

Group 6. Change of attitudes in university students

The ideal student

“The fundamental task is to produce educated men and women in the fullest sense of that phrase, men and women who are capable of fulfilling any function in the world that may fall to their lot, citizens of high intelligence, complete moral integrity, and possessing energy, initiative, judgment, tact and qualities of leadership”

(Sir Ivor Jennings, 1948)

Deviations from the ideal: problems with student attitudes

1. The student teacher relationship is reinterpreted as a class relationship in which students become the oppressed and the teachers the oppressors. Thus students are told not to develop friendly relations with the teachers who are essentially portrayed as opponents.
2. The University and University life is projected as a misery, full of hardship and difficulties.
3. Students should not meet the lecturers in their offices outside the lectures as it will lead to special relationship with the teachers and that undermines the comradeship of students.

4. Male teachers are sexually oriented towards the female students and thus under no circumstances a female student should visit the office of a male lecturer alone. Hence the practice of two girls visits.
5. Students should not speak in English as it's the "para bhasawa" (meaning not only a foreign but also oppressive) and also it affects those who cannot speak English.
6. Students should not ask questions in the class. The stated reasons is that it distracts the lecturer but the real reasons is that it lead to *Kepi peneema* (being noticed) and that is against the comradeship of students.
7. The students' primary responsibility is for the student movement and to protect the rights and duties of students as defined by the student union.

Changing attitudes

- Has to start with changing attitudes of the teachers
- Learning environment that encourages students to approach staff without fear
- Counteract 'brainwashing' that takes place during the freshman period
- Having a compatible policy environment – (promoting QA vs. provision of employment regardless of graduate quality)

- Involve students in decision-making processes – treat them like adults
- Cultivate a healthy competitive, ambitiousness
- Academic staff need to be united in working towards change of attitudes