

GANDHI'S PERSPECTIVE ON NAYEE TALIM

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ABSTRACT

An attempt has been made to put light on the saying of Gandhi and his educational philosophy on life, cultural education, basic education. Gandhiji wanted to convert the whole world into non-violence and see the society where citizens are living in harmony. This purpose of non-violence and harmony can be achieved only by following the various quotes of Gandhiji. According to him, truth and education helps one to reach at the peak of self-realization. He wanted a silent social revolution through basic education.

Key Words: Educational Philosophy, Mahatma Gandhi, Basic Education, Scientific Outlook, Modern Society

INTRODUCTION

Nai Talim is a spiritual principle which states that knowledge and work are not separate. Mahatma Gandhi promoted an educational curriculum with the same name based on this pedagogical principle. Gandhi was a utopian; he tried to bring 'the Kingdom of God on the earth (Ram Rajya) where truth and non-violence would be guiding principles. His utopianism arose out of his love for humanity. The three pillars of Gandhi's pedagogy were its focus on the lifelong character of education, its social character and its form as a holistic process. For Gandhi, education is 'the moral development of the person', a process that is by definition 'lifelong'.

Gandhiji described education as a preparation of future life. He wanted education for all, for every Indian around the corners of India. He wanted to apply his basic education by implementing steps given below:

- True education is all-round development of the faculties, best attained through action. It bases itself on the fact that knowledge and understanding develop in relation to problems set right by action. Information thrust on the mind only burdens the memory and causes intellectual indigestion, casting learning into oblivion.
- He propounded activity oriented learning such as weaving, agricultural works, paper designing, metal works etc. Handicraft is an important part of his educational system. It will serve as a bridge between rural and urban life and to grow interest in the learners.
- Around these activities other subject like history, geography, mathematics, physical education, social sciences will be taught in a simple way
- For the learner's spiritual development, Gandhiji focussed on the practice of music, dance, art and culture and many other co-curricular activities.
- He focused on the development of child through physical exercise to make them capable for self-defence.
- Gandhiji inspired children to respect their elders, learn the lesson of honesty, simplicity, prayer, meditation etc. for their moral development
- 1Mother tongue will be the medium of education as Hindi should be learned as a national language rejecting English language on this level.
- The boys and girls of the 7-14 yrs age group should be given compulsory education.

1 Hindi is that language which both Hindus and Muslims speak and is written in Nagri and Persian script. This Hindi is not completely Sanskritised, nor is it loaded with Persian vocabulary,"

- Making basic education is totally activity oriented.
- Nai Talim was conceived as a response to one of the main dialectics of modernity as Gandhi saw it--the dialectic between human being and 'machine' or 'technology':
- Productive skills were the focus of his Nai Talim (Basic Education), providing food, shelter and clothing as the three basic essentials for human survival and security.

Gandhiji has said in context of self reliance, "I would prefer to start a child's education after teaching him some useful manual industry and enabling him for some innovative creation. Every school can be self-reliant". Basic education suggested by Gandhi has the following aims:

- Swami Vivekanand followed the saying of Gandhi ji where an individual should be total independent and stand on his own feet to live and to earn.
- Character building "The end of knowledge must be the building of character." The aim of education is to develop bravery, self-confidence, honesty, and devotion etc. in the mind of the learner.
- Gandhi ji focused on giving importance to Vocational education where Financial self-dependency is the primary aim of education. He stressed that main purpose of education system should be- "learning with earning".
- Self-actualised Gandhiji believed in self-realization. Through fulfilling the self actualization need, a man can achieve spiritual knowledge and self-fulfilment.
- 1Gandhi ji main focus on was on basic education. An education which make the citizen of India self reliance and self dependent. By learning basic education, a human being can achieve the level of prosperity and harmony and this will lead to peaceful India and peaceful world. By learning the basic education, a person can learn the importance of honesty, ethical values irrespective where he is living. By learning basic education, a person can live in harmony with oneself, with the family, with the society and with the nature.
- In basic education system it is recommended to impart education thought mother tongue and if is already so. Gnadhiji, too believed that the foundation of education should be laid through mother tongue. It helps inculcating values like love towards mother tongue and swadeshi (native)

The scheme of basic education formulates the following proposals-

- He stressed on craft oriented education where every individual will be self dependent.
- Gandhi's proposal to make handicrafts the centre of his pedagogy had as its aim to bring about a "radical restructuring of the sociology of school knowledge in India" in which the 'literacies' of the lower castes--"such as spinning, weaving, leatherwork, pottery, metal-work, basket-making and book-binding"—would be made central.
- Crafts oriented education have an economic view also because the selected craft should be taught and practiced so that children are able to produce articles which can be used in the school or may be sold to mitigate the expenditure of the school partly.
- The social and scientific implications of the selected craft must be taught.

MERITS OF BASIC EDUCATION

- The concept of basic education is helpful for fast growth throughout the country

1 "Basic education links the children, whether of the cities or the villages, to all that is best and lasting in India."

- Basic education is activity- Oriented education where focus of teaching will be on the principal “Learning by doing”. This will helps an individual to acquire the practical knowledge on livelihood.
- 1As the basic education is child-centric, it considers the creative and constructive sense of children as well as dignity of labour.
- This educational approach is based on the principle of correlation; it emphasizes on the basic craft chosen by an individual and correlates entire education with the practical knowledge about the craft. Correlation also takes place between physical environment, social environment and craft work.
- Basic education is based upon the cultural and social heritage of our country. One of major objectives of basic education is harmonious development of body, mind and spirit.
- This educational system inculcates social, moral as well as democratic values like cooperation, responsibility, fellow-filling in the minds of the students.

Basic Education Plan introduces free compulsory universal education. This education plan will be in connection with reformation of the economy of the country, development of national integrity, building up ideal citizen through the combination of individual and society.

Peace is no doubt the demand of our time but we must develop and appropriate technology of peace making. Life is a unity and hence we cannot divide it into water tight compartments- subjective and objective, political and social ideological and structural. We cannot afford to neglect the selfless teachings of religious saints like Gandhi, Socrates, Mahavera, Buddha, Jesus etc. to cultivate peace of mind. They have being carrying the torch of peace since time immemorial but with the utmost humility, we must say that it is not enough.

But from where should we begin? There is violence in politics, economics, social system, religion etc. Even education has become a vested interest. It is through peace- education that our mental attitude can change. If we could spend the smallest part of our time and resources on Peace education, there can be a Kingdom of God on Earth. Gandhi did not gave us the theory of peace but has demonstrated the efficacy of peace through Satyagrah and nai Talim.

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1 Literacy in itself is no education. Literacy is not the end of education or even the beginning. By education I mean an all-round drawing out of the best in the child and man-body, mind and spirit.

