



Research Paper

Gandhi's Sarvodaya Philosophy and Nep 2020: A Social Consciousness to Strive for Educational Upliftment

PRANAB KALITA

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
BARAMA COLLEGE, BARAMA
BAKSA, ASSAM

DR. BHUPESH SARMA

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR & GUIDE
KRISHNAGURU ADHYATMIK VISVAVIDYALAYA
NASATRA, BARPETA

&

RESEARCH SCHOLAR
KRISHNAGURU ADHYATMIK VISVAVIDYALAYA
NASATRA, BARPETA

Abstract

Sarvodaya "The universal upliftment of all" believes in equal opportunity for everyone irrespective of any classes in an idealized society. Gandhi's Sarvodaya philosophy considered education a part of human life to make oneself self-restraints and productive social being accordingly. Gandhi feels education as the right of all children and the importance of environment for the development of a lively society. In Sarvodaya, the disciplinary knowledge is felt convenient for the far-reaching effect of an ideology which is related to life. However NEP 2020 emphasizes highly on inclusive and equity and ensuring quality education to pave way for a new era of Indian education and promote social justice. The policy has tremendous impact to empower students in their learning pathways and creates academic excellence in their educational landscape. It is believed that Gandhi's Sarvodaya philosophy teaches true knowledge and education to free oneself from the powers of bondage only to attain development of society. In the present paper an attempt has been made to explore the educational ideals of Sarvodaya and the transformative aspects of NEP 2020 to mark a significant visionary approach for making India a vibrant knowledge society.

Key words: Sarvodaya Philosophy, NEP 2020, Educational upliftment

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I. INTRODUCTION

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, a believer of non-violence and truth advocated human unity and universal love as the core of his philosophy. One of the greatest proponents of modern education in India, Gandhi regarded education as a preparation of future life. Through education he means not only to achieve perfection of individuality but also to serve the nation as a whole. He wanted everyone to utilize the positive effects of education and stressed on the importance of education. He started his views that education guides and enables an individual to develop into a better human being. M. S. Patel visualizes Gandhi's philosophy of education, "with the object of realizing his ideal of a spiritual society as a stepping stone to the realization on God or Truth, Gandhiji evolved an educational system as a dynamic side of his philosophy. There is a unity running through his concrete schemes and plans, making them a complete system of philosophy.' He opined on true education and social revolution through the power of education for all. His philosophy of life has influenced his philosophy of education. Gandhi feels education as the right of all children and importance of environment for the development of a lively society. In the present paper an attempt has been made to explore the educational ideals of Sarvodaya and the transformative aspects of NEP 2020 to mark a significant visionary approach for making India a vibrant knowledge society.

OBJECTIVES

The following objectives are formulated to explore the hidden meaning of the paper. These are -

1. To know the importance of Gandhi's Sarvodaya philosophy.
2. To know the basis features of NEP 2020.
3. To explore the educational ideals of Sarvodaya and the transformative aspects of NEP 2020.

II. METHODOLOGY

The study is primarily descriptive as well as analytical in nature to achieve the specific target. The paper covers the areas of Gandhi's educational philosophy and the basic features of NEP 2020. Only secondary data has been used through Research Journals, Books, Websites etc.

SARVODAYA : A TRUE IDEOLOGY OF SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS

Sarvodaya 'The universal upliftment of all' believes in equal opportunity for everyone irrespective of any classes in an idealized society. Gandhi's Sarvodaya philosophy considered education a part of human life to make oneself self-restraints and productive social being accordingly. Gandhi believed on the purification of the individual life and Sarvodaya ideology shows the eradication of inequalities of the society filled with complete freedom. He stated that hard work and living simple life are the only true life. He opined strongly on all efforts made for the upliftment of all by true knowledge and education which would remove the barriers of illiteracy and create a society free from all bondage. In Sarvodaya, the disciplinary knowledge is felt convenient for the far reaching effect of an ideology which is related to life. Sarvodaya philosophy teaches true knowledge and education. Through Sarvodaya he tried to establish a new society of liberation and welfare which becomes a key for the society as India needs. Sarvodaya education system deeply realized the moral education to achieve equality for building a new revolutionary mind among the masses. He tried to place reformatory ideas in his new concept of education- Nai Talim. The vision of Gandhi as Benudhar Parham highlighted for was a conscious effort to uplift one and all. 'When Gandhi championed the cause of Sarvodaya he not merely had before him the objective of welfare of all. But also the all round welfare of all the individuals in the Society, that embraces ethical and spiritual developments as much as material development. "As Sarvodaya is the combination of two words 'Sarba' and 'Uday'- it is meant to suggest a welfare for all where Truth, Non-violence and Purity are all submerged to create a society with Socio-economic development and based on the idea of unity and solidarity." As Sarvodaya is the casteless and classless society it gives a vision of equality and moral justice to mould harmony among all. Gandhi's Sarvodaya philosophy is based on the spiritual unity of existence and the ideals of Gita to picture a new society of integration and liberty and recapture the spiritual heritage which become the needs in the present context.

Sarvodaya is a strong ideology and Gandhi has tried to re-establish the structure of education and the opportunities for social transformation. According to Gandhi true education is connected with the child's social and cultural environment. Gandhi's aim of education is the realization of God and his supreme power. He thought of developing the self for complete realization of Godliness. His philosophy of education is idealistic, naturalistic and pragmatic and stressed on the complete development of the child. Sarvodaya is supreme reality to show one's duty towards fellow beings and a sense of aesthetic union among all creations.

EDUCATION : A REALITY OF EXISTENCE

"Literacy is not the end of education, not even the beginning. It is only one of the means by which men and women can be educated, Literacy in itself is no education."

Gandhiji opined education a life long process. He held 'progressive and rational views on education.' His vision on education was to enlighten each single person with the light of knowledge, love and equality for the betterment and change of the society. Gandhi deeply valued on the educational importance and upliftment of all and the evolution of a higher order. He believed education an awakening of the soul which aimed primarily on the development of the individual self to lead a spiritual way of life. As a visionary Gandhi's concept of education is based on the center of development of society where spiritual, intellectual and physical strength of the individual are accomplished into the highest pedestal of learning. Being an educationist and an individual he believed on the power and importance of education to develop a society and propounded 'Nai Talim' or 'basic education' as a means to learning and fulfill the aim of education. He tried to form an atmosphere of social consciousness and social mindedness to understand one's responsibility and for creative thinking. Gandhi showed the importance of education when he opines :

"Education should be for the hand, head and heart. Education for the heart means spiritual training. The aim of education is self-realization, the Summum Bonum (the highest good) of life and education."

He saw the ignorance and poverty of Indian masses and favoured social service to create a positive impact and to remove the barriers of education. He however believed that students can develop spirit of service and responsibility through education. So far as the modern education is concerned his views are clear and

supportive. He favoured on certain modification in the education pattern and brought a new insight into a new system of education. He was in favour of co-education for the development of the nation and believed education as an essential tool of empowering women.

Gandhi touched every aspect of education. His educational philosophy renders a highly spiritual dimension. He looked upon education as an integral whole for lifting the human life and reducing the disparities and inequalities in the society. He highlighted on each one's role to bring a new way of life. Basic education or Nai Talim, a revolutionary concept of Gandhi is based on a life centered education where the ideals of freedom, equality and brotherhood can be universally realized to build up a non-violent and non-exploiting social order. He suggested on the productive work and true education must be made easily accessible to all. He was in favour of self control discipline and also on a healthy environment. His basic education is related to life. He democratized and humanized educational system. Education is closely associated with the socio economic development of the society. He believed that true education promoted the spiritual, intellectual and physical strength of the individual. His approach to education is very practical.

NEP 2020 : A REVOLUTIONARY IDEALS OF SUSTAINABILITY

If we teach today's students as we taught yesterdays, we rob them of tomorrow"

John Dewey

Deeply rooted in Indian ethos NEP 2020 reflects high quality education to compete in the global world. The policy focuses on :

- Equity and inclusion
- Use of technology in teaching learning process
- Critical thinking and creativity in decision making and innovation
- Emphasizes highly on conceptual understanding
- Emphasizes deeply on the capabilities of students to understand the matter
- Emphasizes on community participation for encouragement
- Emphasizes on diversity and rich heritage of ancient Indian Knowledge System
- Emphasizes on using mother tongue to cope up with the successes and challenges
- Emphasizes on skills gap analysis and mapping of local opportunities
- Emphasizes on 'Lok Vidya' knowledge
- Emphasizes on blended learning
- Emphasizes on promoting learning and development of students
- Emphasizes on preserving and promoting Indian culture
- Emphasizes on encouraging Multilingual Education
- Emphasizes on holistic development of a child
- Emphasizes on promoting ethics in human and constitutional values
- Emphasizes on the development of teacher education to adopt new challenges

NEP 2020 has brought a radically different education system with new innovative ideas in the present context. The policy has aimed to provide quality education accessible universally for all with proper scientific development for continued progress and leadership attitudes. However the policy has tried to renovate teaching learning environment on the global stays.

SARVODAYA PHILOSOPHY AND NEP 2020

' The social consciousness of the individual makes him sensitive to social interests, keeping him and personal interests and social interests in the subjective and community consciousness of interests is the main basis of Sarvodaya. Sarvodaya is not possible without it'

--- Kamala Dwivedi, Gandhiji Ka Shiksha Darshan, Pg no-86

Gandhi's Sarvodaya society is free from all inequalities where only truth and belief exist. His educational ideas aim at the development of a society. He stresses mainly on hard work and simple living to attain true life. Gandhi worked for the betterment of human and so he insisted on the importance of handcrafts, a productive mind for educational process. It helps for cooperation of works in every aspect of life. Sarvodaya curriculum acts as a medium of establishing a balanced society where integrity of knowledge is meant for personality and competencies of the students. Gandhi believed on the relationship of Sarvodaya curriculum and life to build a spiritual foundation between a teacher and a student. It is believed that sarvodaya society is established with the work of the teachers for the betterment of the society.

The vision of NEP 2020 is to make India a global knowledge of superpower with high quality education accessible to all. The policy has given importance on flexibility to the learners and encourages multilingualism to create positive atmosphere. The policy encourages the child to learn at least three languages and also suggests mother tongue in the fundamental stage. The policy has also made certain changes in the

teaching learning process. The teachers have been given autonomy to improve their role as they guide the future generations of the society.

III. CONCLUSION

Gandhi gave a new vision of education to determine the future of the next generation. He commented on the importance of work along with play for right education. He wanted everyone to utilize the positive effects of education. He also stated that education guides and enables an individual to develop into a better human being. He developed his ideas from his own life experiences and believed that education opens up new doors for an individual to face every obstacles in one's life without depending upon others. He advocated equal facilities and opportunities of education for women. He emphasized strongly on the educational rights of women for the betterment of a developed nation. Gandhi's educational thoughts are relevant even today whereas NEP 2020 emphasizes to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and make it a place for all Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

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