



Mahatma Gandhi on Education: Philosophical Perspective

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Abstract

M. K. Gandhi, the lovely and very good minded universal person, who was born in India in the modern age. He stressed on traditional spiritual attitude with the total development from education, which is related to modern age of the world with reference to India. Gandhi is the politician, the philosopher, the socialist and the educationist. He lives with the accumulation of Karmayaog, Dnyanyog and Bhaktiyoga. The thought of Gandhi on Education is the basic way of life for all.

Gandhi stresses on total development of a student. The main responsibility is to develop body, mind, soul and the intelligence. He gives importance to emotional and mental development. He says, the student, who is going to be a responsible part of society, we want to stress on his social and moral development through the education. But there is no any kind of philosophy of life in present education, which is going to make a student as a national person.

The significant concept of Gandhi is '3 H'. The '3 H' means to the Head, Heart and the Hand. Gandhi explores this concept about total development of student. Gandhi wants to establish a co-ordination with parallel development of head, heart and hand. It means to Intellectual, Emotional development with work culture of human together.

Gandhi will to be a form co-ordination and co-relation between different subjects which is included in curriculum and education faculties.

Gandhi gives to parallel significance to Liberal and Vocational Education system of contemporary India.

Gandhi's philosophy of education is collaboration of naturalism, existentialism and spiritualism. Basically Gandhi is a spiritual person. He stresses on spiritual and moral development also.

Gandhi stresses on non-violence and communal harmony. He inspired by Jainism. The Truth and Non violence is the divine value of life with reference to Gandhi. So he told that for the implication of these values we will go to do basic change in Education.

The Basic education scheme is Gandhi is for the character formation of student with his life security through with any kind of productive work

Jhon Duewe says, 'Gandhi's scheme of education is, a one step ahead of all the other system. It is a very revolutionary educational effort. We all hope to learn much from India about the Education'. We can see here, Jhon Duewe inspired by Gandhi's Educational Philosophy.

In today's situation, we can see the importance of this scheme. Right now liberal education is going on totally failed. In this situation we want think again and again on this scheme of education of Gandhi.

Today also, this scheme is very useful for the unemployed in India. This is very absolute for all over world, especially for the developing countries. The time to come now, we will think again properly and seriously on this scheme with respect to Gandhi's Philosophy of Education.

Keywords: Mahatma Gandhi, Education, Philosophical Perspective

Introduction:

M. K. Gandhi, the lovely and very good minded universal person, who was born in India in the modern age. He stressed on traditional spiritual attitude with the total development of student from education, which is related to modern age of the world with reference to India. Gandhi is the politician, the philosopher, the socialist and the educationist. He lives with the accumulation of Karmayaoga, Dnyanayoga and Bhaktiyoga. The thought of Gandhi on Education is the basic way of life for all.

We can see, various eminent personalities are born in 20th century. This century is known by the various scientist, educationist and philosopher also. We are inspired by the

research based philosophical theories in this century. We search modern attitude and concepts of philosophy from these theories.

The thinkers, Hon. R. B. Tagore, M. K. Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda, Aurobindo and also J. Krishnamurti are the best gift to the world of this century. In this time we can see the various new thinkers, educationists and philosophers emerged in western countries. The main names are Jhon Duewe, Sigmund Freud, Moriyo Montessori, Frobel, Pestology, Karl Marks, Jon Pal Sartra, Martin Hydegier etc. A very revolutionary and realistic thought came out from those contributions, which is very useful for the field of education.

Simultaneously, the different types of Isms are born after the Second World War in western era, for example,- Realism, Functionalism, Pragmatism, Existentialism, Logical Empiricism, Constructivism etc. These all are very earlier and modern concepts of philosophy. At this time with the contribution of Swami Vivekananda, Gandhi and Aurobindo developed spiritualism very spontaneously in east. In between that very different educational ideology was explored by M. K. Gandhi. The thought of Gandhi on Education is a very practical, not only theoretical. This is the importance of Gandhi's thought on education.

So, we are going to discuss herewith, Gandhi on Education with respect to the philosophy.

There is no need of any kind of introduction about the name of M.K. Gandhi.

Gandhi is the name of religious man, who is the great philosopher, great socialist and the great politician. He accumulates 'Dnyanyoga', 'Karmyaoga' and 'Bhaktiyaoga' in his life.

Illiterate man, who has no good mind, is the best person for the contribution to development of Society. But, Literate men, who have a no good mind is the enemy of the society. – M. K. Gandhi

Gandhi explored the Educational philosophy, in Education Parishad, which was held at Vardha (Maharashtra) on 22/23 October 1937.

The educational thought of Gandhi is known by the different names for example,-

1. Gandhi education Scheme
2. National Education Scheme
3. Vardha Education Scheme
4. Life Education Method

5. Vocational Education

6. Self-help Education Scheme and

7. Basic Education Scheme

Gandhi stresses on total development of a student. The main responsibility is to develop body, mind, soul and the intelligence. He gives importance to emotional and mental development. He says, the student, who is going to be a responsible part of society, we want to stress on his social and moral development through the education. But there is no any kind of philosophy of life in present education, which is going to make a student as a national person.

Present education is impressed by the re-collectivism. Because of that present students have a no any kind of creativity. Today's Education system is exam oriented. So we can see the absentia of good mind in different types of educated personalities. The main cause of that the present education does not stress in moral development.

Gandhi told that the first aim of education is to develop a good mind through the education.

The category as a working people and rational people is created by the education in Indian society. Gandhi cannot accept this stratification. Gandhi wants to develop a work culture in Indian society through the education for the national development of country. So, to develop the work culture in each student is the basic objective of education.

The main question is '*Education for what?*' And the answer is Education is for life, which is developing principle, which is making student religious.

Gandhi wants to do physical, mental, intellectual, moral, cultural and economical development with the help of education. Thus many types of aims and objectives told by the Gandhi together are as follows,-

1. Character Formation
2. To develop a good mind
3. To develop soul, body and mind
4. Emotional development
5. Ethical and spiritual development etc.

The significant concept of Gandhi is '3 H'. The '3 H' means to the Head, Heart and the Hand. Gandhi explores this concept about total development of student. Gandhi wants to establish a co-ordination with parallel development of head, heart and hand. It means to Intellectual, Emotional development with work culture of human together.

Gandhi will to be a form co-ordination and co-relation between different subjects which is included in curriculum and education faculties.

Gandhi gives to parallel significance to Liberal and Vocational Education system of contemporary India.

Gandhi's philosophy of education is collaboration of naturalism, existentialism and spiritualism. Basically Gandhi is a spiritual person. He stresses on spiritual and moral development also.

Gandhi's Education scheme includes many factors, which are stressed by Gandhi are,-

1. Social Environment of School
2. Physical Environment of School
3. Self-help Education program
4. Social life of student
5. Creative production through education
6. Self discipline

These all factors explained by the G. Ramchandran, who is the minister of education at that time and expert of Gandhi Education Scheme. Gandhi is wish was to make an innovative creativity based curriculum with physics and science on the other hand social and moral science.

In Gandhi's scheme of education the important factors and the main curriculum is as follows,-

1. The medium of instruction of education is mother tongue.
2. Second priority in education to the national language Hindi.
3. Mathematics
4. Education in natural surrounding
5. Introduction of society and stress on social interaction
6. Drawing
7. Music
8. Literature

These above-mentioned things are important in Gandhi's Education. Gandhi wants to develop through education all internal and external senses. To develop ear, nose and eyes, heart, mind and soul and intelligence with the work & theory experience. Gandhi gives priority to ethical and spiritual curriculum, which is going to teach us our role in the context

of society. Gandhi expected to spread humanistic attitude in Indian society through the education.

Gandhi's stress was on to develop social mind of student. In 20th century, there happen to be a many types of experiment in education. In the contemporary period of Gandhi, Pestology, Jhon Duewe, Frobel, Moriyo Montessori is trying to give honor importance to student in the learning process.

Gandhi has given us student centered education program as his contemporary educationists Montessori, Frobel and R. B. Tagore.

At the same time Jhon Duewe & Killpatric established project method in education. Jhon Duewe established a big work shop as a school. Jhon Duew gave respect to Gandhi's educational philosophy. He gives honor to Gandhi's education scheme.

With the reference of four pillars of education by the UNESCO, '*Learning to do*', is one of the aims of education. This aim of education is inspired by Gandhi's Educational Philosophy.

J. Krishnamurti is very near to nature, and Gandhi is very near to Krishnamurti with the context of natural development of student. Gandhi and J. Krishnamurti stressed on Emotional development of student. They want to develop sensitivity in human mind for the establishment of society in India.

Gandhi and Jhon Duewe give significance something to do and learn for the feature. Frobel and Montessori stressed on play method in Education. Gandhi's educational thought supported to this method.

The Similarity of Gandhi and Vivekananda is, that they stresses on spiritual and moral development of the child. They suggested a character formation is the first aim of education.

Gandhi stresses on non-violence and communal harmony. He inspired by Jainism. The Truth and Non violence is the divine value of life with reference to Gandhi. So he told that for the implication of these values we will go to do basic change in Education.

The Basic education scheme is Gandhi is for the character formation of student with his life security through with any kind of productive work.

We can see here the Socialism, the Marxism and the Communism spread out from between the two lines of Gandhi's educational thought. The concept of '*Sarvodaya*' of Vinoba Bhave, which is basically worked out by Gandhi, is very close with the socialism, Marxism and Communism. Gandhi saw '*Sarvodaya*' of whole society and he stressed on making a 'caste less' and 'Class less' society.

Basically Gandhi expected economical growth and development of Indian society. So, because of that he suggests an education, with upon any productive work.

Gandhi's approach to see at education, '*Education is not only tools of social change, but also it is medium of to change individual behavior.*' J. Krishnamurti has to see at education is itself, 'Education means, what can be accepted by the student, which is help for to the student for the making a good behavioral possibilities'.

Jhon Duewe says, '*Gandhi's scheme of education is, a one step ahead of all the other systems. It is a very revolutionary educational effort. We all hope to learn much from India about the Education*'. We can see here, Jhon Duewe was inspired by Gandhi's Educational Philosophy.

Gandhi, Jhon Duewe, R. B. Tagore and also J. Krishnamurti particularly stress on '*Freedom*'. This freedom is related to student. In 1920, Gandhi established '*Gujarat University*'. The motto of this university is '*Knowledge for Freedom*'. This freedom of Gandhi is known as the freedom from the poverty, freedom from the dependence, freedom from the dictatorship of British. J. Krishnmurties concept of freedom is near to naturalism. And this kind of freedom is '*freedom from the known*', '*Freedom from everything in world*' and '*freedom from all the impacts*'.

The educational scheme of Gandhi is very thoughtful, which is explored very sensitively by him. But there are some barriers in working of this scheme, they are as follows,-

1. The productive work in school is not good for student, with the reference of many experts of this scheme.
2. Trained and Trainee instructor and teacher are not available at that time to run this scheme.
3. This scheme is not taken seriously by the administrative persons.
4. At that time the scheme cannot get the positive response from related persons in the field of education.

In today's situation, we can see the importance of this scheme. Right now liberal education is going on totally failed. In this situation we want to think again and again on this scheme of education of Gandhi.

This scheme is middle way between spiritualism and scientific attitude. This scheme has a capacity to complete basic needs of Indian society. This thought of Gandhi is on the one side very near to traditional attitude, and on the other hand it is very near to modern life style.

This scheme is very self supported and independent also. This thought of Gandhi means to a very wide approach to see at education. The whole world has learned by this scheme something. But we Indians cannot give the honor to this scheme. This thought of Gandhi is supported to satisfy of basic needs of common men.

Today also, this scheme is very useful for the unemployed in India. This is very absolute for all over world, especially for the developing countries. The time to come now, we will think again properly and seriously on this scheme with respect to Gandhi's Philosophy of Education.

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