

GANDHIJI AS AN EDUCATIONIST

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Abstract

Education system proposed by Mahatma Gandhi is called as "Basic Education". He mainly aims at the education in mother tongue and asked for activity centered education to make the children skilled and independent. Gandhiji wanted to bring a silent social revolution through such a balanced curriculam. The basic craft should be included in the curriculam to make it work orientated unique and dynamic. Such Gandhian Educational thoughts are relevant for development and providing solutions of the current problems like unemployment, poverty, corruption and many others. An attempt has been made in this paper to discuss the Gandhi's educational thoughts.

Keywords: *Gandhian Era, Character building, Adult Education, Sex Education.*

Introduction

Mohandas Karamchand Gandh, well known as Mahatma Gandhi in and abroad India for his valuable thoughts of each and every field of life. He touched all spheres of life like political, social, religious, economic, moral, ethical and educational. In the Indian freedom struggle the period from 1920 to 1947 is known by 'Gandhian Era' due to his leading contribution.

Though physically he is dead but his teaching and philosophy of life is still alive after 70 years of his death. With him there came a drastic change in the life of Indian people. He gave new ways, ideas and thoughts to Indian society. He not only evoked his thoughts about Indian Independence, but he gave new educational views and system for Indian society and culture.

"Like his social and political ideas, Gandhiji had in mind while expounding his educational system the development of all the people -rich and poor, rural and urban , men and women".

Education philosophy of Gandhiji

The British came here for business and became ruler. They brought with them their culture and education. Though they brought their education system here but it was not made for India or according to Indian needs. It was just to produce the civil servants who can be helpful for them to make their administration possible to rule over India. Gandhi find out the defects of British education system and gave a new education system which will be helpful for the development of not only the human being but of the nation. He gave scope for the practical knowledge of the subjects with theoretical knowledge.

Gandhiji say that education means versatile development of a person. Education should be given through industrial training not only through books. True education means character building and from such educated persons create an ideal citizen. Education should be based on non violence and helpful for communal harmony. Primary education must be free and compulsory for every child. Medium of education must be in mother tongue for understanding the concepts by

heart. "On economic, political and military grounds, India was of first rate importance to the British and education was the instrument by which they sought to maintained strengthen their domination by experimenting with a unique model of educating an elite through a foreign language.

Aims of Education

Gandhiji saw the Indian condition and think on the British education policy. This policy of education is not sufficient for the development of Indian people. So Gandhiji made some ideology about education system in India. Gandhiji's education philosophy has aims as following.

Social Development

Gandhiji saw that Indian youth is getting the highest academic qualifications but he is becoming unaware of his social duties towards the society and the nation. So he states that aim of education is not only getting the knowledge but also it focuses on the social development of child. So that child could learn how to live in society and follow the social rules.

Character Building

As Indian people came into contact with British Education and British people, there started the struggle between two cultures. It was the transfusing phase for Indian society. The new Western education, knowledge was shaking the old beliefs of Eastern Indian society. There came a gap between the people who admired and advocated the Western culture and those who opposed it. The society was in confusion about which education system it has to accept. At such indecisive moment Gandhi gave his educational philosophy which included, education which will built character, as character includes purity of soul, ideas, activities and non-violence. If education builds character of a person every problem of him will be solved.

Employment Oriented

The British brought English education system with them but as the natural rule of the foreign rulers it was not for the betterment of Indian people. This education system was far away from the daily business and industries of Indian society. India is the land of agriculture and 75% of it's industries, business and small scale trades are dependent upon it. But there was no such provision for these trainings were made in it. This education system was unable to provide the skilled persons for such businesses to the Indian society, the educated people were facing the problem of unemployment. So Gandhi forwarded the education system which could provide the employment. According to Gandhiji education is a kind of insurance against unemployment, for that we should provide a handicraft education.

Women Education

Since the vedic period woman has given the highest and important value in the Indian society. But after the foreign invasion, she was put behind the curtain, though in the beginning it was for her safety but then it became her destiny, till the entrance of Gandhi in the freedom struggle. It was started long before his entry in it, but no one has given a serious attention towards the Indian woman. He accepted the mythical image of '*Ardhnari Nateswara*' that is the half body of man and half of a woman. He called Indian society with the same name. He was the first who recognized the power of a woman and appealed for its presence in the freedom struggle. He supposed without women's contribution the society will look like paralyzed man. He requested

the Indian people for the education of women as it constitutes the half of the Indian population. Gandhiji was strongly in favour of women empowerment. For that he wants to give the all round education to women. He is against the purdah system, child marriage, untouchability, widow and sati rituals in India.

Sex Education

In this modern age too sex is supposed as taboo and personal matter of which no one is ready to speak publically but Gandhi found it very sensitive and serious matter of a person as it is the natural instinct of a human being. It is essential for the betterment and well-cultured and well developed society. According to him, it should not be neglected and suppressed but their should be proper guidance for it's fulfilment and control.

Gandhiji says sexual science is of two kinds. One is for controlling the sexual passion and second is to stimulate and feed it. Sex education is as important as basic education.

All these aims of education are important for the development of child. From this we can build a integrated and moral society. Gandhiji discovered a unifying principle of education through work by which the human being might become a whole man capable of building integrated families, integrated communities and peaceful world.

Mahatma Gandhi gives introduction of religious education. Religious education teaches us to respect our parents, teachers and elders,, love for children, following of social traditions and constant awareness towards their duties and responsibilities.

Gandhiji explains the importance of religious education in 'Young India' of 6th December 1923. He writes, 'A curriculum of religious instructions should include a study of tenets of faiths other than ones own. For this purpose the students should be trained to cultivate the habit of understanding and appreciating the doctrine of various great religions of the world in a spirit of reverence and broad minded tolerance. An ideal teacher is free from any addiction. He lives politely with others and becomes an example of simple living and high thinking.

Four Stages of Education

1) Adult education

If parents are educated they can give attention towards his child with politely and guide the children with open mind and open eyes. Gandhiji wants educated parents for happy, healthy and clean life. Because parents are closely related to children his pre school, primary school and secondary school.

2) Pre school education

This education is important for under 7 years children. It includes physical nurture, medical care, personal cleanliness and health, community cleanliness and health, self help, social training, creative activity, acceptance of basic concept speech training, nature study, music and spiritual development. Gandhiji wants to make children action oriented not just theorist. Therefore he thought that the real education must start from childhood.

3) Primary Education

7 to 15 years children are included in this education. All subjects and curricular contents give them through knowledge. Gandhiji wants to give pre education to every children free and compulsory.

4) Secondary Education

Children of 15 to 21 years are included in this education. Self sufficiency and vocational education are taught to these young boys and girls. It provide the productive activities and knowledge. Because this age group of students are the future of our nation.

Conclusion

It teachers the responsibilities of adult towards his family life or some kind of professional trainings. "Education should develop the students intellect as well as emotions through the attempt to give concert expression to the ideal of truth, good and beauty, Gandhiji was the follower of this satyam, Shivam, Sundaram. Gandhi would never tell lie either to the students or to the teacher. Gandhi says that, 'education is a process of comprehensive development of the best things lying in the mind and soul of children or men and bringing them out.

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