

# RELEVANCE OF GANDHIAN THOUGHT IN GLOBALISATION ERA: IMPACT OF MAHATMA GANDHI'S EDUCATION POLICY ON NEW NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY-2020

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## Introduction

Education is the tool to found Social, Economical and Cultural structure of any country. Education gives us opportunity to put our skill and potentials to its maximum use. Education is a reform for human mind. Without education, the training of the human mind is incomplete. Education is a weapon to improve one's life. It is probably the most important tool to change one's life. Home is the first school for a child, and It is a continuous process that ends with death. The importance of education is that it certainly determines the quality of an individual's life. Education improves knowledge, skills and develops the personality. The most important is, Education affects the chances of employment for people. A highly educated individual is probably very likely to get a good job. According to Gandhi, education is the realization of the best in man - body, soul and spirit. He maintained that education must be based on ethics and morality. Mahatma Gandhi has claimed, "Character building was the first concern of the ancient education system". (Principles and practices of Mahatma Gandhi for peaceful Co-existence and Development, page 31) Ethics and morality are integral to Gandhi's life. All his thoughts, actions and speeches are based on these two concepts. Education means the process of continuous enrichment and development of human personality by various means. Obtain new knowledge is one of the ways to enrich our mind. Gandhi's concept of education is both practical and strong spiritualistic orientation -- a powerful weapon to bring about a silent revolution in mankind. The Gandhian political system is based on the assumption that there is an element of goodness essentially present in every person. What we need is proper education to bring out this element of goodness. According to Gandhi, the state has to prepare individuals for the village-republic (Gram Ganrajya), or for making possible the emergence of the ideal government. Individuals have to be trained and educated in such a manner that the ideal is reached conveniently. Therefore, according to Gandhi, the goal of education should be moral education or character-

building, the cultivation of a belief that one should forget everything for self in working towards great aims. Therefore, Gandhi defines education in the following way: "By education I mean an all-round drawing out of the best in child and man –body, mind, and spirit."

## Statement of Problem:

Mahatma Gandhi's Education Policy (Wardha Shikshan Yojana/Nai Talim/Bunyadi Shiksha 1937) has great influence in New National Education Policy 2020

## Key Words:

Nai Talim, Globalisation, Education Policy.

## Hypothesis

1. Education through mother tongue has great impact on learners
2. Vocational education is the need of new centuries.

## Objectives:

1. To state the importance of mother tongue & vocational education in basic education
2. To state the relevance of Gandhi's education policy & thought

## Methodology

Analytical and Interpretative method is used to write this research paper.

## Importance

Gandhiji has himself explained - "By education I mean all-round drawing out of the best in child's and man's body, mind and spirit. Literacy is neither the beginning nor the end of education. This is only a means through which man or woman can be educated." His Basic Principles of Education includes: -

1. From seven to fourteen years of age, education of each child should be free, compulsory and universal.
2. The medium of instruction should be mother-tongue.
3. Mere literacy cannot be associate with education. Education should employ some craft as a medium of education so that the child gains economic self-reliance for his life.
4. Education should develop human values in the child.

5. Education should create useful, responsible and dynamic citizens. By education all the hidden powers of child should develop according to the community of which he is an integral part.
6. Education should achieve the harmonious development of child's body, mind, heart and soul.
7. All education should be imparted through some productive craft or industry and a useful correlation should be established with that industry. The industry should be such that the child is able to achieve gainful work experience through practical work.
8. Education should be made self-supporting through some productive work. Education should lead to economic independence and self-reliance for livelihood.

#### **Wardha Scheme or Nai Talim**

Gandhi's greatest gift in the education sector is known as, 'The Wardha Scheme of Education' or 'Nai Talim'. For Gandhi, education is the medium for realizing Sarvodaya, eg. upliftment of all. Education, for Gandhi, is a method to bring silent and non-violent revolution in society. According to Gandhi, "Education, which does not teach us to discriminate between good and bad, to assimilate the one and avoid the other, is inaccurate". Gandhi said that education is the potent weapon to liberate human beings from all vices. The Wardha Committee report on education in 1937, headed by Dr Zakir Hussain, was based on a series of articles published by Gandhi in Harijan. The basic scheme of education has the following important features: Mother tongue should be the medium of instruction. There should be free, compulsory and universal education within the age group 7 to 14. Manual productive skills should be imparted in the children and special emphasis on handicrafts. Fusion of the theory and practical, eg. learning by doing. Co-education initially. The core aim of basic education is to help students to develop self-sufficiency. Education should develop human values in the child. It is aimed to achieve the harmonious development of the child's body, mind, heart and soul. It is geared to create useful, responsible and dynamic citizens. Religion should not interfere with education and students should be taught in such a manner that they respect all religions.

#### **Women's Education**

Gandhi was a promoter and great supporter of women's education. He wanted to free women from social serfdom. He opposed the purdah system and enforced widowhood. According to Gandhi, it is only education empower a woman in such a manner

that she herself stand to uphold her natural rights. Education is necessary for enabling women to attain their real position in society.

#### **Methods of Teaching**

Aims of education, according to Gandhi, were different from those prevalent during his days. Gandhi disapproved of the then prevalent educational method as defective, and emphasized the need to make crafts and vocations as means of education. He emphasized the importance of the following principles in his methods of teaching.

- To achieve mental development, training of senses and parts of the body should be given utmost importance.
- Reading should precede the teaching of writing.
- Before teaching of alphabets, art training should be given.
- More opportunities should be given to learning by doing.
- Correlation should be established in the teaching methods and learning experiences.
- Basic craft at focal point.
- Teaching through creative and productive activities.
- Learning by living, service and participation, self-experience.
- Oral instruction to personal study.
- All syllabus should be woven around vocational training.

#### **Aims of Education:**

Gandhi has divided educational aims into two categories.

##### **1. Immediate Aims of Education:**

**a) Vocational aim:** He wanted that each child should earn while engaged in learning and gain some learning while he is busy with earning.

**b) Cultural aim:** He considered the cultural aspect of education as more essential than its academic aspect. In the words of Gandhi, "I attach more importance to the cultural factor of education than its literary factor".

**c) Character building:** Core principle behind the Gandhian education system was character building. He said that character is the foundation of any education. Weak moral and ethical person will not be able to take the world to new heights. According to Gandhi, the ultimate end of all knowledge should be the building up of character.

**d) Perfect development aim:** Gandhi said, "The real education is that which fully develops the body, mind and soul of children".

**e) Dignity of labour:** Gandhi says that after seven years of education (7 to 14 years) the child should

be able to earn. The students must learn the dignity of labour, they should not feel shy while doing some work.

**f) Training for leadership:** Gandhi believed that for successful democracy, good leaders are needed. Education should impart, good leadership qualities to the children.

**2. Ultimate Aim of Education:**

According to Gandhi the ultimate aim of education is to realize God or Self-realization. According to Gandhi “Development of the moral character, development of the whole, all are directed towards the realization of the ultimate reality, the merger of the finite being into the infinite”. It is realizing Godliness in his self.

**Gandhi’s contribution to education**

Gandhi’s contribution to education is unique. He was the first Indian who advocated a scheme of education based upon the essential values of Indian culture and civilization. Gandhi’s philosophy of education is naturalistic in its setting, idealistic in its aim and pragmatic in its method. So, his philosophy of education is a harmonious blending of idealism, naturalism and pragmatism. Gandhi’s idea on education is very innovative. His idea of vocational education was so unique that even now a days it is being promoted by the government of India. Thus, Gandhian education scheme is very relevant today, the only need is to give it more attention and chance

**New National Education Policy 2020**

**Mother tongue to be instated as medium of instruction:**

The National education policy 2020 has directed focus on students’ mother tongue as the medium of instruction even as it sticks to the ‘three language formula’ but also mandates that no language would be imposed on anyone. The policy indicates that wherever it is possible, the medium of instruction till at least Grade 5, but preferably up till Grade 8 and beyond, will be the mother tongue/local language/ regional language, both public and private schools, are to follow this norm

**Separation between subject streams to be blurred:**

As per NEP 2020, the rigid separations between subjects’ stream will be done away with. Students will have the liberty to choose subjects they would like to study across streams. Vocational education to be introduced in schools from Class 6 and will include internships as well.

**Vocational Education:**

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 heralds the potentially explosive growth of vocational education in the country since it requires all

educational institutions to integrate vocational education into their offerings. The integration of vocational education programmes into mainstream education in all educational institutions in a phased manner which “would lead to emphasizing the dignity of labour and importance of various vocations involving Indian arts and artisanship” The teaching of vocational courses from class 6, mostly in the form of internships and practical activities, to ensure that every student should at least study one vocational course

**Reforms in school curricula and pedagogy**

The school curricula and pedagogy will aim for holistic development of learners by equipping them with the key 21st century skills, reduction in curricular content to enhance essential learning and critical thinking and greater focus on experiential learning. Students will have increased flexibility and choice of subjects. There will be no rigid separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams.

Vocational education will start in schools from the 6th grade, and will include internships.

**Assessment Reforms**

NEP 2020 envisages a shift from summative assessment to regular and formative assessment, which is more competency-based, promotes learning and development, and tests higher-order skills, such as analysis, critical thinking, and conceptual clarity. All students will take school examinations in Grades 3, 5, and 8 which will be conducted by the appropriate authority. Board exams for Grades 10 and 12 will be continued, but redesigned with holistic development as the aim. A new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), will be set up as a standard-setting body.

**Promotion of Indian languages**

To ensure the preservation, growth, and vibrancy of all Indian languages, NEP recommends setting an Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI), National Institute (or Institutes) for Pali, Persian and Prakrit, strengthening of Sanskrit and all language departments in HEIs and use mother tongue/local language as a medium of instruction in more HEI programmes. Internationalization of education will be facilitated through both institutional collaborations, and student and faculty mobility and allowing entry of top world ranked Universities to open campuses in our country

**Conclusion**

1. Gandhiji believed that the medium of instruction should be the mother tongue till the primary level.
2. Gandhiji believed that the End State of education should not be the only obtaining a degree or to get a government job.
3. Skill development and empowering youth should be part of the education system.
4. Education should reach till the grass root level.
5. Basic education (primary and middle level) compulsory training in key skills development such as farming, horticulture, cotton spinning, wood art, handloom, pottery etc.

**Suggestions:**

1. Mother tongue as a third language must be compulsory in primary and secondary level.
2. Medium of instruction in primary level should be mother tongue
3. Practical workshop training for skill based subject should be planned in primary and secondary level.
4. Technical subject should involved in primary and secondary level.

President Obama in his historic speech in Indian Parliament mentioned that he has “always found in the life of Gandhiji and in his simple and profound lesson to be the change we seek in the world. We will remember the great soul who changed the world with his message of peace, tolerance and love. more than 70 years of his passing his thoughts

about education and skill based education still reflects in new national education policy 2020. The relevance of Gandhi exists as long as tyranny exists.

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