

CLASS NOTES ON GREAT EDUCATIONAL THINKERS

BA 5TH SEM MAJOR GANDHIJI'S EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

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MEANING OF EDUCATION

Education has been defined by the educational philosophers and thinkers on the basis of their philosophical perspectives. Mahatma Gandhi considered education as “the all-round drawing out of the best in child and man—body, mind, and spirit.” For him, education was not mere literacy or acquisition of degrees, diploma but a process of holistic development aimed at self-reliance, moral-spiritual growth, and social responsibility. It should prepare a responsible citizen for nation building based on pluralism, multi-cultural ethos, secularism. Moreover, it should prepare our children for their own bread and butter. So, he suggested craft centered education.

AIMS OF EDUCATION

1. **Self-reliance and Dignity of Labour** – Education should make learners productive and independent through vocational training (craft-centered learning).
2. **Moral and Character Development** – Cultivation of truth (Satya), non-violence (Ahimsa), and self-discipline was central.
3. **Social Responsibility** – Education must promote cooperation, equality, and service to the community.
4. **All-round Development** – Harmonious growth of physical, intellectual, and spiritual faculties.
5. **Inculcation of values**
6. **Inculcation of secularism**
7. **Development of nationalism**
8. **Spiritual development**

Methodology

1. **Basic Education (Nai Talim)** – Learning through productive work (e.g., spinning, weaving, agriculture, handicrafts).
2. **Activity-Centered Approach** – “Learning by doing” rather than rote memorization.
3. **Mother Tongue as Medium** – Education in the child’s own language for better understanding and cultural rootedness.
4. **Correlation Method** – Academic subjects integrated with socially useful productive work.
5. **Self-discipline and Moral Instruction** – Non-violent methods to build character.

Importance in Modern Time

- **Vocational Relevance** – Skill-based education for employability aligns with today’s emphasis on skill development.
- **Value-Oriented Learning** – Moral and ethical education is essential in addressing modern social problems.
- **Sustainability and Simplicity** – His emphasis on self-reliance and eco-friendly practices resonates with present-day sustainable development goals.
- **Community Orientation** – Encourages social harmony, service, and inclusive growth.
- **Development of multiculturalism**
- **Development of nationalism**