ways in which people establish meaning across the life span: the paths of belonging (relationships), doing (meaningful engagement in activities), and understanding oneself and the world. The principles of the model include intertwined, fundamental meanings of human experience; the indeterminacy of cause and effect; individual differences in preferences for ways of attaining meaning; the importance of commitments in life; and life-long adaptation and changes in meaning. The model provides an organizing framework that clarifies the assumptions of various disciplinary frames of reference with respect to establishing meaning in everyday life.

Keywords: Life experience - Experience and knowledge gained through living in the society.

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I. INTRODUCTION

We are all born in this world to achieve certain goals and attain self actualization. Being born as human being is the beginning of our life. We grow and develop in all the aspects based on our heredity and environment. There has to be a lot of refinement in our behaviour. All animal like tendencies are to be tuned, modified and refined to develop humanity. That is how we attain humanity which is the essence of our life. As we interact with people around us we come across with selfish, rigid, helping, compassionate, sacrificing people around. This helps us to understand the intricacies of life and relationships which are so near. Some don't think of others they are least bothered whereas some others are very helpful not only for their relatives as well for those not so.

"A friend in need is a friend indeed" applies to relationships also. Here is simple presentation of analysis of human relationships which our student trainees have experienced in their life. It is about parents, relatives, friends, teachers, poverty, independent life, facing odds of life, such trivial matters of life.

1.1. Definition of life experience

Life:

- Experience and knowledge gained through living life
- The quality that distinguishes a vital and functional being from a dead body
- A principle or force that is considered to underlie the distinctive quality of animate beings
- "Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood." - Ralph Waldo Emerson
- "Destiny is real. And she's not mild-mannered. She will come around and hit you in the face and knock you over and before you know what hit you, you're naked- stripped of everything you thought you knew and everything you thought you didn't know- and there you are! A bloody nose, bruises all over you, and naked. And it's the most beautiful thing." - C. Joy Bell C.

Experience:

- Direct observation of or participation in events as a basis of knowledge
- The fact or state of having been affected by or gained knowledge through direct observation or participation
- Practical knowledge, skill, or practice derived from direct observation of or participation in events or in a particular activity
- "I am sure it is everyone's experience, as it has been mine, that any discovery we make about ourselves or the meaning of life is never, like a scientific discovery, a coming upon something entirely new and unsuspected; it is rather, the coming to conscious recognition of something, which we really knew all the time but, because we were unwilling to formulate it correctly, we did not hitherto know we knew." - W.H. Auden, Markings

This study intended to collect information on student teachers experiences in their life and how it impacted their life favourably and unfavourably and what lesson they learnt out of them. The investigator thought of examining the academic social, emotional factors influencing their behaviour and its implications on their education as well as present and future life.

II. SAMPLE

The study was carried through experiences collected from 50 student trainees of B.Ed programme (Teacher institute) of Hasanamba College of Education, Hassan, Karnataka State, India.

III. TOOL

Some questions for student trainees to express what life experiences have helped or hindered them? What they have learnt from them? How these experiences have favoured their life/ education?

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Each trainee responded to the above questions in written are collected. It was found that they are distinct, personal as well heart melting. Some of them are experienced in our lives also.

IV. COLLECTION OF DATA

Enough time is provided to trainees to respond. They were asked to write without any hesitation. The responses are listed below:

Sl. No.	Experiences of student trainees	Area
1	Undergoing surgery in the nose and suffered to breath	Health
2	Being lonely always dislike people commenting in her absence	Social aspects
3	Teachers in primary school taught so well but now that school is closed. Teachers are without job.	Status of Teacher
4	Father is not living her to school. Brother takes that role.	Family
5	Wanted particular optional paper in B.A degree	Selection of subjects (Girl)
6	Strict father obliged to permit her to study post graduation.	Parental support for girl
7	Friend who misguided in attending the exam	Role of friends
8	Failed in maths. Fought with friends and felt very bad	School subjects, self realisation
9	Mother used to eat after us eating the food. Later we were aware of the shortage of food	Food crisis due to poverty
10	Father is a drunkard and irresponsible. So as a child started to work at age of 10. I learnt to face problems with smile.	Family environment Economic independence
11	A friend committed suicide as her grandmother insulted her about behaviour	Family environment
12	Mother did not study due to lack of opportunity. She wanted daughter to study well.	Opportunity for girl's education
13	Mother encouraged daughter to study well	Opportunity
14	Fell ill often during childhood	Health
15	Accident during travelling in a Scooty. Friends helped her	Importance of Friendship
16	Father was very strict. He used to give lot of punishment. Started earning at early age.	Home environment decision to be independent economically
17	A person looked after his mother very well like a child It is worth emulating. I will also look after my parents.	Social influence family culture
18	Victim in the bad company of friends. Be careful some children are spoiled	Student group social issue
19	Hunger is very bad, friends helped me	Poverty Friendship
20	Convocation certificate is not issued at the right time. Don't believe stranger.	Academic
21	Eve teasing for girls will be there. Don't over react. Be silent and avoid incidents like kidnapping	Girls Safety
22	Develop time sense otherwise you will not go along with people progressing	Time is money
23	Because of poverty student worked as daily wage worker at Bengaluru. Father has to be supported economically. Worked while studying degree.	Family needed money
24	Met with accident Friends helped me to recover. I am careful while crossing roads	Traffic Sense Friendship
25	A student showed empathy to her neighbour as their child swallowed Vicks small container and died	Empathy as a virtue
26	She was very silent and lonely earlier. Now she is socialised by her very good friends	Friendship
27	She studied in Kannada medium. Took English medium at high school. Teacher insulted her a lot for lack of communication in English. Now she has picked up fluency in English	Teacher behaviour
28	Relatives will misguide sometime. Be careful they have lot of jealousy for academic achievement.	Social content
29	Many family relations change as time passes. Brother changed after his marriage. Brother in law has lot of concern. It is difficult to understand people.	Social relations

30	A student was very timid and silent. After her M.Sc. She got opportunity to teach in a school. She enjoyed teaching and liked children. This modified her.	Teaching experience.
31	A student recalled her life in village when she got electric supply for the first time. She woke up for the whole night. She remembered her teachers for teaching her different human values.	Rural life Values in school
32	She had confusion over doing B.Ed and doing M.A. (in Kamada) It is difficult for girl to commute to her place during night as she has to walk	Career choice Girl safety
33	A student recollected her mother's role in rearing her as she is married now. She regretted now for not assisting her mother in household work.	Importance of mother and her role in family
34	A student nursed her father few years back in Kidwai hospital as he was cancer affected. She was pregnant then. Her father is survived.	Family supported the victim. Cancer is curable
35	A student's father had vision problem. Relatives did not help him financially.	Economic independence has to be the priority
36	A student was invited to do part time work in a pharmaceutical which supplies spares for human surgeries. They have to very tidy otherwise infection spreads.	Work for a noble cause humanity.
37	A boy met with accident as his 'Duke' bike collided with another vehicle.	Understand parent's feelings.
38	Father got second marriage. Student says her mother is supporting her in every respect. She rejects her father	Single parent
39	A student recalled her experience when she jumped from the just started train as she did not know about its effects. She did not meet with any major injury	Caution while travelling
40	A girl student recollected her experience being in the government school. She was taught well. Now in her village parents send children to a private school which is 3 kms away. Thus student strength is reduced in government school.	Transition in education
41	A student recollected her experience in the hospital as she was not well for long duration of 50 days.	Hospitalisation during school days. She remembers with gratitude the care by her parents
42	A student is a science student as she wanted to be a science teacher	Teaching as a professor
43	A student was pressurised by her parents to marry an illiterate boy. She rejected and was sent out of home by parents. Now, she works part time and stays with her granny and continues her education.	Social issue
44	A student with heart ailments expresses regards to her father for the support. She is very good academically	Good parenting
45	A student says that her father is very cruel. He left them. She is managed by her uncle in getting education	Family environment
46	Friends are the real well wishers	Friendship
47	A rank in post graduation though poor.	Academic achievement
48	He is a bold boy. Worked after the class hours as part timer and not depending on his father for his educational expenses. He had lot of pressure and still managed.	Economic independence
49	A girl student got married. Her husband encouraged her to study. She is doing it. Wants to earn and be independent in life.	Women empowerment
50	A student cried a lot by remembering her father who abandoned them when she was a kid	Single parent.

V. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This is an analysis of the opinion of the students of B.Ed College (who are adults) about the experiences they had in their life. The experiences were varied and subtle issues expressed by students.

For convenience sake, the analysis and interpretation is carried out by considering following areas. They are 1) Family, 2) Social relations, 3) Health, 4) Friendship, 5) Educational factors, 6) Economic aspects and 7) Gender issues. We are analyse one after the other

The first aspect is Family: We know that family is the basic unit of a society. The comfort, care, nourishment got in family brings proper development. It is the basis of physical as well as mental, social, moral, emotional and aesthetic development. It is an important component of individual development. Because, our student trainees are adults they have experienced it in a meaningful way. The selected group of student trainees have expressed their experience in their families.

When father is a drunkard he is unwilling to support the family economically. Then the girl felt the responsibility and started to work and support family. There was the support of her friends. The role of grandparents is important in development of the child. But in the case of this girl, grandmother insulted her friend like anything and made her friends life miserable. She committed suicide. This is an unpleasant experience by the growing student. (10/09/2018 – is the day for prohibition of suicide).

A student who works on part time basis has found his owner in the mess treats his mother with all love and affection. He wants to emulate that. This is a positive trend in society as many children send their parents to old age homes. Another student says whenever he was hungry his friends helped him by extending food. Poverty is the worst thing in a society. How could he continue his studies with empty stomach? There is one more fellow student expressing his condition of not having property and money. By discontinuing his education he worked as daily wage worker in Bengaluru for 2 years to support family.

Usually girls have intimacy towards their mothers. But occasionally a girl may quarrel with her mother for her insistence. A married woman student recollected her experiences that were very reluctance to assist her mother before marriage. Now she regrets that and cries as her husband is not permitting her to go home often. She regrets for her behaviour she said that she recall her mother often.

Another married lady being a pregnant nursed her father who was a cancer victim. She said “It was very bad period in my life. I am happy that my father is cured but is under medication.”

Another girl student recollected her experience of being treated in hospital for 50 long days. Her parents supported her for this. She expresses gratitude for this. A girl who suffered due to cruelty says my father left us and we are cared by our uncle and I never got love and affection from my father. One more girls write that she is being cared by her father because she has learnt ailment. There is support for her.

The second aspect we can consider is the opinion expressed by students on their **social relations**. There are several opinions given by students. A student wrote that she wanted to be alone always. She disliked people commenting her in her absence. Another student wrote how he was spoiled by society's people for studying well and learning bad habits. Some of the relatives expressed jealousy when she studied well. She was misguided not to concentrate on studies in the family relations change. In India, property plays important role. It is money that spoils people. Son has to take care of the parents. It was not there.

The girl student expressed her feelings as to how happy she was when electrical connection was given to her home for the first time. She said that she did not sleep for the whole night as she was very happy. In rural India how many families are expressing it?

A girl student's father had vision problem. No one in the relation helped them when they are in need of money. She said that being independent and managing oneself is the need of the hour. Relatives may be very rich but they do not help you.

A student worked in pharmaceuticals as a part timer. He expressed his concern for the accident victims as he used to supply different readymade parts of human body. He said never worry when your parents will not buy a 'Duke bike' for you as they think of your safety.

A single parent reared her daughter as the father got married again. This implies of our societies changes and more responsibility on a woman. A student is pressurised to marry illiterate boy. She says conditions of girl have not changed. She was rejected by her parents. Now she is leading independent life by doing part time job.

A girl student rejected by her relative as she worked very hard to earn a rank in post graduation challenges is essential for life.

A married girl student is encouraged by her husband to study well. This is society change for woman empowerment.

The third one is health as an issue. Students have expressed about their ailments. Some of them are undergoing surgery, health problems. During childhood, long staying in hospital, accident and treatment, traffic violation, father a cancer victim parents ill health, accident of by using a Duke, girls heart problem etc are indicated well. As we know well that health both physical as well as mental has lot of implications in succeeding in student life and in future also. Some of them are rectified, kept in control, sustained and many are incurable. Maintenance of health is one important issue.

The forth issue is friendship maintained by students. Many of them have indicated favourable help by friends who created their life. Students have also indicated about their failure in studies and life due to bad and hindering friends. There are three circles around man's development. First one is that of parents, second one is that of teachers and third one should be of friends. Sometimes, students give importance to their friends than parents and teachers. If friends are not worthy it affects their life. There is of course a saying “A friend in need is a friend indeed” friendship has to be cherished forever.

The fifth issue is educational issue. The selected students have expressed certain facts related to education. They are related selecting optional doing post graduation, failing in the exam, encouragement by mother, students time sense, working on part time basis during study, medium of instruction, ill-treatment of teachers to students, being a teacher in school, selection of courses of study, government versus private schools, academic excellence, rank in post graduation etc., These are to addressed properly. Positive one has to be promoted. Limitation in the educational system is to be rectified

The sixth issue is economic independence of student trainees. “Earn while you learn” is a slogan worth quoted. In the selected group some students have worked while they study. It is due to inevitable life circumstance. It may be self committed or forced one. This urge to be economically independent has to be encouraged both by parents and teachers they will be better than others.

The seventh issue is gender related one. They are selection of courses, parent forcing girl to marry an illiterate, mother permitting daughter to study further, daughter showing reluctance, torture by father for girl etc. We observe indication woman empowerment and at the same time there is discrimination.

VI. IMPLICATIONS

The implication of this study are summarised as below:

Teachers, head of the institution and administration should be in touch with the students as they have lot of life experiences. By knowing them we can understand them better and handle them well. There will be natural respect among all concerned with education.

Students come from varied family back grounds. Knowing them is very important to handle students. Nurturing their academic and cultural talents is possible. Development of their personality is possible.

It is very difficult to understand social relations. They are difficult to comprehend and manage. Students have expressed many issues related to social relations. The relationship are strengthened and weakened. Hence students are to be counselled properly to understand the relationships and go along with them properly.

Health in its comprehensive sense is important for students' progress. Students are to be fed properly. It is not enough good parenting, proper emotional development and good moral base are essential for good health. The selected group has several health issues. They definitely affect student's performance. They have to be addressed properly.

A good friendship leads to happiness. There is mutual understanding sharing and caring. Students say their friends encouraged, helped and promoted them. It is a solid base for good human relations.

Education is very important for over all developments. Teachers handling of students, subjects taught, liking the subjects, failure in exam are several things of education. The medium of instruction is another critical issue.

Students do part time work during studies is an encouraging factor. They earn money at the same time gain confidence in themselves. It reduces unemployment problems

We speak of gender issues, gender equity. Promoting girls education is important and urgent. India has a paradox we worship women and at the same time discriminate women. The needs of women are to be addressed to empower them.

VII. CONCLUSION

Through this study and analysis may be thought of simple one. But it has definitely many issues related to students who are adults. Such study in bigger proportion will definitely through light on subtle issues of students as the present one.

This is a new, unique and original expression after a small piercing to the students of a B.Ed. College. To understand students their back ground has to be concerned to help them. This creative interpretation of a small proportion will worth reporting and documenting from the point of view of human progress.

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