

HUMANISM IN INDIAN EDUCATION

(Peer Reviewed)
(Proceedings of the International Seminar)



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Humanism in Mahatma Gandhi's Educational Thought: A Study

that surround them and find solutions. In the Plato's Republic education has assumed great importance. In the words of Rousseau the Book of Plato's Republic was the greatest work on education ever written⁵.

Philosophy is varied in meaning and in scope. The word Philo means love and Sophia means wisdom. Thus, Philosophy means love of wisdom or pursuit of knowledge. Philosophy of education has been defined as an attempt to find answers to questions, which are termed as ultimate. A Philosopher dealing with education is desirous of learning what is knowable and what he has to do with education. He is interested in the nature of reality, sources of value and the aspects such as aims, curriculum and method may mean for education. Philosophy of education helps to think clearly, carefully, rigorously and systematically relating to educational problems and concepts. It is clarifying and liberating.

It tends to make people to be more conscious of important issues helping them to evaluate. It serves to free them from the tyranny of conventional thought. When the Philosophy of education fails to perform to achieve the desirable ends expected of, it merely remains as an intellectual exercise⁶.

The aim of education:

The aim of education is to enable individuals to continue their education. The object and reward of learning is continued capacity for growth. Character building has first place in Gandhian education. Character is similar to foundation. A building built on sand collapses whereas a building erected on a strong foundation lasts for long time. Gandhi holds that the school must be an extension of home. There must be agreement between the impressions, which a child gathers at home and at school to achieve the best results. The alien type of education produces a gulf between the educated classes and the masses⁷.

Basic Education of Mahatma Gandhi:

According to Mahatma Gandhi, the educational system must be literary and productive, but the existing system of education is completely separated from the life activities of the child with moral degradation. In order to abolish the evils that have beset the society and to achieve the ideal society economically self-reliant peaceful and orderly and to uphold moral and spiritual life and to reduce the disparities and inequalities in the society he put forward a new scheme of education known as basic education

5 Sabine, G. H. (1973). *A History of Political Theory*. T. L. Thorson (Ed.), Oxford and IBH Publishing, P-69.

6 Park, J. (Eds.). (1968). *Selected Reading of the Philosophy of Education*, New York: Macmillan P-38.

7 Gandhi, M. (1962). *True Education*. Navajivan Publishing House, P-13