

Of Student's Health

Probhat Kumar Roychowdhury

[এই লেখাটি ১৯৫৬ সালে শ্রীপ্রভাত রায়চৌধুরী যখন কলকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ছাত্র ছিলেন সেই সময় কলকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় থেকে প্রকাশিত “একতা” পত্রিকা থেকে নেওয়া হয়েছে। আমরা পুনর্মুদ্রন করলাম।]

The past glories of India, one of the cradles of ancient human civilisation are familiar to us. Today in the middle of the twentieth century, the reality of our country strikes a note of contrast. Behind the beautiful landscapes, chirps of birds and abundant natural resources, lie traces of ugliness, human miseries that form legacies, of the past. Foreigners, very often bewildered by the glaring contrasts locationally described India as a rich country inhabited by a poor people. But the reason is not far to seek; even a school boy of our country will point his finger to the years of darkness foisted on us by an alien rule.

15th August 1947 heralded the dawn of freedom, the rest of the world expected a sharp turn towards progress in the wheel of history. Now we take pride in saying that the expectations of our friends have not been belied—India has become a mighty force in favour of world peace that everyone has to reckon with. We are racing with time to catch up with the advanced nations of the world and we are determined to build life anew, to stamp out the evils of the past. We know there exists crushing poverty but we shall create wealth for everyone to live in happiness. We know that we are stuck up on the swamp of economic backwardness, but we shall make new factories raise their heads in every corner of our country. We know that the dark veil of illiteracy covers thousands of Indian villages, but we shall tear it to shreds. We know that our country has long been a happy haunting ground for premature deaths and diseases, but armed with science we shall cry a halt to these enemies. Whatever the price we have to pay, we must unfold the luxuriant beauty of our motherland in its full grandeur.

Students of India look back with pride to their heroic participation in the battle for national independence. And today in this festival of creation of a newly awakened India they cannot allow themselves to be mere spectators. With knowledge, with courage and in identity with the interests of the people, Indian students are living up to play a very useful role in society. They are joining efforts to achieve a system of democratic and scientific education and to remove the obstacles that set limits to the horizon of academic life. They look forward to a brighter tomorrow with a sense of optimism.

But in what condition do our students live and work to-day ?

Inspite of our optimistic attitude towards our future, we must take serious note of the vital problems of to-day.

Let us have a glimpse of the survey report initiated by Dr. Jnan Ghosh, the ex-Vice Chancellor of our University, of the condition of work and study and nutrition of the students.

