

A Classroom Under the Sun

A poem for 'Place-Based Education'- A new pedagogical paradigm that engages students in local heritage, cultures, landscapes, opportunities and experiences through innovative instructional approaches that enable student to a deeper and personalized learning.

History speaks even from the ruins of lost Dzongs
Razed to sorry embers at its gallant glory,
Yet with the will of Pazaps from centuries
Raise the colossal architecture to its splendour;

Our God king proclaims with regal pride
Of an undefeatable possibility in Bhutanese men
To win with stealth and statesmanship
Every new advent in every possible ways;

A leader is an epitome whose words are comets
Even in his softest expressions and lightest stance,
And where we lead by what we are
Is the beginning of change in the minds of men;

To usher change in the education psyche have come,
Wisdom from west and within for decades to school
From NAPE to lifeskills to GNH and Kagan,
To graduate a quiet child beyond the classroom doors;

Is PBE not the answer to ills of classroom boredom
To find bondage to nature and neighbours,
Of vibrant children walking the woods and villages
Gazing the sunset, watching the stars, breathing calm?

In PBE is a space to learn how we can touch
Each child with warmth of values that evokes GNH,
With some smiles and so much to quench curiosity
From the endless pages beyond the classroom windows;

In the filthy drains and littered
walkways is a lesson to learn,
In the ragged man is a repertoire of
ageless knowledge,
In the wasted beer can sciences and
humanities,
In the cats and cows outside
a colossal social science;

In my school day we learnt some through songs and rhymes,
In outdoor games and stage dramas, festivals and fetes,
Garden plantations and weekend walks to the forests,
Hills and vales were but pages of an endless learning.

I hate the minutes sat for examination in the schools,
Nightmares often sweat me sitting at mathematics,
And I pity my sons when they begin their days
That test how much they learnt at their tender years;

Place-based Education is the academic paradigm
To connect children to the community and people
To make them taste the future through the present
And the past that holds vaults of learning wealth.

Is this another beginning to a change
To indulge in the classroom under the sun
By how children long to learn with joy
The way each have to become dreams nation saw?

Composed:
Namgyal Tshering
Principal, Dechentsemo Central School
Punakha, Bhutan
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