

Importance of Gandhi's Educational Philosophy in Present context

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Abstract

Mohandas Karam chand Gandhi, whom we know as the creator of modern India, not only played an important role in getting the country independence but also rebuilt the nation by developing new consciousness and new power among the citizens of the country. During his lifetime, he not only remained a worshipper of truth and non-violence but also a successful politician, social reformer and educationist. Along with influencing political, social and religious life, he also left his special mark in the field of education. Gandhiji's working style in every field represents his philosophy of life. He also presented the National Basic Education scheme to make Indian self-reliant. Gandhiji believed that education is important not only in theoretical and philosophical terms but also in practical terms. In this context, his education philosophy is also a symbol of his philosophy of life. Whether it is about truth or non-violence, values or culture, world peace or human rights, Gandhiji's thoughts related to education have a special significance in all these are a sand undoubtedly that is why he is also known as a great educationist.

Key words – Gandhi, education, teacher, student, school.

Gandhi's Education Philosophy –

Gandhiji agrees with the Gita that there are two basic elements - man and nature, and God is supreme among them. God is eternal, therefore he is truth; matter is infinite, therefore it is untrue.

Epistemology of Gandhi's Education Philosophy –

According to Gandhiji, knowledge can be divided into two categories. Physical science and spiritual knowledge. Various aspects of the physical world and human life have been kept under science. While, the creator of the universe, soul and god, have been kept in the second category.

Ethical philosophy of Gandhi's Education Philosophy –

According to Gandhiji, the ultimate aim of human life is to attain liberation. By liberation, he meant that knowing the eternal nature of soul and god and taking refuge in them was considered liberation.

Basic Principles of Education

- 1-Man is the best creation of God.
- 2-God is the creator of the universe.
- 3-This world and God both are true and real.
- 4-Observing Ekadashi fasts are essential for the upliftment of all.
- 5-Service to humanity is the true form of devotion.
- 6-Man's development is possible only by one's own deeds.
- 7-Moksha is God-given and self-knowledge is the ultimate goal of man.
- 8-Devotion is the means to attain me.
- 9-Soul is a part of God.

Meaning of education according to Gandhiji

Gandhiji wanted to see every person in India educated. By being educated he did not mean being literate or getting a degree from school. According to him literacy is neither the beginning nor the end of education. Gandhiji laid special emphasis on character and morality in life. Personal development should take place through education.

Objectives of education according to Gandhiji

- 1-Objective of all-round development
- 2-Physical development
- 3-Mental development
- 4-Personal and social development
- 5-Objective of livelihood
- 6-Cultural development
- 7-Objective of character building
- 8-Objective of spiritual freedom
- 9-Objective of self-realization

Curriculum of education according to Gandhiji

Moral and religious education, language, social studies, handicrafts, general science, fine arts, physical education. Teaching methods according to Gandhiji

1-Method of learning by self-experience

2-Active method

3-Associative method

4-Correlation method

5-Oral method

6-Imitation method

7-Shravana Mana Nidhi Asana

Role of teacher according to Gandhiji

Teacher should have all the human qualities, ideal of the society, storehouse of knowledge and one who practices truth. According to Gandhiji, it is the responsibility of education to generate such talent and ability in children so that they can recognize the qualities, defects and differences of various things.

Place of student according to Gandhiji

In Gandhiji's education plan, child is given second place. He made his education plan handicraft centric in which child gets education by working himself, cooperating and imitating. According to Gandhiji, student should be of good character and respect labour.

School according to Gandhiji

According to Gandhiji, schools should not be in designated places but in settlements. Every kind of facility should be there. The environment of school should be inspiring and effective.

Discipline according to Gandhiji

Gandhiji lived a disciplined life and believed in it.

Gandhi's contribution in modern education

1-In the context of idealism

2-In relation to reality

3-In the context of naturalists

4-In the context of pragmatism

5-Gandhi accepted education as a means of all-round development of man.

6-He created a curriculum based on skills

7-Gandhi respected the interests of both the individual and the society equally

Gandhi's concept of basic education is very important in the contemporary history of India. In today's environment, basic education can be seen as a medium to produce good citizens. This is based on truth, non-violence, justice and harmony. True freedom of a person is safe only in democracy. It is possible to create an independent and responsible citizen through basic education. To maintain a self-dependent life and the right to self-determination, the state creates such conditions with the help of which a person can achieve his complete moral development. Modern India is based on the ancient values of truth and justice. Achieving the values of individual and collective life in non-violent ways is the biggest challenge of contemporary India. Basic education makes a person capable of objectively evaluating various issues. Later, on its basis, it may be possible to create a Gandhian society based on moral values. But on practical grounds, the universal element of selfishness is reflected in contemporary man. Due to this, there is conflict between different sections of the society. The objective of Gandhian concept of basic education is to create a society whose members have a sense of self-interest as well as altruism. In the modern era, the most important reason for man's misery is his unlimited attachment to material things. Through his education theory, Gandhiji says that simple living and high thinking inspire social harmony, economic development and political stability through this kind of lifestyle. Basic education gives rise to a positive attitude. This is the most important quality of basic education. In this form, it is very relevant in the contemporary circumstances. Gandhiji believes that a positive work culture can be developed among people through basic education. Gandhiji's basic education nourishes sociability, friendship and personal freedom. Needless to say, these three elements are an integral part of a moral social system. Gandhiji opposes imparting education through the English medium. He believes that through this, not as much attention is paid to the development of talent as it is paid to external pomp. Gandhiji believes that this kind of education has no practical utility. It is based on the idea of a natural balance between basic knowledge and work capacity. It nourishes the heart and mind while keeping alive the ability of critical inquiry and decision making. From a sociological point of view, it plays an important role in reducing social tension and conflict. It establishes the dignity of labour in society. From an economic point of view, it gives rise to productive labour, because its main emphasis is on employment-oriented education. It can play a role in improving the living standards of people through goods and services.

Conclusion

In the end, we can say that Gandhiji's ideas on basic education can not only become the carriers of new ideas but they also propound a philosophy of life. Gandhiji is neither a professional educationist nor does he try to give a scientific form to the principles of education,

rather his ideas on education are based on psychological, sociological and economic principles. It would be desirable that in the contemporary perspective, the government should think deeply on the Gandhian principle of education so that the goal of modernization can be achieved easily.

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