



## EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF MAHATMA GANDHI AND ITS RELEVANCY IN PRESENT SOCIETY

**PARIMAL MANDAL <sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> STATE AIDED COLLEGE TEACHER, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, PURBASTHALI COLLEGE, PURBA BARDHAMAN, W. B.

### ABSTRACT:

Education is the backbone of the society as well as nation. The progress of a country depends on the education system of that country. India is a developing country where most people live in rural areas. Gandhiji wanted to develop the society of that time. He was a priest of truth and non-violence. He wanted to build a society that would not have any difference. Everyone has equal rights, regardless of race, race, religion, and gender. Justice in society will be human values and peace. He had planned basic education to help people become self-sufficient. His teaching was more realistic than bookish education. It was socially acceptable and economically significant. Freedom of education, activism, industrial-centricity, social-centricity, village development, education, etc. are admirable. His life philosophy has shown the true, non-violence, human service, self-discipline and self-purification, the belief of God, the kingdom and the society. But Gandhiji's introduced basic education system has not been very acceptable to the people of the society. So through testing and research, these limitations can be removed and their educational usefulness can be increased. People in the present society are mechanical. In the age of machine-humanity, human beings have lost sense of humanity, day by day, violence, strife, violence, immorality, criminality, intolerance, diplomacy, communalism is on the rise. So Gandhiji's teaching in the present society has become very relevant. This paper focus on the educational philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and its relevancy in present society.

### KEYWORDS:

**GANDHI'S PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE, EDUCATIONAL THOUGHTS, SOCIAL VALUES, BASIC EDUCATION.**

### INTRODUCTION

Mahatma Gandhi, the father of Nation was a great philosopher, of 20th century, was a great thinker, philosopher, educationist and educational and social reformer and great human being of India. He had his own philosophy of life. Gandhiji formulated some exceptional views on every aspect of our life including God, truth, non-violence, human service, dignity of labour, self-supporting, morality, spirituality etc. reflecting his philosophy of life. Gandhiji was not satisfied with existing system of education with its numerous limitations. He understand that the system of education introduced by the English did not suitable for the country, because it could not fulfill the needs and aspirations of mass illiteracy, education for self employment and citizenship development. Mother tongue was neglected and English was the medium of education. The content of education was narrow, theoretical, bookish impractical and dominated by examination, not related to life.

The first step in India's political freedom is the expansion of public education. And to expand education, it is necessary to make elementary education public and compulsory. But the government did not have the funds needed to start the non-essential primary education. He came forward in this critical situation in the country with his own national education plan. He presented to the

countrymen the self-reliant central education plan is known as the Basic Education Scheme.

According to Gandhiji, education is the manifestation of the inner physical and the physical and the power of man. He thought that education was not only a literal knowledge, it was a teaching of personality. Gandhiji wanted to be the foundation of a society without a class, non-exploited society, cooperation, honesty, attitude of service, ethics, etc. Gandhiji was a believer in democracy, with the principle of decentralization, freedom and equality. Gandhiji was a believer in development and economic equality. One of the goals of his life was rural development.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Gandhiji wanted to create a society where there would be no discrimination. Everyone has equal rights, regardless of race, race, religion, and gender. In society, justice will be human values and peace will live with the love of one another, people will serve themselves. He found it to develop spirituality among people. Through this spirituality, people can attain God' attainment. The society will be guided by truth and non-violence. People will be self-sufficient. There will be no apolitical, just justice in society. But Gandhiji's teaching sedation did not become a complete success in the then society. Behind him are political social and economic reasons.

The present society is going a long way in technology. New advanced technologies are being discovered but human value is being lost from the human

beings day by day. Morality, socialism and spirituality are decreasing among the people. In today's society, there is a growing hatred among people. People forget social responsibility and duty. It is a very small number of people in society today who serve the human race. So Gandhiji's teaching has become a very important subject in the present society, so this chapter is explained.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study was undertaken to achieve the following objectives:

1. To study of the Gandhi's philosophy of life and its relevancy in present context of society.
2. To analyse the educational thoughts of Gandhiji and its application in real life.
3. To study on Gandhi's views on social values.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research work follows qualitative research methods. This paper is based on Gandhiji's philosophy of life, education and human and social values in the light of the present education, which is the analysis of Gandhiji's teachings in the light of the half century. This study is qualitatively analyzed based on information collected from newspapers, articles, research journals, and websites.

### ANALYSIS

#### TO STUDY OF THE GANDHI'S PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE AND ITS RELEVANCY IN PRESENT CONTEXT OF SOCIETY.

Gandhiji was a great philosopher, thinker, and educator. He believes in truth, nonviolence, spirituality, morality and soul purification. He has applied his faith and thoughts to all aspects of life.

- **Truth and Non-Violence:** Gandhiji thought that "Truth and Ahimsa are two sides of a coin" means that truth and non-violence are the two sides of the same currency. It is very difficult to separate the real truth and non-violence. Satyagraha means Gandhiji to follow the truth through love and pureness. He thought that truth and non-violence were a mark through which people could guide themselves in the ideal way. But in the present society, people are being driven in reverse of truth and non-violence. Gandhiji believed that everything could be destroyed for the sake of truth. But the exchange of anything cannot be dismissed. But today people are doing the opposite, people are beating people for a little bit of money, and most people in the present society think that nothing is true, and people's greed is increasing. So the truth and non-violent maruti of Gandhiji's life in the present society have become very relevant.
- **Social Services:** Gandhiji has spoken of the importance of human services. He said in this context, The immediate service of all human

beings becomes a necessary part. It is only way to see him in the creation" | He was not only talking about human service but also actually making it. Human services can help people to self-serve people in all social, political and religious ways. But people don't understand the real meaning of the term human service. The lack of this thought is evident in the real happiness that human services can bring. So Gandhiji's philosophy can have a positive impact on the present society by awakening the attitude of service among the people. In the present society, the number of old age workers will decrease.

- **Self-discipline and Self-purification:** Gandhiji has stressed on self-discipline and purity in mind. Without self-discipline, people cannot achieve real success. Self-discipline makes people aware of their responsibilities and duties. The discipline of man is manifested by the rules. Self-purification helps people to lead the truth and prevents people from doing various social activities. He thought that through self-discipline and self-purification, people could possess real personalities. In the present society, there is a significant lack of these qualities among the people. So Gandhiji's ideals must be applied in schools, colleges and universities. This effort can help to awaken the spirit of self-discipline and self-purification among people.
- **Faith in Spirituality:** Gandhiji was a philosopher of thought. He is a believer in God. His ungodly faith in God is reflected in many ways. He says that "God is Truth and Truth is God" is God to him - "Life, Truth, Light and Love" is god to him. According to him, God is without description and has infinite power. So everyone needs to believe in God. He thinks that the ultimate goal of human life is to understand God. But in the present society, there are very few people who believe in God. If you can make people believe in God, then people will understand the true meaning of human life.
- **Emphasis on Morality:** By education, Gandhi meant the improvement of morality within a student. Without being bookish, a student should adopt certain moral ethical codes like truth, nonviolence, charity and so on which will illumine his character. Thus a character building through education was a prime concern for Gandhi.
- **The Idea of Ramarajya and Society:** The idea of Ramarajya and society is that he has spoken of the establishment of the Ramarajya. He explains that Ramarajya is a society where justice, happiness, and service exist. People in the present society are running for happiness but they can't understand the real happiness that is hidden in itself. People have lost their judgment and conscience today. He lost his sense of humanity. Parents lose everything

to make their children's future brighter. But i am going to push my parents into the old age. And if people had respect and understanding, this tragedy would not have happened.

- **Non-participation in Politics:** Gandhiji wanted to keep the students away from politics. If students will participate in politics, they will be pawn at the hands of the politicians who will utilize them for fulfilling their desire. This will hamper the development of a student and his education will suffer a setback. So, he advised the students to keep themselves completely away from politics.

So Gandhiji's philosophy has become very relevant in the present society.

### TO ANALYSE THE EDUCATIONAL THOUGHTS OF GANDHIJI AND ITS APPLICATION IN REAL LIFE.

“By education I mean an all-round drawing out of the best in child and man body, mind and spirit. Literacy is not the end of education or even the beginning. It is one of the means whereby man and woman can be educated. Literacy in itself is no education.”

He spoke of the development of Buddhism, moral and spiritual as a goal of education. He also identified faith in God as a goal of education through self-help. On the other hand, education is focused on character building, self-reliance, social-centric education, etc.

**Basic Education:** Gandhiji's biggest contribution in the education is basic education. The basic principle of basic education is to learn through work. The main point of this education is that it is self-sufficient. The philosophy of this education is to build a society full of cooperation, hope and hope for the creation of a non-class society. Basic education was the teaching of all the life of all people through mother tongue. Basic education is the teaching of life through life. The education is also aimed at a good combination of the rural environment and the future of the rural industry. The following are the discussions about Gandhiji's educational thoughts:

- **All Round Development:** Gandhiji repeatedly emphasized that education should offer an opportunity to a child for self realization and full development of his or her personality. He said “true education is that which draws out and stimulated the spiritual, intellectual and physical faculties of children.” Unless the development of the mind and body goes hand in hand with a corresponding awakening of the soul, Gandhiji would not be satisfied with the education system. In his life time, he severely criticized the present system of education as a meaningless and wasteful exercise for children.
- **Free and Compulsory Primary Education:** Gandhiji was a believer in humanism. He thought education was the birth right of people and the spread of public education as the first light of political freedom. But India is a poor country. All

parents are not able to bear the burden of education so education is non-religious. Besides, the people of India were illiterate. They are unable to understand the importance of education in their personal life and therefore do not send their children to school. So education was free and compulsory. But now the education sector is growing, privatization is sending parents to private schools rather than sending their children to public schools. As a result, the state of public schools is getting worse.

- **Self-reliance:** The goal of self-reliance education was to make people self-reliant. Mahatma Gandhi used to say that learning and earning wealth would be side-by-side. That is, education as well as learning, earning money and earning money. Here, students will be able to earn money for education through productive work, which creates confidence and self-reliance among students. And prepare the students for future life. So basic education is life-oriented and practical. But the number of educated unemployed in the present society is increasing day by day. Because today's children are earning degrees, but they are not getting time. That means you can't get the skills. So if Gandhiji's teaching ideas are applied in real terms, the unemployment rate is expected to fall significantly.
- **Dignity of Labour:** The most important failure of British education was the neglect of physical labour. Gandhiji noted that those who have taken western education in India do not respect the workers. That trend exists today. Gandhi's foundation was to restore the dignity of labour in the society through education. But looking at the present society, we will see that those who are employed in low-level professions do not get the right respect. If farmers had not cultivated, none of us would have survived, but farmers are the ones who are neglected in our society today.
- **Believes in Non-Violence:** He understood that the machine civilization has broken down Indian society by violence, conflict, violence, exploitation and growth among people. So Gandhiji wanted to remove the non-violence policy ideals at all levels of national life through education. Gandhiji's non-violence policy has become a necessity in the present society. If the seeds of this non-violence policy can be planted among people, then society will return to social justice, social cooperation and love. Human beings will come back to man.
- **Industrial Centricism:** Education through work - is based on this principle of basic education. Industrial concentration is the foundation of this education system. The art of basic education is not an additional issue but the medium of education is handicraft. The whole education system will be

conducted through the production industry. That means that the potential of the students will be fully developed through art education. But the society of the time has been neglected and the economic structure is falling apart and if the emphasis on industry is to be made, the economic crisis would not have been created. So, to make the students in the current education, they need to work and provide education.

- **Based on the Rural Areas:** India is a developing country where most people live in rural areas. So all the national leaders at the time realized that village development was necessary first to develop the country, i.e., the primary condition of national development. But poverty, ignorance, inactivity, uneducated, religious fanaticism, superstition, etc., are the social problems of rural life. So, through education, the society needs to be aware of these problems and educate and educate the people through effective education. They will be able to raise their heads from the poor and the poor.
- **Co-relation Method:** The co-relation method is based on the principles of the basic education system. This method was psychological. All knowledge of the world is one and the same. There is a link between the various branches of the kingdom of Knowledge. The basic education methods were taught in this relationship. Handicrafts, social and natural environment are the focus of the bond. The main focus of the handicrafts was to bring the students to the full and balanced development of the basic education by presenting knowledge of history, geography, life sciences, etc. The current education system can play a very effective role.
- **Mother Tongue:** Gandhiji thought that basic education must be given through mother tongue to make it meaningful and necessary for students. The foundation of all education is mother tongue. If the mother tongue is a medium of education, students can speak and read easily. You can express your mind and interact with others through action.
- **Social Equality:** Gandhiji's basic education was made compulsory and compulsory education. Where there was no racial discrimination. Everyone had equal opportunities, regardless of race and creed. But the present society is not social equality. Some of the few people in the society are getting better opportunities and on the other hand, the common people in rural areas are deprived of the opportunity. So Gandhiji's education policy has to be applied to restore social equality.
- **Good Citizenship:** The teaching of ideal citizenship was patriotic. He has struggled for the

freedom of the country for his whole life. His life style became popular with real-life applications. He thought that to make the country and national development, it was necessary to make people citizens. People will become citizens by respecting and loving the country.

- **Life-centric Education:** Education will be run according to the needs of human life. Where people find solutions to the problems of everyday life, they will learn to work to achieve their career success. That is, education is the focus of real life. Students can acquire different skills to earn a living.
- **Relationship School and Society:** school is a reflection of society. There will be no difference between the school society and the larger society. The close picture of the school and society in the basic education system is very clear. Students are encouraged to do social welfare tax and social services and various social events are held at the school. But the school's ideal relationship with the present society is being lost.
- **Based on the Integrated Philosophy:** The philosophy of the basic education was based on Gandhiji's philosophy of life and education, founded on the ideal of a co-ordinated philosopher. Gandhiji's educational philosophy saw the wonderful combination of naturalism, idealism and humanism, and this combination was based on the philosophical ideal of the fundamental sedation. The Wardha plan is spiritual and humanitarian based on philosophical and ideals.
- **Free Discipline:** Education and discipline are very important and education is very important. The student learns to control his behavior by discipline. All the qualities of the student's character are developed by this. Gandhiji was a believer in free order, spontaneous discipline. Students will be automatically organized through active participation. Gandhiji has put more emphasis on self-discipline. According to him, if the desire is not properly connected to the imagination, there is no constructive work to be done. But the present education system fails to awaken the sense of self-discipline and free discipline among the students. We look at the surrounding environment and see that teachers of different school colleges are not getting the right respect from the students but are being humiliated. The students are engaged in various non-social activities, so Gandhiji's educational ideas and ideals are very relevant.
- **Education of Social and Human Values:** The education of social and mental values is focused on the education of gandhiji. The teaching of Mahatma Gandhi's values was primarily based on

the two issues of justice and moral integrity. According to him, no student can attain the right knowledge without justice and moral integrity, and they cannot recover physically and mentally. This requires self-control and good quality. The social professional and national duty of the teacher is to be a shining example to the teachers and students in building a good value among the students. The morals, honesty, attachment, high thoughts and humility in the ordinary life will be reflected in the manner in which they are treated. But in the present society, we see the human values that are disappearing from the human race. So, to build human and social values among the students, the society in the school, the teachers and the parents, must come forward.

- **The Expansion of Public Education:** Gandhiji thinks that the economic health of the elderly education village rheumatism is as important as all social and political aspects of the country." He thought that through the age of education, every parent should be educated, and the signature parents would be able to develop their children properly. Education can only re-create the minds of the elderly so that the whole society can be morally and spiritually organized, but looking at the current rural areas, we see that most people are still illiterate, although the government has made various efforts to expand the education of the elderly but has not been able to completely succeed.
- **Religious Education** - Through religious education, the student's honesty morality attains the virtues of tolerance of spirituality, forgiveness and respect. There cannot be any religion above honesty and justice. He emphasized the moral aspect of religion. He was a believer in the universal religion of swamiji. According to him, all religions have the same goal: "God is the realization", so we need to have equal faith in all religions. But in the present society, there is a growing fanaticism in the name of religion. Politics is currently in the name of religion.
- **Self-Supporting Education:** Gandhi saw that as a nation Indians were so backward in education that they could not be educated if the programmed was to depend on money. It was belief that handicraft, besides developing the personality of the child, would make education self supporting.

## TO STUDY ON GANDHI'S VIEWS ON SOCIAL VALUES

Gandhi's philosophy of education attached significant importance on social values. Some of them analyses are-

**Social Awareness and Service:** A very important aspect of the educational philosophy Gandhiji is service and development of social awareness. Service includes love for

the motherland. Gandhiji said- "The edn of all education should surely by service." Social awareness and responsibility can be developed through the involvement of students in programmes of community service.

**Gandhi's views on Non-Violence:** A unique feature of Gandhiji's educational philosophy was the application of the law of non-violence in the training of the child as the prospective citizen of the world. Gandhiji remarked- "we cannot, will not think of exploitation, and we have no alternative but this plan of education which is based on nonviolence." For a peaceful society it is a basic necessity.

**Gandhi's views on Women Education:** Gandhiji understand and sincerely felt the degrading condition of Indian women. He was moved by the up liftment of women in other progressive countries of the world. Gandhiji realized that the development of society as well as nation was not possible if women were left behind in the light of education. If keeping women in dishonor, ignorance, superstition and conservativeness then the development of country is not possible. Education is the most potential instrument for their regeneration. Men and women are a peerless pair—supplementary to one another. "Gandhiji supported with an open mind the introduction of co-education.

## CONCLUSION

At the end of the study, Gandhiji's educational philosophy was revolutionary. At one time he appeared in national politics with his acting education plan and was able to meet the national demands of education. His teaching was more realistic than his teachings. It was psychological, socially acceptable and economically significant. Freedom of education, activism, industrial-centricity, education through mother tongue, village development, equality policy, social-centricism etc. are appreciated.

His teachings, on the one hand, helped solve national problems like untouchability, lack of values, inefficiency, exploitation, jealousy, unemployment and poverty reduction, and so on, played a role in the development of the qualities and potential of economic self-reliance, non-violence, truth, justice, righteousness, spirituality, cooperation, tolerance, humanity, respect for labour and labour, etc.

Mahatma Gandhi's name is as a memorable philosopher and academic in the history of India. He is equally relevant today. Gandhiji's introduced basic education system, which was introduced in the country, did not have much acceptance for the people of the society because of the limitations of the education system. Yet, Gandhiji's teaching and education philosophy in other countries of the world, like India, is a matter of further research. As a result, Gandhi's philosophy is being re-evaluated and we are also getting new information about him.

Finally, I would like to say that Gandhiji's idea of education is very relevant at present society because of the ever-increasing number of people suffering from

dangerous things like selfishness, violence, fights, antisociality, immorality, criminality, intolerance, communalism diplomacy and conflict etc. If Gandhiji's thought of education can be applied in the present education system, then it is possible to develop the body, mind and soul of the child. Gandhiji's teachings will awaken human and social values in people, that is, will make people ideal human beings. Gandhiji's educational philosophy build from a combination of idealism, pragmatism and naturalism. Gandhiji's education system helped people to become self-reliant on the one hand, and make people fit for spiritual life. So Gandhiji's thoughts of education is very relevant in social life.

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