

## SOME THOUGHTS ON CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

*by*

**Prof. Rana Lal Singh\***

The first essential for having a good child is that the would-be parents must be in love with each other. No product of an unhappy or forced union can be expected to be anything but a problem to the family and society. There are innumerable cases of such problem children.

The Mahabharata war between the Pandavas and the Kouravas was the natural result of an unhappy and forced union. The queens of Vichitraveerya, Ambika and Ambalika were not, as is well known, at all happy to be united with Sage Vyasa. They agreed to receive Vyasa under duress, on the orders of a dominating mother-in-law. Ambika could not help closing her eyes at the coal-black appearance of the sage. Ambalika went totally pale at the latter's entrance into her room. The two children born, Dhritarashtra and Pandu, had radically non-co-operative minds and brains. The first was born perfectly blind; the second, colourless. This conflict between their natures passed on to their children and ultimately produced a blood-curdling war between phenomenal personalities, the story of which, narrated by the master intellect of Sage Vyasa himself, has been the chief education of Aryan heroes and heroines in various fields of human activity through the past fifty centuries and more.

Next, it is essential that an atmosphere of harmony should prevail in the household. For example, if the marriage has not received the blessings of the guardians or elders of the parents, the latter cannot be in a happy frame of mind. This affects the quality and nature of the seed out of which a child is to grow, which determines whether it is to become a Buddha or a Budmash (rascal), a Sita or a Satan.

Whethere the parents are noble-minded or not, the level and quality of their intelligence, the purity or impurity of their soul are also, so far as I have observed and studied, ruling factors in the make-up of a baby and the growth of its personality.

---

\* Principal Press Secretary to Royal Palace, Kathmandu, Nepal.

The reason is clear. Example is better than precept. Babies cannot escape the deep impressions of what they perceive their close or constant elder-companions, parents and others, doing or saying. In the industrially advanced countries there is alarm about environmental pollution. The prime polluters of environment are bad thoughts, feelings, actions, behaviours. Let us all be very careful to keep them far enough to be harmless. Especially if we want our children to be or become blessings to themselves, ourselves, our society and humanity, this is a 'must' for every intelligent well-wisher, elder or teacher of children.

Ramachandra has rightly been respected as an ideal son, brother, student, friend, husband, master, king etc. by billions for more than fifty thousand years. The entire, or almost entire, credit for this goes to the happy relations between his father King Dasharatha and his mother Queen Kousalya, the lofty ideals which inspired both of them, the harmonious air in Dasharatha's palace and, above all, to the atmosphere and environment of purity and earnest pursuit of perfection that pervaded the hermitage of Sage Vashishtha, in which Ramachandra was privileged to spend the vital formative years of his life.

In conclusion, may I in all humility assert that we the parents, teachers and elders as well as educational authorities are wholly responsible for our children becoming assets or liabilities to our country ?