

Educational Philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi

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Abstract

Mahatma Gandhi's ways and his ideals seem to be the only answer to overcome the present ever growing problem of terrorism which is leading the world to a doomsday. Mahatma Gandhi was leader of the past runs into the present and marches towards the future. He had always been a leader of the time ahead. He placed the theory of all-round development of the children through only education. Training of heart and building of character were also emphasized by him. Learning by doing was the famous guiding principle of Mahatma Gandhi. The educational experiments which he tried in Africa were further continued at Sabarmati and Sewagram in future life. Sabarmati Ashram was established in May 1915. After that Mahatma Gandhi founded the Sewagram Ashram near Wardha in April 1935. In this Ashrama Gandhiji conceived the idea of his new system of education which is commonly known as Basic Education. The Scheme of Basic Education is a plan of education made by Mahatma Gandhi and it is a part of his educational Philosophy forever.

Keywords: Doomsday, wisdom, contemporary, predicament, educational Philosophy

Introduction

Mahatma Gandhi, the great thinker and great educational reformer, regarded education as a potent force for social development and social reconstruction. Mahatma Gandhi wanted to create a new society based on truth, non-violence, justice, equality as well as universal brotherhood. His belief in universal compulsory education for every human being, with its emphasis on mother tongue is a philosophy which may be interpreted as important in its approach. A deep study on Gandhiji's educational principles will create a sound philosophical and sociological foundation of his educational thought. The Gandhian principles or value system is something that blend the entire India at one point of time. It initiates a revolution that took the whole of nation in its base and lasted till we were able to get independence. This

value system gave the India the principles of truth, non-violence and Satyagraha which result in every people's heart. We are still alarm by the uniqueness of Mahatma Gandhi's principle approach. He always implemented simple living and high thinking while practicing. Now a day's present political, economic, social and moral rights as well as ethical values are going down. In the course of development we have to think of these problems and try to find out the solutions best suited to our proper needs. It is Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy can save us from this predicament. Mahatma Gandhi's profuse writings, speeches and discussion cover every conceivable parts of Indian life of his time as well as present world.

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are to find out the main ideas of the educational philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi as well as find out its present day importance and implications of Gandhian philosophy of education.

Mahatma Gandhi's Philosophy

Mahatma Gandhi is not a political philosopher only but it is a message and philosophy of his life. His mission was to rebuild India from below to upwards a decentralized social, political and economic order with India's every villages as its Mahatma Gandhi was very much bonded with the nature and environment, poor deprived and the backward class and he has intended to change the evil, political, social, and economical system of the peoples. At present days Mahatma Gandhi is famous for the most renowned theorist, philosopher and also the practitioner of truth, love, non-violence, tolerance freedom and peace. Mahatma Gandhi was a leader of common people in India.

Gandhian Philosophy and his aims of education

Being an idealist and a realist, Gandhiji advocated for ultimate aim and immediate aim of education as per his philosophy. Self-esteem, spiritualism and oneness with god are the ultimate aim of education. Mahatma Gandhi laid great stress on religious education. In the immediate aim of education Mahatma Gandhi included the utilitarian aim, cultural aim and all-round development of personality, preparation for complete living, character building as well as training of good citizenship. The main points of Mahatma Gandhiji's educational philosophy may be mentioned as below

- a. Free and compulsory primary education for every citizen
- b. Education should be craft centred.
- c. Education should be self-reliance and self-sufficient for human being.
- d. Education should be given in mother tongue only.

Gandhian Curriculum of Education

The Gandhian curriculum of education as advised by Mahatma Gandhi may be mentioned as below.

Gandhian Curriculum of education should be related to the environment of the every child. Everyone's emphasis should be up on our own country and our physical as well as social importance should be given on teaching of mother tongue.

In education Craft should be introduced as an essential part of curriculum. The whole process of education should be imparted through some handicrafts. The main purpose of introducing craft was not to produce some craftsman but to exploit its educative value forever.

Teaching method

Gandhiji advocated that education should be given through some productive work only. All the subjects will be taught through the medium of some important crafts. He stressed the principle of learning by doing and activity method in the field of teaching process. As per his opinion education system is mainly activity centred and all kind of learning is to be imparted through a craft-based work. Mahatma Gandhi also told the method of correlation very shortly. The teaching of various school subjects should be in the form of correlated knowledge. Gandhiji also wanted all education must be given through the medium of mother tongue only.

Gandhi's Concept of Basic Education:

Basic Education is the scheme of education explained by Mahatma Gandhi, aiming at the reconstruction of the existing system of education in our country. This system of education is known as Wardha Scheme of Education. Practically, Basic Education is a philosophy of education, as advocated by great leader of India Mahatma Gandhi, based on the cultural, social, spiritual and economic needs of the people of India. Mahatma Gandhiji defined it as education for life and through life. So Basic Education is the foundational education, fundamental to the whole scheme of education in India.

Gandhiji's Basic Education was really a basic concept of education because of Below things explained.

It attempts to provide the minimum of learning to be acquired by an average child. It is directly linked with the basic need of human life. It is mainly correlated with the basic needs of the child. It makes use of the native abilities of the child.

- a. It is closely related to the basic businesses of the community.
- b. As well as Further, the essential features of Basic Education Scheme of Mahatma Gandhi may be mentioned as-
- c. The scheme was designed for free and compulsory education for all children between the ages 6 to 14 years.
- d. This purpose of education centers on some purposeful and productive activities. It is a scheme of self-supporting education.
- e. Basic education scheme of Mahatma Gandhi aims at bringing about a new cooperative things which are useful.
- f. This scheme of education inculcates the virtues of importance of labour, a keen sense of disciplines and really a great sense of responsibility every time.

Gandhian Concept of Education and his own Philosophy-

Gandhiji developed his scheme and planning of education in the light of his own philosophy of life. Mahatma Gandhi's scheme of education is based on some fundamental ideas.

1. Ideal of classless society forever.
2. Freedom as well as equality for all.
3. Importance of dignity of labour.
4. In the society nonviolence is important.
5. Every person should be alert for social responsibility.

6. By analyzing the philosophical basis of Gandhiji's educational thought and practice it can be rightly said that Gandhian philosophy of education is still important in our society and country for every human being.

CONCLUSIONS

At the end we can say that most of the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi hold relevance even in today's world Gandhian philosophy is not only simultaneously political, moral and religious, it is also traditional and modern simple as well as complex. The path shown by Mahatma Gandhi at that time still remains a very valid one if somebody chooses to tread on it. His relevance in different fields is unquestionable unchallengeable. Peaceful coexistence, economic independence, respect for women, child centred education and basic education for everyone, universal brotherhood. All these principles should serve as a beacon of light to guide humanity of a better world we shall survive together or if we fail in our venture, we are bound to live together.

At the end Gandhian philosophy of education is simultaneously traditional and modern. Being rooted in Indian culture and heritage, the concept of Gandhi's educational philosophy projected the moral and ethical principles of our country. The multifaceted nature of Gandhiji's thought placed his educational ideas ahead of its time. Mahatma Gandhi included all the needs of the present and coming social life in the process of his educational planning and educational ideas. Due to all these matters Gandhian philosophy of education has its importance in the present day social life. So Mahatma Gandhi's educational philosophy is still important in present days also.

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