



# EDUCATIONAL THOUGHTS OF AUROBINDO AND ITS RELEVANCE TO THE PRESENT DAY EDUCATION

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## ABSTRACT

The present paper is an attempt to know about the thoughts of a great philosopher and eminent educationist Sri Aurobindo Ghose. In this study researcher used philosophical and historical method of research. Articles, books and internet are the sources of data mainly used by the researcher to complete this study. Aurobindo's educational philosophy is the part of his philosophy of life. In his philosophy of life, he pointed out the realization of the world soul as the ultimate goal of human life. To achieve this objective, he adopted education. He believed that the developmental process that helps people realize the existence of an omnipotent world-consciousness is education. We can feel an Idealistic touch in his thoughts of education. He emphasized that self realization is the ultimate goal of education. According to him Education is not only to increase one's knowledge by memorizing some theoretical subjects but also through education it will be possible to develop the spiritual, social and values of the individual. An important aspect of Aurobindo's philosophy of education is to develop integrated personality of an individual through inculcate love, knowledge, power and beauty which helps us to being human. He said that the path of synthesis divinity is yoga or meditation. He also separately gives his statement on aims, curriculum of education, principle of teaching, role of teacher etc. Sri Aurobindo given his idea in 19<sup>th</sup> century regarding the education system, yet his viewpoint is much more relevant in the present day education system. In new education policy 2020 we accentuation on the holistic development and practice based education which was closely related with his concept of integral education and practice of yoga. Moreover, his view on teaching - learning is very similar with the modern concept of child centric education. Educational philosophy of Aurobindo has been imparting clear knowledge to all, including teachers and students, about the proper purpose, aims and goals of education and is regarded as the pioneer of modern education system.

**KEY WORDS:** Sri Aurobindo, Educational Thoughts, Integral Education, , Present day Education.

## INTRODUCTION

Sri Aurobindo Ghose was born in a prosperous family of Calcutta in the year 1872. His father was Krishna Dhun Ghose was a famous doctor at his time. Mother Swarnalata Ghose was very loving and kind hearted by nature. Aurobindo completed his formal education from London. After his father's death, he return back in India and started to learn Indian language and philosophy and started to worked in college in Baroda (1893 - 1906) serve as Principle and acting Principle etc. After that he joined politics and spends a major portion of life and participate several political activities. Unfortunately in May, 1908 he was arrested on the basis of suspicion of being involved in the Alipur Bomb Affair. He was get free one year later and began publishing Karmayogi and Dharma. After this incident he realized his aim and proposes of life. He started to practice spiritual activities and yoga for finding the ultimate goal of life. He was fully devotee of Gita. He tried to synthesis Gita's Karma Yoga and Dhyana Yoga from the scientific approach. In other words yoga is that means by which individual experience divine power. He was an idealist to the core. His idealistic philosophy of life was based upon Vedantic philosophy of Upanishad but he felt the importance of education

in order to bring philosophical principle into human life. According to him, education is a process that helps us to relate our life with mind and spirit this concept of education is known as integral education. In this concept of integral education, one can see the attempt to bind the individual to the society, the material world to the inner world and the creator to his creation in the same harmony. After summarize the whole concept of education given by sri Aurobindo we can say that, education means our all-round development as well as the realization of the supreme soul. In his word "Education is the creator of the power human mind and spirit. It is the evoking of knowledge, character and culture."

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Since 18<sup>th</sup> century several commission and committees was formed to developed or recreate various aspects of Indian education system. All these things was done for fundamental development of education and set the ultimate goal of education for the future. Sri Aurobindo also tried to shape the system of education and decided the way of acquiring knowledge for uplift the absolute Soul. Researcher hope that studying his educational



thoughts can light up our new way of learning and may it will be significant for understanding the current educational process. All these things lead to the research into this study.

### AIMS OF EDUCATION

Not only education but also any action without a proper aims cannot make us benefited. Aurobindo's concept of education implicitly states what the aim of education should be. Firstly he emphasized on all round development of child should be the ultimate aim of education He especially emphasized coordination in his educational philosophy. According to him, the aim of education is to reconcile several conflicting tendencies. Aurobinda said that the aim of education should be to make material knowledge useful in the context of living. Apart from establishing the unity of the society with the individual, in addition to present all the sources of knowledge and help to familiar with all of them. Developing brotherhood also should be the aim of education.

### CURRICULUM OF EDUCATION

A well-planned curriculum is necessary to make any educational system effective. Curriculum is the means to reach the aim of education. According to him curriculum is mainly making based on the prime four aspects of education. They are:

1. Spiritual Education where the main goal of educational should be the development of one's soul. Prayer, meditation and studying biography etc. are the part of this curriculum.
2. Second one is Mental Education where one can develop or gain their knowledge. Language, math and civics are the part of this curriculum.
3. Third one is Vital Education here; efforts will be made to develop both emotional and social development of the individual. Sense training is the main part of this curriculum.
4. Last one is Physical Education. Where the main aim should be develop the physical growth and increase the capabilities of individual. Physical training, playing and other co-curricular activities comes under this stage.

All these aspects of curriculum are followed by the schools under 'Auroville' (Ashram of Aurobindo). The main feature of this curriculum is that, the structure of this curriculum associate with all the aspects of development.

### METHOD OF TEACHING

Aurobindo did not recommend any special teaching methods. It will be the responsibility of the teacher to organize it. The teacher will select the teaching method according to the need and situation. But while choosing this method, he said to emphasize on three principles. Firstly he said that we can never teach anyone anything by pairing. Therefore, the teacher's job will only be to assist the student in self learning. In his word 'a teacher is not an instructor he or she must be a helper or guide'. Secondly he said that, a teacher should consider the learner's needs, tendency and nature of mind before planned his or her own activity towards learning. The third Principle is like teaching should move students

from known to unknown and give preference to learners' prior knowledge. Learners will learn new things from the experiences those are co-related with their environment.

### Discipline

In Sri Aurobindo's view, voluntary duty equals discipline. According to him, discipline is very important in education. He linked discipline with passion and passion with morality. According to him, teachers should treat children with affection and compassion; Rigidity cannot breed true discipline. He called the punishment an inhuman act. Another thing needs to be mentioned in this context. According to him, teachers should present ideal behavior to children, whom children imitate to move towards ideal behavior and then they take it as their duty to do so. In his view, true discipline is internal.

### Teacher

Sri Aurobindo believes that, teacher is a facilitator, helper and also a guider in the independent development of learners. He cannot provide or develop knowledge into someone. According to him a teacher develop their spirit besides attainment of physical knowledge. The duty of a teacher is not imparting knowledge rather than guide how one can gain knowledge in his own pace.

### School

According to him there should be no boundary to take admission into the school in regards of one's caste, religion and socio-economic status etc. the admission should be based on their ability. The physical and spiritual development should be the ultimate goal of every school. The function of the school is favorable for the students and they should be allowed to select their subjects according to their needs and interest. He means that school should be regularizing by liberal approach.

### Other Aspects of Education

Religion Education: He believes that all the religion in this world gives us the path to alive in a well manner. He said that religious education also helps us to develop brotherhood and believes in God. That's why he emphasized that the education system of all nations should be based on religion education. It is the only way by which it can be possible to develop morality and values among the individual.

International Education: We know Sri Aurobindo set up an ashram in Pondicherry (Auroville), India where he tried to reflect his entire educational philosophy. There he took the initiative of formulating a national education system which included the perspective of Yoga Sadhana. A proper analysis of his educational system shows that it is not only for Indian or narrow interests but it was international standard.

### Relevance in Present Day Education

The Educational philosophy of Sri Aurobinda is the best example of the way of perfection. He never emphasize on advancing one thing alone we can see many Principles are there in his educational philosophy including physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, social responsibility, harmony with nature, individuality



and integration of knowledge and ultimately all-round development.

Aurobindo's educational philosophy is very relevant and important in today's education. As we know after a long time we got a new education policy known as National Education Policy 2020. Holistic development of the learners is prominent among the objectives of education given priority in this education policy. As well as Aurobindo's thoughts of education also emphasize the all-round development of the individual. Apart from this, learner or child are at the center of all the factors of education, as a result of which all educational arrangements of today's education system depend on the needs, interests and demands of the learners. In other words, it can be said that current education is child or learner centric. Similarly, Aurobindo emphasized the individuality of the learner in all subjects in his philosophy of education. Also, Aurobindo highlighted the important issues like ethics, values in education without which education management cannot be imagined. Moreover, the principles of integrated education and the importance of practice of yoga etc. are essential subjects for today's generation. In the inference of this context, it can be said that Sri Aurobindo's philosophy of education is a text book for all those associated with the entire educational process law makers, organizers and management of education which not only present but also in the future will show us the right way to amend and improve education along with proper quality development.

## CONCLUSION

Aurobindo tried to highlight the independent and holistic development of the child's being in his educational thoughts. The examination-oriented education system we have today is only functioning on our mental level. However, this education overloads the mind with information. We tend to forget holistic development in target of our pursuit of more knowledge. But in today's competitive world, our overall development is very important. Sri Aurobindo's philosophy of education shows us this point again and again. Teach us the correct and relevance way by which one can achieve the highest level of benefits through education.

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