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EDITOR'S COLUMN

For children yet to taste college life, 'Three Idiots' should definitely provide a glimpse of the reality. It is a grim parody of our existing education system which many believe is turning 'youth' into 'functional robots' programmed to take on highly decorated careers like: doctors, engineers, pilots, architects... It is a perfect depiction of a system where children enter schools as innocent, impressionable, ambitious kids and leave colleges as hardened, highly-focused, super specialised professionals. A system that promises big time on moulding children into successful professionals, but has little to assure about the professional's social commitment, satisfaction level, happiness, contentment, well-being...

It brings to fore the grim fact that 'education is a passport to a successful career', and that parents and children join the bandwagon only because they want to be assured of a 'high-paying' job for life. In the movie we find Farhan (Madhavan) to be one such victim who wants to be a wild life photographer but is doing his engineering only to fulfil his dad's dream, while on the other side we see Chatur (Omi) who's a learning machine adept at mugging

up books being encouraged by his principal to the hilt. Certainly, it does send us back thinking as to whether success in professional courses really guarantee success for life? We all know that it is not so and we often find ourselves frustrated in the mad rat race for success, which Viru Sahasrabudde (Boman Irani) proclaims as the 'way of life'.

Striving for 'excellence' rather than 'success' should be the core aim of life, and the film reminds us that excellence can't be achieved if you strive half-heartedly or fearfully or worst, mechanically. In the movie, we find Rancho (Amir Khan) is disdainful of the education system that professes learning by rote, and that he strongly feels each individual should have his/her own perspective of an issue and then with their individualistic thought-process innovate means to surpass expectations. Rancho believes, "Education is not about chasing success, but instead aim for excellence and let success chase you." If the Indian education system is able to live up to this doctrine and promote the quest for excellence, then India would once again find itself in the Golden Age!

MANOJ MAHANTA



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