

THE SANAWAR NEWSLETTER



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Section I : From The School

Tuitions—A Necessary Evil

Yudhvir Kabuli, U-VI

A decade ago, the word tuition was looked down upon. If ever a pupil let out in public that he takes tuitions, he was considered to be a dumb backbencher bereft of intellect. Tuitions were a home-cooked remedy for those laggards who were struggling to even secure passing grades. However over the years, with evolutionary changes in the Indian education system, there has been a paradigm shift in the gamut of tuitions.

Tutorial classes are no longer a necessity of the weak performing students but encompass the entire student fraternity. In the era of cut-throat academic competition, sky rocking cut-offs and percentages soaring higher than the impeccable hundred per cent, tuitions have become a necessary evil. They are the buzz word of the education sector and have proven to be a very lucrative venture. The necessity of tuitions is self evident from the fact that multitude students from classes 11 and 12 opt for dummy admissions in schools and instead, spend most of the day in coveted coaching centers.

If anyone has a face to face conversation with a student, hectic tuition schedule will be the first words rattled out. Tuitions are no longer extra classes but a very much first version of teaching in place of formal education being imparted in schools of repute. Once a student passes class 10, the search for the best tutors kick-starts because tuitions have moved on to become a vogue and status symbol. The most surprising fact of this booming industry is that tuitions are no longer confined to practical subjects like mathematics, physics, chemistry or accountancy but have even extended to the domain of subjects considered to be everyone's cup of tea like English.

The most outstanding reason for ever-increasing popularity of tuitions is that they are a one-stop shop. From class lectures to worksheets, study material to test series, everything is catered for.

Tuitions provide students with an irresistible package which seems to lure them into thinking that it is the sure shot key to success. Comprehensive rote-learning streamlines effects of students to pierce right through the bulls-eyes. Some coaching centers have reached such heights that they conduct an admission test which adds to their brand-value and sense of popularity and demand.

The most detrimental effect of tuitions is their clandestine association with schools who rather encourage students to seek aid from such respective tutorial classes instead of clarifying doubts from the school teacher. One might counter, that all of this is legitimate but what about the lesser fortunate who face scarcity to feed on two square meals, what to talk about these high-fi tutorial classes. The under-privileged are eliminated from the race before it commences.

Adhering to the adage 'In Rome do as the Romans do', if one wants to stay in the race of bagging a seat in their dream college, he must empty his pockets into the accounts of these tutorial institutes hoping to reap long term monetary gains. All being said and done, it is upto the education ministry, school's teaching faculty and coaching centers to optimize on the country's largest segment of human resource—the students to surge its development index. The onus is on tutors as well as students to accrue maximum from this rampant trend but to also ensure that all deleterious repercussions arising from it are adequately and timely curtailed to revamp it into being a blessing to the education system of our motherland.

Amnesiac

Srijani Sankar Barik, U-V

With a hollow heart still pounding to the cadence,
with eyes who have abandoned her side,
with lips who are now used to silence,
She still goes on and that is what keeps me
going on.

With nobody to support her fragile hands with ease,
And nobody to hold her back when she wants to leave,

With nobody to awaken her from her disease,
She still walks and that is what makes me want to walk further.

Doctors said that she wouldn't last much long,
But she loves defying edicts and predictions,
When she grins it materializes there's nil wrong,
But she still smiles and that makes me want to smile.

Her amnesia is getting worse,
Her body is now insubstantial to support her burdened mind,
Her voice is still hoarse,
But still she sings and that makes me sing to the tune of life.

She is my sister,
Earlier her joy and inner splendour defied the laws of life,

Now amnesia has ruined and from inside has broken her,

But she still lives and that's what makes me want to live.

Independence Day

Seerat Sandhu, L-IV

The day to rejoice, to put up streamers, to burst crackers;

The day to remember our country's fathers.

The day to become a true patriot,
And remember the great people who fought.

Not just sing the anthem in duty,
Rather we shall sing it with pride not cruelty.

Let us put our hands together for their sacrifice,
For they were courageous and wise.

We shall now all make a difference in attitude,
With endless faith, respect & gratitude !

JAI HIND !

Senior Inter-House English Debate

In keeping with the ever changing formats of debating, the school upgraded its debating format from the Oxford style to the modern Parliamentary type. We have given up the traditional style of writing, learning and then debating. The students now need to research and speak on the topic without much time for memorizing.

The Senior Inter-House English Debate was held on 08th August, 2015.

The debate had three rounds.

In the first round, one member of the team was to speak for one minute on the topic allotted to him then and there. This is called the 'JAM round.'

In the second round, the second participant was to speak for one minute for the topic and one minute against a topic allotted to him two hours before the topic. This is called the 'Turn Coat Round.'

The third was the Block and Tackle round, wherein the third speaker was to speak for the topic and against it as and when he was 'blocked' or 'tackled.'

The new format turned out to be quite a charge of adrenaline, for both, the participants as well as the audience.

The results of the changed format of debating are as follows :—

1. The JUST A MINUTE round was won by Sukrit Kaur of Vindhya house.
2. The TURN COAT round was won by Medha Yadav of Nilagiri house.
3. The BLOCK and TACKLE round was won by Yudhvir Kabuli of Siwalik house.

The house positions are as follows :—

| | |
|--------|----------------|
| Fourth | Vindhya house |
| Third | Himalaya house |
| Second | Siwalik house |
| First | Nilagiri house |

Jindal Art Festival

Our students participated in the 22nd Jindal Art Festival held at Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar on 7th and 8th of August, 2015. We were placed at the 5th position among the 18 schools that participated.

The individual positions are as follows.

| Event | Participant | Position |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Portrait making | Sehaj Gulati | Second |
| Lamp shade making | Purva Singh | Consolation |
| Digital Art | Archit Dehloo | Third |
| Paper Mache | Gauri Sood & Purva Singh | Consolation |
| Mural Making | Ishaana Mundy & Udayan Roy | Third |

Worries Of A Teenager

Ojas Mridul, U-V

Each one of us is precious and irreplaceable. We should not allow ourselves to succumb to negativity and cynicism. Hardships are found at every age. Irrespective of the era, teenage period is comprised of troubles, problems and confusion.

Grades are probably not the only source of worry or anguish we face. We may have problems at home, related to our health, how we feel about our looks, or with our friends. Feelings of pain, insecurity, frustration and sadness often assail us.

Teenage means grappling with all kinds of problems. It means resolving in spite of all difficulties, to put aside the dark clouds of despair and advance towards the sun, towards hope. Strength is the hallmark of teenage years. Having problems, making mistakes or feeling regret is only natural. The important thing is not to be defeated by them. In the midst of worries and struggles, we should always look forward and advance.

Our studies are of course important. But the grades we get in high school will not determine the entire course of our life. Our future depends upon the efforts we make and whether or not we are walking on the correct path. A famous person once told his son, "Your grades might be mediocre, but please become a person of outstanding character. Greatness as a human being is not determined by educational background or social position. Even people who graduate from top universities engage in criminal activities. And there are some among the so called 'elite' who are over-bearing and arrogant. So, let's foster to be 'leaders' not 'elitists'."

Landmark Knowledge Conclave

Eight students of The Lawrence School, Sanawar participated in the Landmark Knowledge Conclave held at The Genesis Global School, Noida on the 31st July and 1st August, 2015.

The three categories in which the students took part were as follows:-

1. Debate
2. Creative writing
3. Quiz

Sukrit Kaur was adjudged the best speaker in extempore. Shyla Robinson won the first prize in the creative writing, for her poem and the quiz team earned third position consisting of Yudhvir Kabuli, Suchit Bawa and Surya Dev Bhandari.

Our Quiz team comprising of Yudhvir Kabuli and Surya Dev Bhandari were also runners-up in the General Knowledge Quiz at the JK Kate Memorial Knowledge Conclave held at PPS, Nabha from 10th to 12th August.

Congratulations !

Have You Seen The Soul?

Meher Khanna, U-IV

Have you ever seen the soul, ever sensed it
Have you ever felt the mist, alive, alert
Soaked yourself in its breathing, milky whiteness.

Or else, when ripples of water tinkle
While on the boat on a lake on the onset of night
Have you ever seen, ever heard the sobbing wind wail?

When a great many shadows run
To catch the full moon on a snow-white night
Standing against the wall of the church on the shore.

Have you ever sensed your womb resounding?
The body burnt a hundred times, it is still a clod of earth
The soul, burnt once, becomes gold
Have you seen the soul, ever sensed it?

A lost friend

Samra Panchhi, L-IV

There was a time in my life, when I was a completely new student in The Lawrence School, Sanawar. I had a very hard time settling down. One day while classes I met this little bird. But it wasn't a very pleasant meeting. We both hated each other and did not dare to look at each other. But one day something magical happened. It was almost like the story of Cinderella. I was crying on the steps and that little bird came behind my back and softly keeping her hand on my shoulder said, "Don't cry!" I was shocked. It felt like a pumpkin full of love grew just for us. Who knew that enemies can become best friends. We had so many good and bad times, but all through the bad times we always had each others' back. Everything was just more than perfect. But then a terrible news came to me, that my best friend had left me, I hope not for long. "Dear best friend, I don't know where you are, how you are or even how you are feeling. But wherever you are I expect the best for you."

The Art Workshop

Harmeher Kaur Maini, L-VI

An Art Workshop was conducted by Mr. Siddhartha Wig, a well known Architect from Chandigarh on 27th, 28th and 29th May, 2015. Following are the activities in which all the art students were involved.

On day one the art students were shown a presentation on 'Ten Famous Artists' which was very interesting. In the afternoon we were engaged in another activity along with the hobby students. We made pop-up cards using architectural print outs and we learnt to cut precisely with a cutter and make mountain and valley folds. The result was amazing.

The next day we were engaged in an activity requiring visualization using pencil shavings. We had to visualize how would pencils of different shapes start peeling. Then we actually sharpened the pencils and used the pencil shavings to create a collage. In the afternoon we created mobiles using the knowledge of physics and all the waste material was utilized to make beautiful mobiles.

On the last day we were shown a presentation on Egyptian Art which was very educative and amazing. After watching the presentation, we made book marks using the Egyptian images and Hieroglyphs. In the afternoon we created architectural structures using news papers after turning them into stiff rolls.

We enjoyed ourselves immensely as we learnt about a lot of new things.

Sculpture Workshop-2015-"Metal Scrap Welded Workshop"

Sculpture Students L-VI

Knowledge can be gained from anywhere and everywhere and when it comes to the field of art, it's never too much. So there we were on the 5th of August for a 2 day sculpture workshop. In the morning we met Mr. Harminder Bhopari. Initially, sir showed us his album which displayed the most beautiful works of art. Figures made from M-seal, metal scrap to clay. He created something out of literally nothing. Sir has been a state and National award winner for his breath taking pieces.

On the first day we learnt how to make Ganesha from clay and stickfigures in various forms from wires of different shapes. Then he covered it with M-Seal and beautiful figures were formed.

The next day sir taught us how to make various items from metal scrap. He cut metal and moulded it together using various items such as old utensils, old cycle and motor cycle parts. He also created the famous mother child form with his own creative imagination which has been displayed outside the sculpture department. The students indeed learnt a lot and have gained a new experience.

We would like to thank our Sculpture teacher for giving us this amazing chance to gain experience and Mr. Bhopari for inspiring and introducing us to a new technique.

Poem Of Life

Arjun Ahluwalia, U-IV

Life is one
I have to see everything
But, Extra life...None
I just want to sing.
As free as a flying bird in the sky
There is nothing that I don't want to try
I would never like to cry,
when the reason is why.

I have things to see
Before I get betrayed by life
If it even does, as I would have valued every second
That's why this poem is reckoned.

Sculpture Making Competition For L-III and U-III

Bhakte Vashisht, U-III

The competition was calendared and I was so excited for the day to come. I felt that as compared to last year's attempt I will do better but somewhere I was afraid of the competitors and the topics. As I entered I found that the students were already there ready with the material and our teacher was writing the topics on the board. I immediately wore my apron and took my position. The topics were good enough to be selected, eg-fish in water, bird on a branch & animal farm. I selected fish in water. Working with clay in such an environment was so enthusiastic that I enjoyed making it. While making I compared my work with others as I wanted my work to come out the best. But, I saw all others participating with full enthusiasm and creative ideas. By the end I tried hard to make my sculpture presentable and looked towards my teacher for some compliments. She appreciated me which encouraged me a lot. The next day, I was waiting for the result and was praying for the first prize. Surprisingly I got the third position which was very encouraging. I received the certificate in the morning assembly which made my parents also feel proud of me.

The result is as follows :—

L-III

| Position | Name | House |
|----------|--------------------|-------|
| First | Raabiah K. Dhillon | VPG |
| Second | Sarah Vasani | HPG |
| Third | Kritaka Jaggi | NPG |

Consolation

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Krish Uppal | VPB |
| Adil Sharda | NPB |
| Ranveer Kang | NPB |
| Harfateh S. Thind | NPB |

U-III

| Position | Name | House |
|----------|--------------------|-------|
| First | Anannya Julka | NPG |
| Second | Uday Veer S. Lohan | SPB |
| Third | Bhakte Vashisht | VPG |

Consolation

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Ruhun Thakur | SPG |
| Aamira Jain | VPG |
| Samarth Kharbanda | HPB |

Sculpture Making Competition For L-4 and U-4

Aryaman S. Kohli, L-IV

On 21st May, 2015 we were very excited for our first Sculpture competition. Sculpture is a hobby in which we make things with clay. Sculptures are very famous and useful for archaeologists as they tell us about the craft or talent of the people of that time. Our great institution gives us an opportunity to learn Sculpture. The topics were as follows:

Animal composition

Bird composition

Plant composition

In the beginning we were told not to be tense and just enjoy our participation. Children selected different topics. We were allotted one hour to complete the work. Managing time with work was quite hard but all participants were enjoying it, as we had an aim of competing with each other. It was real fun. I can never forget this competition ever in my life as, I learnt not only competing but how to manage and make my work presentable in front of others. The next day we were all waiting for the results. Many of my friends got a position. I lost but that also gave me a lesson that how to compete next time. As, we should never leave hope and should follow the motto of "Never give in". We learn from both our defeat and achievements.

The result is as follows:—

Lower-I V

| Position | Name | House |
|----------|---------------|----------|
| First | Amshul Bhatia | Nilagiri |
| Second | Karan Shukla | Himalaya |
| Third | Surya K. Gaur | Siwalik |

Consolation

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Yakshyam Vats | Siwalik |
| Vansh Gautam | Nilagiri |
| Divit Mahajan | Himalaya |

Upper-IV

| | | |
|--------|----------------------|---------|
| First | Sartaj Tiwana | Vindhya |
| Second | Aryaman | Vindhya |
| Third | Yuvraj Singh Nughaal | Vindhya |

Consolation

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Sagar Suyal | Vindhya |
| Fatehveer Singh | Vindhya |
| Laksh Sharma | Himalaya |

An Inspiring Workshop

Mrs. Sindhu Bahuguna

A workshop for the teachers of The Lawrence School was held on 24th July, 2015. It was conducted by the resource person Mrs. Anu Manhotra. It was based on Leadership and Strategic Management of the Classroom.

Teachers are a boon. Great teachers are valued by the students, parents and the society. They are highly regarded because they transform valuable resources into invaluable and unique resources. The question arises as to how this transformation takes place.

As a teacher, one has a huge responsibility of nurturing the tender minds by being their role models and time and again making them believe that they are loved and cared for. The teachers must encourage and acknowledge and give them the 'WOW' moments. With power of words we have to make them believe that they are who they are because of us. We as teachers have to understand that every child is unique and is someone's whole world.

The classroom must be creative. The teachers should allow them to think and ask creative questions to get creative answers. We need to add more humour in our teaching to spark their imagination.

The body language of the teacher makes a lot of difference in the classroom. For effective teaching, the teachers require to make eye contact with the students, stand erect and confident, pair body language with verbal language and create a congenial environment for the teaching-learning process.

The teachers must have the potential to recognize the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threat areas of each student. The teacher's beliefs about his or her students lead to the students' belief in themselves and consequently the outcome in school and life.

The workshop opened some more vistas for the teachers to think about and implement for better student-teacher relationship and outcomes. Surely the faculty will benefit from it.

Sanawar Exchange Programme—2015

FOUNDER'S TERM

*Binita Rishi, Exchange and Placement
Co-ordinator*

OUTGOING Students:

1. Kimaya Singh, NGD (July 22 to October 3, 2015) St. Cyprian's School, South Africa
2. Esha Sandhu, VGD (August 30 to October 24, 2015) Athenian School, USA
3. Aadya Gupta, NGD (July 22 to September 22, 2015) Herschel Girls' School, South Africa
4. Zoya Singh, SGD (July 22 to September 22, 2015) Herschel Girls' School, South Africa

5. Devansh Vadera, HBD (July 22 to September 22, 2015) Bishops Diocesan College, South Africa
6. Pratyaksh Tuteja, HBD (July 22 to Sept. 22, 2015) Bishops Diocesan College, South Africa
7. Shaswat Thapa, SBD (August 24 to Sept. 26, 2015) Tonbridge School, UK
8. Suraj Gupta, NBD (August 24 to Sept. 26, 2015) Tonbridge School, UK
9. Sachika Singla, VGD (September 6 to Oct. 6, 2015) The Blake School, USA
10. Yuvraj Kataria, HBD (September 6 to Oct. 6, 2015) The Blake School, USA
11. Vivan Kapoor, NBD (September 9 to Oct. 8, 2015) The Fessenden School, USA
12. Ajaybir Ahluwalia, NBD (September 9 to Oct. 8, 2015) The Fessenden School, USA
13. Rohan Sinam, VBD (July 16 to August 22, 2015) Scotch College, Australia
14. Mayum Vaidya, VBD (August 30 to October 15, 2015) The Regent's School, Thailand

INCOMING Students:

1. Polne Viljoen, VGD (September 15 to Nov. 15, 2015) Stanford Lake College, South Africa
2. Megan Smith, VGD (September 15 to Nov. 15, 2015) St. Stithians Girls' College, South Africa
3. Nicholas Brimacombe, HBD (September 15 to November 15, 2015) St. Stithians Boys' College, South Africa
4. Ana Jose Riley, NGD (September 30 to Nov. 30, 2015) Herschel Girls' School, South Africa
5. Paige Inglis, SGD (September 30 to Nov. 30, 2015) Herschel Girls' School, South Africa
6. Guiseppe Gureandi, HBD (September 30 to Nov. 30, 2015) Bishops Diocesan College, South Africa
7. Campbell Hennessy, HBD (September 30 to November 30, 2015) Bishops Diocesan College, South Africa
8. Bertram Crawford, SBD (July 17 to August 15, 2015) Tonbridge School, UK
9. Thomas Harris, NBD (July 17 to August 15, 2015) Tonbridge School, UK
10. Kartik Khanna, VBD (September 15 to Oct. 11, 2015) Scotch College, Australia
11. Jene Carstens, HGD (July 19 to August 21, 2015) Penryn College, South Africa
12. Mikayla Nortje, NGD (July 19 to August 21, 2015) Penryn College, South Africa
13. Nicole Taylor, SGD (July 19 to August 21, 2015) Penryn College, South Africa

Section II : SPORTS NEWS

Inter-House B'Ball (PD & BD) Tournament—2015

PD Result-2015 (Combined Result of PDB & PDG)

| Position | House |
|----------|----------|
| Fourth | Siwalik |
| Third | Nilagiri |
| Second | Himalaya |
| First | Vindhya |

BD Result-2015 (Combined Result of BD Jr. & BD Sr.)

| Position | House |
|----------|----------|
| Fourth | Vindhya |
| Third | Nilagiri |
| Second | Siwalik |
| First | Himalaya |

KUDOS!

Kudos to Sanaabi Thingbaijam of L-IV who recently became a black belt in Karate. She participated in the All Maharashtra Karate competition and bagged a gold medal in the under 14 girls Kata competition. The competition was held in Mumbai on 5th July, 2015 and about 60 girls of all age-groups participated in it.

Invitational Inter-School Girls Swimming Competition at Wynberg-Allen School, Mussoorie

An Inter-school swimming competition was held at the Wynberg-Allen School, Mussoorie on 22nd and 23rd August, 2015. A total number of five schools participated and The Lawrence School, Sanawar stood second.

Sanawar Girls participated in four categories—Sub-Junior, Junior, Intermediate & Senior and Won 53 Medals—17 Gold Medals, 22 Silver Medals and 14 Bronze Medals.

1. Simrina Loona was declared Best Swimmer in sub-junior age-group with 3 Gold in individual events, 2 Silver Medals in relays.
2. Pavit Sidhu was declared Best Swimmer in junior age-group with 2 Gold & 1 Silver in individual events, 2 Gold Medals in relays.
3. Saranya Loona was declared Best Swimmer in intermediate age-group with 2 Gold & 1 Silver in individual events, 2 Silver Medals in relays.

4. Prisha Chopra won 1 Gold & 2 Silver medals in individual events, 2 Silver medals in relays.
5. Jasnoor Jatana won 1 Silver & 1 Bronze medal in individual events, 2 Gold medals in relays
6. Jaivantika Singh won 1 Silver medal in individual events, 2 Bronze medals in relays.
7. Pihu Pathania won 2 Bronze medals in individual events, 2 Bronze medals in relays.
8. Mehar Sandhu won 1 Gold medal in individual event, 2 Gold medals in relays
9. Saina Sodhi won 1 Bronze medal in individual event, 2 Gold medals in relays
10. Ruhani Khanna won 1 Bronze medal in individual event, 2 Silver medals in relays
11. Maliba Tondon won 1 Bronze medal in individual event, 2 Silver medals in relays
12. Janhvi Arora won 2 Silver medals in relays
13. Tahira Brar won 2 Silver medals in relays
14. Ruchita Sharma won 2 Silver medals in relays
15. Nitya Gupta won 2 Silver medals in relays
16. Manik Virk won 1 Silver medal in relays
17. Kahkashan Sehgal won 1 Silver medal in relays
18. Aamira Jain, Mansha Brar & Mehr Arora were also members of the Team.

Section III : O. S. News

OBITUARY

Dr. Harish Dhillon, a well known educationist, left for his heavenly abode on the 21st of Aug., 2015, at the age of 74. An author, educationist, pianist, and a lover of antiquities, above all, Dr. Harish Dhillon was a teacher who shaped many young minds. Dr. Dhillon studied at The Lawrence School, Sanawar. He trained for the Army but had to leave after he lost a leg following a gunshot injury. He then studied English Literature at the Lucknow University from which he earned his Master's degree and Doctorate.

He joined Sanawar as a teacher of English in 1971. He went on to become the HoD (English) and Himalaya Housemaster. He left Sanawar in 1987 to join YPS, Patiala as the Principal. He rejoined Sanawar as the Headmaster on 20th August, 1995 till 11th February, 1999, from where, he joined YPS, Mohali as the Principal. He was a prolific writer and his articles to the readers in 'The Tribune' were a treat. He also wrote many love stories and short stories which were later compiled together as a book. His book 'The lives and teachings of the Sikh Gurus' was one of the best sellers, and had recently been revised and re-launched and now his book on the 'Janamsakhis' is expected to be published posthumously.

Sir, you will always be remembered fondly by everyone whose lives you have touched and for your wit, humour and wise words !

May your soul rest in peace !

हिन्दी खण्ड

आर्थिक पिछड़ापन हो आरक्षण का आधार

अभी तक हमारे नेताओं ने आरक्षण को अपने-अपने बोट बेंक की तरह प्रयोग किया है। मैं यहाँ माननीय उच्चतम न्यायालय के निर्णय के बारे में बताना चाहूँगा। न्यायालय के अनुसार जाति और ऐतिहासिक अन्याय किसी समुदाय को पिछड़ेपन का दर्जा देने का आधार नहीं हो सकता है।

न्यायालय ने जागे कहा कि सामाजिक रूप से अन्य पिछड़े वर्गों को पहचान कर, उनको आर्थिक स्थिति को देखते हुए आरक्षण का लाभ दिया जाना चाहिए और यह एक सतत प्रक्रिया होनी चाहिए।

दूसरी ओर मैं मानता हूँ कि समाज के तयकथित उच्च वर्ग जैसे ब्राह्मण, बणिक, यादव आदि में भी ऐसे अनेक परिवार हैं, जिनकी आर्थिक स्थिति अच्छी नहीं। सामाजिक पिछड़ेपन के आरक्षण का आधार होने से, इन जातियों के गरीब लोग सदा-सदा के लिए विछड़ गए। क्या यह उचित है कि एक योग्य व्यक्ति को इसलिए पदोन्नति न दी जाए कि उस वर्ग का कोटा पूरा हो गया है, क्या यह उचित है कि एक उच्चतम अंक लेने वाला छात्र अपने सपने को पूरा न कर सके क्योंकि दूसरी निम्न जाति के लिए जगह रखनी आवश्यक है। हम इस दुष्चक्र में फँस गए हैं, इसलिए भारतीय राजनीति में भी जातीय समीकरण बनने लगे हैं। यदि कोई राष्ट्र जागे बढ़ना चाहता है तो वह योग्यता को कैसे नज़रअंदाज़ कर सकता है ?

मैं इसे भारत की "बिडंबना" ही कहूँगा कि सामाजिक पिछड़ेपन के आरक्षण के कारण, प्रतिभा गौघ हो गई है। इसलिए लोग मेहनत, ज्ञान और ईमानदारी की तुलना में सामाजिक पिछड़ेपन को उन्नति का साधन मानते हैं। समाज के पिछड़े वर्ग आरक्षण की सुविधा को लपकना चाहते हैं। मुझे तो यह एक दृष्टि में राष्ट्रीय शर्म लगती है।

आप सभी जानते हैं कि सामाजिक दृष्टि से पिछड़े लोग बहुत-से उच्च वर्ग के लोगों से उन्नत और संपन्न जीवन जी रहे हैं। अब तो हज़ारों ऐसे सरकारी अफसर हैं, जो हैं तो सामाजिक दृष्टि से पिछड़े, पर आर्थिक दृष्टि से मालामाल।

अब आप ही सोचिए क्या ऐसे लोगों को आरक्षण का लाभ मिलना चाहिए ? पर आरक्षण इन्हीं गिने-चुने कुछ प्रतिशत लोगों को मिलता है, जिसके कारण आरक्षण का वास्तविक उद्देश्य व्यर्थ हो गया है।

रहस्यों, कॉलेजों में आरक्षित सीटों पर प्रवेश लेने वालों की स्थिति दयनीय होती है। चालीस-पचास प्रतिशत अंक होने पर उन्हें प्रवेश तो मिल जाता है, पर वे अल्प छात्रों के साथ चल नहीं पाते, वे हीन भावना से ग्रस्त हो जाते हैं। कितना अच्छा हो कि इन्हें योग्यता बढ़ाने के लिए आरक्षण दिया जाए। स्वस्थ प्रतियोगिता के लिए तैयार किया जाए। इसलिए मेरे विचार से या तो आरक्षण ही नहीं और यदि हो तो जाति के आधार पर न ही, आर्थिक आधार पर ही, ताकि समाज में सब बराबरी के स्तर पर होकर संसार सागर को अपने ज्ञान और कर्म से पार कर सकें।

प्रो. व. गुलेरिया
कक्षा ग्यारहवीं

दिनांक 6-8-2015 को विद्यार्थियों ने प्रार्थना सभा में निम्नलिखित विचार व्यक्त किए :-

सुन्दरता बड़ी या उपयोगिता

एक था मोर। बड़ा ही घमंडी। उसे अपनी सुन्दरता पर बड़ा घमंड था। वह हर समय अपनी सुन्दरता का बलान करता रहता था। रोज नदी के किनारे जाता और पानी में अपनी परछाईं देखकर बहुत खुश होता। वह कहता, “जरा मेरी पूंछ तो देखो, मेरे पंख तो देखो, कितने मनमोहक हैं। मैं दुनिया के सभी पक्षियों में सुंदर हूँ।”

एक दिन मोर को नदी के किनारे एक सारस दिखाई दिया। उसने सारस को देखकर मुँह फेर लिया और सारस का अपमान करते हुए बोला, “कितने रंगहीन पक्षी हो तुम। तुम्हारे पंख एकदम सादे और फीके हैं। शरीर का रंग भी आकर्षक नहीं है, बिल्कुल धुले कपड़े जैसे लगते हो।”

सारस ने कहा, “मेरे दोस्त! तुम्हारे पंख सचमुच बहुत सुंदर हैं पर सुन्दरता ही सबकुछ नहीं होती। बात तो उपयोगिता की है। तुम अपने पंखों से ऊँची उड़ान नहीं भर सकते, जबकि मैं अपने पंखों से आसमान में ऊँचाई तक उड़ सकता हूँ। देखो.....! कहकर सारस उड़ता हुआ आकाश में बहुत ऊँचा चला गया। मोर धरती पर लड़ा टुकर-टुकर उसे देखता रह गया। वह समझ गया कि किसी चीज का सुंदर होना अधिक महत्वपूर्ण नहीं, महत्वपूर्ण है उपयोगिता होना।

अनंत जैन
कक्षा-पाँचवीं

एक समय की बात है। एक गाँव में एक महान ऋषि रहते थे। लोग उनके पास अपनी कठिनाइयाँ लेकर आते थे और ऋषि उनका भाग बँटाने करते थे। एक दिन एक व्यक्ति, ऋषि के पास आया और ऋषि से एक प्रश्न पूछा। उसने ऋषि से पूछा कि गुरुदेव मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमेशा खुश रहने का राज क्या है? ऋषि ने उससे कहा कि तुम मेरे साथ जंगल में चलो, मैं तुम्हें खुश रहने का राज बताता हूँ।

ऐसा कहकर ऋषि और वह व्यक्ति जंगल की तरफ चलने लगे। रास्ते में ऋषि ने एक बड़ा सा पत्थर उठाया और उस व्यक्ति को कह दिया कि इसे पकड़ो और चलो। उस व्यक्ति ने पत्थर उठाया और वह ऋषि के साथ जंगल की तरफ चलने लगा।

कुछ समय बाद उस व्यक्ति के हाथ में दर्द होने लगा, लेकिन वह थप रहा और चलता रहा। लेकिन जब चलते हुए बहुत समय बीत गया, तो उसने ऋषि से कहा कि उसे दर्द हो रहा है। ऋषि ने कहा कि इस पत्थर को नीचे रख दो। पत्थर को नीचे रखने पर उस व्यक्ति को बड़ी राहत महसूस हुई।

तभी ऋषि ने कहा—यही है खुशी का राज। व्यक्ति ने कहा—गुरुवर मैं समझ नहीं।

तो ऋषि ने कहा—

जिस तरह इस पत्थर को एक मिनट तक हाथ में रखने पर थोड़ा सा दर्द होता है और अगर इसे एक घंटे तक हाथ में उठाये रखें, तो थोड़ा ज्यादा दर्द होता है और अगर इसे और ज्यादा समय तक उठाये रखेंगे तो दर्द बढ़ता जाएगा। उसी तरह दुखों के बोझ को जितने ज्यादा समय तक उठाये रखेंगे, उतने ही ज्यादा हम दुःखी और निराश रहेंगे। यह हम पर निर्भर करता है कि हम दुखों के बोझ को एक मिनट तक उठाये रखते हैं या उसे ज़िदगी भर। अगर तुम सुख रहना चाहते हो तो दुःख रूपी पत्थर को जल्दी से जल्दी नीचे रखना सीख लो और हो सके तो उसे उठाओ ही नहीं।

प्रार्थना :-

हे भगवान! हमें इतनी शक्ति देना कि हम अपने दुखों को भूलकर आनंद से अपना जीवन व्यतीत कर सकें। हे ईश्वर! हमें इतनी समझ देना कि हम चीजों की सुंदरता के साथ-साथ उसकी उपयोगिता को भी समझ सकें।

हिमांशु सज्जान
कक्षा-छठी

सामाजिक पिछड़ापन हो—आरक्षण का आधार

इस विषय के बारे में और विस्तार से बताने से पूर्व मैं आप सब से एक प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ। क्या आप में से कोई भी ऐसा है, जो यह कह सके कि मुझे हमारे समाज में पिछड़ापन पसंद है? जहाँ तक मैं आप सबको जानता हूँ, यहाँ पर ऐसा कोई भी नहीं जो यह कह सके। भारत में अनेक मजहब, अनेक जातियाँ, अनेक भाषाएँ हैं। हमारे देश में हमारी मातृभाषा के साथ-साथ कई और विदेशी भाषाएँ जैसे फ्रेंच, अंग्रेजी आदि भी पढ़ाई जाती हैं। समाज में रहकर और अनेक व्यक्तियों के संपर्क में आ कर हमें बहुत-कुछ सीखने और सिखाने को मिलता है परंतु अगर उसी समाज में पिछड़ापन है, तो उस पिछड़ेवर्ग को अपनी शक्तियों का अंदाजा नहीं। वह पिछड़ेवर्ग हमेशा अपने दुख-दर्द को ही चर्चा करता है और उन्हीं गंभीर परिस्थितियों का सामना करते-करते यह वर्ग और पिछड़ा जाता है और हमारा समाज, हमारी सरकार इनके लिए कुछ नहीं कर पा रही है।

आरक्षण देकर हम इन्हें आगे बढ़ने के लिए प्रेरित कर सकते हैं। हम एकजुट होकर इन सारे लोगों की सहायता कर सकते हैं। हमें इनके प्रति सहानुभूति दिखानी चाहिए और आरक्षण की बढ़ावा देना चाहिए तब यह वर्ग हर प्रकार की पीड़ा और क्षोभ से बच पाएगा।

गांधी जी ने दरिद्रों को 'हरिजन' कहा था अर्थात् भगवान के लोग और हम इस पिछड़े वर्ग की सहायता करने में हिचकिचा रहे हैं, इतनी छोटी सोच का तो नहीं हो सकता हमारा समाज।

सैंकड़ों वर्षों की पराधीनता के बाद भी आज हमारे देश में पिछड़ापन जैसे का बैसा दिखाई देता है। 26 जनवरी 1950 को संविधान लागू होने के बाद आज तक हमारे समाज का बड़ा वर्ग पिछड़ेपन का शिकार है, जबकि गण का अर्थ है—व्यक्ति और तंत्र का अर्थ है शासन अर्थात् ऐसा शासन जिसमें सबको समानता प्राप्त हो और जो लोगों के प्रतिनिधियों द्वारा चलाया जाए।

पिछड़ापन मानव जीवन में बाधक बनता जा रहा है। पिछड़ेपन के कारण कई लोगों का जीवन असुरक्षित, आतंकित व अव्यवस्थित रहता है। उन्हीं आरक्षण मिलेगा, तो उन्हीं अपने अधिकारों का सतुपयोग करने का अवसर मिलेगा।

भारत में चाहे भ्रष्टाचार हो या महंगाई, इसकी सबसे ज्यादा मार पिछड़े वर्ग ने ही खाई है। गरीबों के स्तर ने यह वर्ग इतना नीचे खला जाता है कि वह कमी-कमी आत्महत्या करने पर विवश हो जाता है। अब आप ही बनाइए क्या ऐसी स्थिति में इन्हें आरक्षण देकर सरकार कोई गलत कार्य कर रही है? मुझे तो नहीं लगता। अब मैं ये बोलकर अपनी बाजी को बिराम देना चाहूँगा।

उदार है वही परोपकार जो करे-2

मनुष्य है वही जो मनुष्य के लिए मरे।

हर्यवर्धन

कला ग्यारहवीं

दिनांक 7-8-2015 को गौरिका सुद (कक्षा दसवीं) ने प्रार्थना सभा में निम्नलिखित विचार व्यक्त किए :—

प्रार्थना :

हे भगवन ! आप ही वायु, यम, अग्नि, वरुण, चन्द्र, प्रजापति आदि सबके प्रतिमामय हैं। आपको सहस्रों बार नमस्कार है, बार-बार नमस्कार है।

सादा जीवन उच्च-विचार

सादगी सभ्यता को पहचान है। संसार के सभी महान पुरुषों ने सदा सादा जीवन और उच्च विचार की नीति को अपनाया है। सात्विक प्रकृति के लोग यही पसंद करते हैं। इस सरलता में ही उनकी महानता छिपी रहती है। जानने वाले जानते हैं कि महान व्यक्ति अपनी महानता का परिचय बिलाबटो आचार-व्यवहार से नहीं, सादगी से ही देते हैं। अयोग्य व्यक्ति दिखावा करके अपना अधिकार जमाना चाहता है, जबकि ज्ञानी और योग्य व्यक्ति अपने ज्ञान और सादगी से समाज को प्रभावित करता है।

असत्य का आवरण अंततः फटता है और असोति अपना ने बागे के सामने न सहो, पीछे उसकी निदा अवश्य होती है। नागरिक कर्तव्यों का पालन भी सादगी का ही रूप है। जीवन में बड़ी-बड़ी सफलताओं, संभावनाओं एवं उपलब्धियों का आधार

हमारे जीवन जीने के तौर-तरीकों पर निर्भर है। हम कैसे चलते हैं, उठते हैं, बैठते हैं, दूसरों के साथ कैसा व्यवहार करते हैं तथा सार्वजनिक जीवन की आवश्यक बातों का कितना ध्यान रखते हैं, इसी पर हमारे जीवन का निर्माण होता है।

इसी संदर्भ में महान समाज सेवी मदर टेरेसा ने कहा था—'खुबसूरत लोग हमेशा अच्छे नहीं होते। अच्छे लोग हमेशा खुबसूरत होते हैं।'

वास्तव में सादगी एक सच्चाई है और उससे व्यक्ति अपने शरीर पर कम ध्यान देता है अपितु उसका ध्यान मन को संभारने में लगा रहता है। यदि हम समीचादा जीवन और उच्च विचार की भावना को अपने जीवन में उतार लें, तो अवश्य हमारा जीवन स्वर्ग के समान होगा। किसी ने सच ही कहा है—

'मेने जिंदगी से पूछा कि तू इतनी कठिन क्यों है? जिंदगी ने हंस कर कहा क्योंकि दुनिया आसान चीजों की कद्र नहीं करती।'