

Philosophy and Education

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Abstract—This paper discusses about Philosophy and Education. Both are contemporary topics. It also defines the importance of Philosophy and Education. It also shows the connection between Philosophy and Education. A lot of work has been done on Philosophy and Education, but here I discuss the viewpoint of Rabindranath Tagore and Swami Vivekananda on Philosophy and Education.

1. INTRODUCTION

The word 'Education' has a very wide meaning. It looks like a diamond which appears to be significant colour when seen from a different perspective. Education is implied as drawing out and leading out something from within the individual by the method of bringing up, nourishing, raising and training him. There are many views of great Indian thinkers on Education which are as follows:

- a. According to Rabindranath Tagore (1861- 1941), Education is a device to enable the mind, so that mind can find out the ultimate truth.
- b. According to Swami Vivekananda (1863- 1902), Education is regarded as manifestation of the perfection that lies already in man.
- c. According to M.K. Gandhi (1869-1948), Education is regarded as all- round drawing out of the best that lies in the child and man- body, mind and spirit.

There are many views of great Western thinkers on Education which are as follows:

- a. According to Plato (427- 347B.C), Education develops the body and the soul of all the perfections which they are capable of.
- b. According to Immanuel Kant (1724- 1804), Education is regarded as man- making education.
- c. According to John Dewey (1859-1952), Education increases social efficiency.

There are some features of the nature of education which are as follows:

- a. Education is applied as Purposive, because a definite purpose is witness which underlies all educational activities.
- b. Education is applied as Deliberate, because it involves care and guidance.
- c. Education is applied as Planned, because it is systematic.
- d. Education is applied Psychological as well as Social, because it develops the capacities, needs, interest of the child in a peaceful social setting.

The term 'Philosophy' has a Greek origination. 'Philosophia' is a Greek word that consists of two words, i.e. 'Phileo' meaning Love and 'Sophia' meaning Wisdom. That is why Philosophy is regarded as "Love of Wisdom". Philosophy task is to inquire into the nature of life, reality, truth and values. It tries to understand man relationship with the universe. Philosophy is deep rooted in the search for answers to certain types of problems which a man always faces in his daily life. It also provides tentative answers to these problems so that the life of a man becomes smooth, meaningful and intelligible.

2. THE CONNECTION BETWEEN EDUCATION AND PHILOSOPHY

Education and Philosophy are regarded as two sides of the same coin of life. Philosophy points out the way whereas Education follows that way. Education is regarded as the means for the propagation of Philosophy. For the good of society and the individual life, we need direction and this direction is provided solely by Philosophy only that is why Philosophy is regarded as the mother of all sciences including Education. The field of Education test the truth of wisdom which is given by philosophy. That is why it is said that without Philosophy, Education would be a blind effort and without education, philosophy would be crippled. Education is defined as the modification of behaviour and the direction in which the modification is to be carried out is determined by Philosophy only. So, Education deals with the means and Philosophy deals with the end.

It has been said that the great philosophers of all times have been regarded as great educators. Most of the educational movements were regarded as the expressions of their philosophical thoughts and beliefs. This is fully illustrated in the case of Swami Vivekananda and Gurudev Tagore. All philosophers promote their philosophy through the way of education. It is said that philosophy depends on education on the basis of these reasons which are as follows:

1. Education keeps philosophy alive by the way of transmitting philosophy from one generation to another. Teachers promote philosophy through their examples, textbooks and media.
2. Education is regarded as the testing ground of philosophical theory and ideas. It is also served as the laboratory for philosophy.
3. Philosophy determines the aims of life and education translates these into practical life.

But some scholar's views show that education depends upon philosophy which is as follows:

- a. Dewey: "Philosophy is the theory of education in its most general phase".¹
- b. Ross: "All educational questions are ultimately the questions of philosophy".²

The philosophy of education is an attempt to discover what education is and how it takes place. It is the business of the philosophy of education to tell what education should be. At the present time, the greatest need of and for a philosophy of education is required because its and social and that social aim will lead to the value of the practices that exists in schools. The aim of education refers to the development of the individuals. Now we will discuss the views of Vivekananda and Tagore.

3. SWAMI VIVEKANANDA ON PHILOSOPHY AND EDUCATION

Vivekananda was born in Calcutta in 1863. He was an earnest student of philosophy. He was a believer of Universal Religion and Practical Vedanta. By Universal Religion he means no religion is inferior to any other religion. By Practical Vedanta he means that everyone is non dual and same. He also focuses on his philosophy and education because for him education plays a unique and important role. His philosophy and education indicates many points which are as follows:

- a. Knowledge always resides within the individuals - he says that perfection is inherent in man already and education is regarded as the manifestation of the same. Everyone is in the process of perfection and that is

why education is regarded as a means to follow that end.

- b. The child learns through self-education- each and every one must teach oneself first. He says that child develops his own nature, perception and thought. The duty of the teacher is to arrange the necessary atmosphere that will affects child growing.
- c. Education must be given according to tendencies of the child- the needs of the children must be kept in the mind of the teacher. He said that every child must be regarded as God and our duties are to only serve God.
- d. The essence of education lies in concentration- he regards concentration as the only method to attain knowledge. He says that concentration of mind defines the essence and facts of education.
- e. Qualities for the teachers- for him, the personal life and character of the teacher were very important. Teacher must be pure in mind and heart, a very good high character. He says in the THE BESAN SPIRIT, Volume.II, p-49 that "The only true teacher is he/she who can immediately come down to the level of the student and transfer his/her soul to the student's soul and see through the student's eyes and understand through his/her mind. Such a teacher can really teach and none else.
- f. Education should not focus book learning only- according to Vivekananda, "The training through which the current and expression of will are brought control is called education". Book learning is no education.

4. RABINDRANATH TAGORE ON PHILOSOPHY AND EDUCATION

Tagore was born in Calcutta on 7th May, 1861. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1913, for his book Gitanjali. Tagore is a philosopher, Novelist and educator as well. Tagore philosophy and education was influence by the factors which are as follows:

1. Influence of the Home Environment.
2. Influence of the School Environment.
3. Love for Nature.
4. His Extensive Visits.

His educational philosophy also includes Naturalism, Humanism, Internationalism and Idealism. Through Naturalism, he wants to tell us that the child's life that should

be surrounded with things of nature and he or she must be kept away from the so- called modern civilization. Through Humanism, he means to tell us that all are one, unity is important, no difference should occur during imparting education. He constructed Shantiniketan, through which he spread love and unity of humankind, to his students. Through Internationalism, he means to indicate world unity. He constructed Visva- Bharati, through which East and West students will have a close contact. Harmony was very important for him.

According to Tagore, in Tagore's Thought of Education (Visva- Bharati Quarterly Vol. Xii, Part I- 1946), "Education is nothing but the highest purpose of man which develops the fullest growth and freedom of soul. Education must have freedom of mind, vision, morality and reality and the knowledge of knowing itself".

5. CONCLUSION

My aim in this paper is to tell the importance of Philosophy and education. The connection between philosophy and education plays an important role in our contemporary society. I also focus on Tagore's and Vivekananda's views on philosophy and education.

REFERENCES

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