

## **Activated Thoughts in Educational Experiments by Pandurang Athvale**

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Pandurang Athvale (affectionally known as Revered Dadaji) was born on 19th October 1920 and at October 25, 2003. He had attended World Religious Congress at Shimizu city in Japan in October 1954. After the results of II world war, He had given applied thoughts keeping in mind unto the last man. His whole life was for human being, the Swadhyaya Stream and devotion towards God. He honoured by Roman Magsaysay Award in 1996 for community leadership, John Templeton prize, for progress in religion (1997) and many other prizes and awards are given to him for his activated thoughts.

### **II. EXPERIMENTS ON EDUCATION**

Pandurang Athvale has activated his educational thoughts in his educational institutes. They are factual demonstration of his educational philosophy. He has established ancient Tapovan in modern relevance. It is the short description of these educational institutes.

#### **CHARACTERISTICS OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES**

- The students' study with the aim of study is for the sake of life and to develop reverential attitude.
- These institutes are running without interference of government.
- There is no bell for changing the periods in any institute. The students and the teachers are self-disciplinary.
- The students are developed from self centered to god centered.
- The teachers teach here without fees and only with devotional attitude.
- The students who are different from their language, state, degree, status and cast etc, are learn by life long intimacy.
- All the activities of these institutes are done by the students and teachers do not interfere for management of the institutes. They are only observers.
- The students know importance of life, cultivation with the activities like, bath with cool water, washing the clothes, Shrambhakti (devotional labour), making cookies.
- The students crave to admission even a chance to join job.
- These institutes give priority to values by the process of education
- The teaching-learning process creates curiosity and student learn all things with love and without futuristic fear of life. So the student gets deep imprints within the atmosphere of the institutes.
- The students learn to solve futuristic life problems and how to convert difficulties of life into favorable situations.
- There are no holidays but Anadhyay (alterative learning) are given on holidays in each institutions.
- The students learn habit of reading, contemplation and remembering of the God among the busy scadule of life.
- Life long individual relationship between the student and the teacher are insisted by Pandurang Athvale, which is seen in all institutes
- The students learn about creativity, thinking, awareness of duty and self confidence.
- The students learn about how to live with other, adjust with other and to live together.
- These institutes also teach for a year the lessons of life to the people of different areas.

**TATVAGYAN VIDHYAPITH:** Tatvagyan Vidyapith is established by Pandurang Athvale in March, 1956, after attending second world religious congress in Japan in 1954. It runs without charges and donation from students and without manipulation of government. There are two types of courses, namely 'Aryavrit' (after graduation) and 'Vinit' (after completing 7<sup>th</sup> standard). These are without certificate courses. Tatvagyan Vidyapith is the principal institute for governing educational system and educational elements of Swadhyay Stream. The student here learns about Indian culture, history of the world, comparative study of eastern and western philosophy, Indian schools of philosophy, Brahmasutra, introduction of the Vedas, the Ramayana, the

Mahabharata, the Shrimadbhagvadgeeta Gita, world religions and their philosophy, English language and literature. They learn all the things by Tapovan system with introduction of Swadhyay Stream.

### **III. JIVANPRAGYA VIDYALAYAS**

Jivanpragya Vidyalayas is new experiment in present educational field. It is a combinational form of modern and ancient education system. Here students learn about farming in practical way. Pandurang Athvale has thought that the farmer has to work for four or six months in a year. For the remaining period of the year, he wastes his time in leisure. Keeping this point in view, Pandurang Athvale has started 'Sanket' in this institutes which gives training of home made products, so that they are kept busy for the whole year and also have an additional source of income. According to Pandurang Athvale; the aim of education is basically character-building. The intellectual content of education is important but it should not be confined to mere passing the examinations. Besides intellectual training Jivanpragya Vidyalayas develop high moral character amongst students. The students of the Jivanpragya Vidyalayas learn about languages with its literature, Mathematics, Economics, Grammar, Agronomy, General Knowledge, Science, Indian culture, history, characters of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, Sanskrit literature the Srimad Bhagavad-Gita and the knowledge of Swadhyay. The institutes are governed and run by retired and experienced people. It is one of the main characteristics of it. Thus, educational philosophy of Pandurang Athvale is enlived in these institutes. The following is short information about Jivanpragya Vidyalayas. (1) Ishvarbhavna is located in Vandhay village at the Kutch district in Gujarat. (2) Bhavsaurabh is located at Nasik district in Maharashtra. Here the students learn for four years. (3) Bhavnirjar is an institute for higher education. It is located in Ahmedabad city in Gujarat. Here students of the above described institutes are study together, without affected by regionalism, communalism and all kinds of factionalism rampant in India. (4) Yantrajigyasa is located at 'Mota Ashrana' village in Bhavnagar district of Gujarat. It is an institute for the demonstration of technical education, which gives an education of bread and life simultaneously. Here all the students of India can take training of technical education in ancient Tapovan system.

### **IV. VIDYAPREMVARDHAN EXAMINATION**

Vidyapremvardhan examination is a demonstration of Pandurang Athvale's thoughts about examination. It started in 1967. It is taken with six standards namely as, Jigyasa, Gyata, Vichkshan, Praveshak, Anuguata, Parangat. It is arranged through a large number of centers all over India and abroad. The papers are written in local languages of examinees. It is also unique that sometimes members of the same family, Father and son, grandfather, daughter in law and mother in law, husband and wife and grand children prepare for the same examination and they study together. There are no any worldly gains like increments/promotions after passing this examination, but people willingly prepare themselves. It is held only out of love of Indian culture and the Swadhyay Stream. The main and the unique characteristics is that this examination is held without, supervisors and all procedure is going on through self-less service like paper checking, making results and also declaration of results. The whole procedure is done with the devotional attitude.

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