

Education Through Nai Talim: Relevancy of A Gandhian View

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I. INTRODUCTION

Education means knowledge. Knowledge is to know surrounding, recognise your inner and performing those actions which affect our growth. Knowledge is comprised of three things – one who gives knowledge which is known as ‘tutor’; second who take knowledge that is ‘tutee’ and third which is being taken that is ‘Tuition. Thus the process of knowledge divided between tutor, tutee and tuition. This knowledge defines education. For the success of education coordination is very necessary among all three.

From the beginning it is being discussed that how to give education whereby the best development of the person subsist and the teaching process does not seem boaring. Too many exploration and experiments about these things has happened. Many committees has been set up for this purpose. Nai Talim or Basic Education is one of them.

II. NAI TALIM: CONCEPT

‘Nai Talim’ is considered as education for life. It is a synonyms of ‘basic education’ which is a vital thought of Gandhiji on education. Its aim is to build a child self-reliant by enabling him to use his acquired knowledge and skills in practical affairs of life. It is a child-centred education. It related with the basic needs and interest of a child.

EVOLUTION OF NAI TALIM

In June 31, 1937 in ‘Harijan’, Gandhiji express his view of his basic education. He says the present scenario of education is not only wasteful but positively harmful. So, Gandhiji decided a new type of education which enhance the mind and soul of society. For this an all Indian Education Conference was held in Wardha on 22nd and 23rd October 1937. They discussed on different aspects of the proposed new scheme of education. The eminent of educationists, congress leaders and workers along with the

education minister of the seven states had attached the conference. Gandhiji himself presided over it. The conference appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Zakir Hussain to prepare a detailed education plan and syllabus. The other members of this committee are Prof. K.G. Saigidain, Arya Nayakem, Vinoba Bhawe, Kaka Kalekar, J.C. Kumarappa, Kishori Lal, Prof. K.T. Shah, etc. They submitted their report on December 1937 and revised on April 1938. It present a new way of education. Since than Basic Education is known as ‘Nai Talim’.

Nai Talim is a radical and important revolution in social and economic structure in Indian education.

RELATED WITH ANCIENT EDUCATION SYSTEM OF INDIA

India has always been the land of gaining enlightenment through knowledge. If we go through history we see that India has a rich education system. Either it is Gurukul system or Buddhist education system, there is a high flammable act of knowledge. India has a world’s greatest universities. Huen Tsang in 7th century A.D. also written about the flourish education system of India. There has been always a three phase in education – aim, teacher and student were it is described as tuition, tutor and tutee. The aim of education in ancient India is to develop all aspects of a child. It based on moral values and virtuality of soul. Ancient education stationed on the principle of recognizing itself which is possible by the best development of a child. This also pointing to the moral development of the child in a natural way. Nai Talim supports the spirit of ancient education. In fact it is based on the Indian culture and support their values. Although Nai Talim is a new structure but his soul or aim is attached to the old education system of India.

III. RELEVENCY OF A GANDHIAN VIEW

PERCEPTION OF A MODERN EDUCATION

Some basic perception of modern education have been developed by which the goals of the course are determined. They are:-

1. Education should be child- centred.
2. It is based on child psychology.
3. Curriculum shows social and national values.
4. Taught in own language.
5. Used ICT for fruitful impact.
6. Education must be planned and proper way.
7. A teaching- learning process with which the Tutor and Tutee are acquainted.
8. Covering life- span of an individual.
9. Aspects of self- growth.

These all perceptions are very much parallel with Nai Talim.

FACTUAL SCENARIO OF EDUCATION

Nowadays reading- writing is considered to be education but that is literacy not education. Person who knows how to read and write is called literate not educated. There is a difference between literacy and education. Literacy means able to read and write where education has a broad aspect. It is far beyond read and write. It is a value and positive thoughts which create a prospective society. There is low percentage of literacy among Indian people. Day- by- day literacy rate in India get increasing but the quality of education get down because of insufficient and improper structure. Nai Talim has a power to solve the problem of mass education in a practical way.

IV. STRATEGY: NAI TALIM

For increasing the education level Nai Talim has adopted some strategy which can provide a new height to the education system:

1. Free, compulsory and universal education – Free and compulsory education up to 7 to 14 years has been provided to child on a nation- wide scale.
2. Scheme – Scheme of primary education based on Indian traditional culture must be circulate.
3. Medium – The medium of instruction to be the mother tongue.

4. Productive work – Self-supporting by imparting education through a useful and productive craft.
5. Trained tutor – The tutor should be the best character, well- trained and the knower of the subject.
6. Organisation of schools – The school should be managed properly. The administration and inspection part done periodically.
7. Co- related – Subjects has to be correlated with each other.
8. Industrious – Knowledge and work are not separate. Hard work is mandatory for the success of education.
9. Practical knowledge – Education must be based on real life knowledge where one can get a chance to make new discoveries.
10. Child- centred – Education should develop harmony of the child's personality, body, heart, brain and soul, in short child oriented education must be given for the betterment of the child.
11. Holistic process – Nai Talim is a holistic process of tutor-tutee-tuition.
12. Equity- equality – It is based on creating a sense of brother-hood, co-operation and social service among the children.

WAYS TO MAKE NAI TALIM LIFE-LONG

Nai Talim has a unique place in the field of elementary education. It gives compulsion to education for life-long period. Its characteristics provides longevity.

V. EDUCATION THROUGH CRAFT

If the tuition impart through some craft or productive work, the impact gone very high because it is mixture of skill and creativity were the potential of a child erupt. If the teaching way is by handicraft in which at least any one small- scale industries to be taught than its gives the child self- dependency. It also solve the problem of his livelihood. Psychologically, it is desirable because it relieves the child from the tyranny of a purely academic and theoretical instruction against which its active nature is always making a healthy protest. The introduction of such practical productive work in education, to be participated

in by all children of the nation will trend to break down the existing barriers of prejudice between manual and intellectual workers harmful alike for both.

Economically, carried out intelligently and efficiently the scheme will increase the productive capacity of our workers and will also enable them to utilise their leisure advantageously. From educational point of view greater concreteness and reality can be given to the knowledge acquired by children through craft as knowledge will be related to life. This is the basic idea of Nai Talim and it is self-supported. It will help children in later life economically.

TUITION THROUGH MOTHER TONGUE

Knowledge will become very easy to understand when the tuition go through his mother tongue and it also become prominent. It enhance the capacity of a child without giving any burden of outer language. The N.C.F (National Curriculum Framework) 2000 also says if taught by mother tongue than the ideas and views easily grasp by the child and give the clarity of picture. In Nai Talim education must be in their own language.

VI. MAKE A IDEAL CITIZEN

It is necessary for the growth of any nation that their citizen are become efficient and honest. For this we have to assure that the curriculum must be focused on this purpose. Nai Talim truly focused on a personal and professional growth of a child. Through this it develop inner soul were child performs his duties as a citizen and steps their rights well.

FLEXIBLE CURRICULUM AND FREE ENVIRONMENT

For the longevity of any education process his curriculum must be flexible and given in a stress free environment. Any type of political and social pressure frustrates the tuition. The flexibility of the curriculum and free environment for the child to perform according to his own capacity are another remarkable features of Nai Talim. Under Nai Talim the tutor and tutee are free to work according to their own prospects. In N.C.F. 2000 it is also mentioned that "Tutor has to be taught in free

environment. There is no pressure of examination as it is taken in a free atmosphere."

The flexible curriculum helps make changes according to the situation and an interest and capacity of the child. The free environment is necessary for the development of the child.

SYLLABUS

In Nai Talim the various subjects has been suggested-

1. Any handicraft according to the local need – spinning and weaving, carpentry, agriculture, horticulture, leather work, culturing fish, pottery, etc.
2. Some vocational courses related to computer and ICT must be taught.
3. Language: (1st mother language and 2nd global language).
4. Mathematics
5. Social studies
6. Art and craft
7. Physical education

The syllabus of the subject must be inter- related than can be the aim of education fulfilled.

GENERATE FINANCE

Today education system purely depends on government. Thus educational bodies carries lots of political pressure. The interference of political parties and society can't be avoidable unless it became self – dependent financially. If we go through the view to pay salaries or to generate fund by the craft made by student, the positive point is after completing education the student became entrepreneurs. They wouldn't need to depend government or others. They can establish their own industries and generate employment.

WORK IS WORSHIP

Our ancient culture says 'Work is worship'. Nai Talim is based on principle of work. The education system of Nai Talim is production oriented so it is positive sign for the economic growth of nation. The system which helps to grow nation never be faded.

LEARNING BY DOING

The theme of Nai Talim is learning by doing. Modern education also support this thought because it based on child psychology. It believes that child is not only a passive learner but also an active participant in the learning process. Nai Talim is an activity centred education. Thus it enhance the capacity of learning.

PRESERVE CULTURE

Every nation has rich and prosperous history and culture. For the broad prospect it must be preserve in the form of education. Nai Talim inculcates social and moral values in the mind of student.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline makes a person self- controlled and self-centred which is helpful in deep contemplation. For Gandhiji education is a moral development of a person. Without discipline a person cannot maintain his moral values neither achieve his goals.

SATISFACTION

Education means the best within the child came out and give satisfaction to his soul. If any structure is associated with its culture, civilization and environment, and economically strengthen then it has never omitted. Nai Talim is connected to reality which always keeping it alive.

VII. CONCLUSION

The child is in centre of education. Nai Talim elaborate the all aspects of a child creativity. It values the dignity of an individual. It is a combination of manual and intellectual work which shows the power of hard work. Nai Talim have a democratic format like education for all, equality, cooperation etc. It has a universal thought. It believes in educational universalization. It develops qualities of good citizenship. It refers the modern value of education as well preserves the old path. It accommodate between the body, mind and soul.

Nai Talim provides new ground for all three dimensions of education – Tutor-Tutee-Tuition where it relies on one another. In Nai Talim the syllabus of all subjects are interrelated. It correlate between physical environment, social environment and vocational environment. It is

inclusion of craft centred education regarding handicrafts like spinning, weaving, agriculture etc. It gradually able to cover the remuneration of the teacher and own.

At elementary level child are too young to understand the prospects of language. Though Nai Talim supports mother tongue so it became easier to educate them.

The Kothari commission ‘1964-66’ which known as the “Father of Indian modern education system” somehow also supports the views of Nai Talim. The key elements of both are similar. Gandhiji quoted “Education means an all draw out of the best in child and man body, mind and spirit.” Nai Talim creates meaning to this purpose.

VIII. REFERENCE BOOKS

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