



The Relevance of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan's Educational Contribution in 21st Century

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Introduction : Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan was born in one of the remote villages of India at Tirutani near Mairas in a Traditional Indian Family in the year 1888, he touched the best possible height achievable in the modern world. Starting as an ordinary Indian child striving like a person from the masses, achieving footprints at the places and positions where he lived, Dr. Radhakrishnan left unique remark as a politician, ambassador and above all as generous and kind human being in India and the world. Without Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, we can't imagine the modern India.

Objectives of the Study - 1.To know the educational contribution and thoughts of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. 2.To know the relevance of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan's education thoughts in 21st century.

Methodology of the Study - This study was purely theoretical in nature. The secondary data was collected from different books, journals, e-papers, articles, and biography of Dr. Radhakrishnan.

Concepts and Functions of Education - Dr. Radhakrishnan defines education as the instrument for social, economic and cultural change. He opined that only the right kind of education could solve many problems of the society and the country. He included the following aspects about education in his educational contribution. 1.Education-Training of Intellect, Heart and Spirit 2.Humanism in Education 3.Education for Democracy 4.Education to



Develop Scientific Spirit 5.Education and Human Values
6.Education and Spiritual Values 7.Education – A search for
Integration 8.Education – A Capacity for Discernment
9.Education to Develop the Spirit of Enquiry 10.Education
to Train People for Freedom and Democracy Education and
Self-Discipline 11.Educational Institutions should preserve
the Spirit of the Youth 12.Education for Women.

Aims of Education - The aims of education listed by him are as follows:

1. Development of Personality
2. Development of Character Preservation, Enrichment and Transmission of Culture
3. Development of Spiritual Values
4. Development of Vocational Efficiency
5. Development of National Integration
6. Development of International Understanding
7. Development of Scientific Attitude
9. Development of Careless Society
10. Development of the Habits of Simple living and high thinking
11. Development of finding Truth, Freedom & Love.

Curriculum - According to Dr. Radhakrishnan curriculum must be related to life. He suggested the following aspects to be studied by the students:

1. Students should study the number of subjects such as: Languages, Literature, Social Studies like Geography, History, Economics, Philosophy, Ethics, Theology, Morality, Politics, Civics, Science, Mathematics, Art/ Music/Fine Arts, Vocation / Profession Subjects, Sports and Physical Education, Yoga, and Religion.
2. Students must study three languages like Mother tongue / Regional Language, Federal Language Hindi and link language English.

Methods of Teaching - He suggested the following methods of teaching –

1. Observation
2. Experiments
3. Discussion
4. Learning by meditation
5. Text book method
6. Seminar method
7. Tutorial system
8. The relationship of nature and society
9. Imitation method for learning Industrial subjects
10. Yoga and Meditation
11. Question Answer & Discussion Method

Role of Teachers- Dr. Radhakrishnan opined that,



"Teacher is the corner stone of the arch of education"

1. Teacher should be the friend, philosopher and guide of the students.
2. Teacher should give appropriate inspiration to the students.
3. Teacher should work as mentor and trainer.
4. Teacher is responsible to arouse the interest of the pupil in the field of the study.
5. Teachers must set an example in respect of education, knowledge, behavior, human values, morality, discipline, dedication, etc.

The Relevance of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan's educational contribution in 21st Century—

1. The present education field in India suffers from the crisis in character and loss of moral values, In this regard; Radhakrishnan's educational thoughts are very pertinent in order to develop character and moral values.
2. In the 21st Century, if we want to achieve all round development of child as a modern aim of education, only his thoughts can fulfill this aim. These thoughts are combination of idealistic, realistic, humanistic and existentialistic philosophy.
3. The report of the University Education Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. Radhakrishnan had given the solutions to the various problems like –falling academic standards, status and salaries of teachers, de-linking of jobs from degrees, religious education, medium of instruction, reservation of seats for the backward etc. All these recommendations are helpful in the current era for implementing New National Education Policy 2020.
4. He strongly advocated for free and compulsory education for all the children of the country irrespective of caste, creed, gender and socio-economic status. All Committees and Commissions in India have accepted this educational ideal in the country. This ideology is also acceptable in 21st Century and in New Education Policy-2020.



5. He supported the idea of equal rights and opportunity for both men and women in the field of education.
6. India is a multi-racial, multi-lingual, multi-political and multi-cultural country which stands in Unity in Diversity. So he anticipated dynamic models of education. These models will be helpful to solve various problems arise in the 21st century.
7. Modern age is the age of science and technology. Day by day the human qualities are discouraged. Without development of human qualities in children education is meaningless. So, the spiritual thoughts of Dr. Radhakrishnan are helpful in this respect in current era.
8. Dr. Radhakrishnan laid emphasis on the development of vocational efficiency in the students. He suggested for introduction of agriculture as a subject in rural schools, opening of agriculture colleges and Rural Universities in the rural areas. The present education system is not able to develop new enterprises and employment for the youth. In this context, his thought on vocational education is quite relevant and useful in this area.
9. The methods of teaching like Observation, Experiments, Discussion, Learning by Meditation, Text book method, Seminar, Tutorial system, The relationship of nature and society, real and living examples, Imitation method, Yoga and Meditation, Answer method Intuition, closer the society and nature etc. all are important in 21st Century.

References -

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2. Anand, V. (2011). Dr Radhakrishnan's Contribution to Contemporary Thought, Mainstream, VOL L, no 1, December 24, Retrieved on 06 February 2015, from: <http://www.mainstreamweekly.net/article3206.html>

