

Contribution of A.P.J Abdul Kalam to the theory and practice of Education

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Abstract

We aim to study the educational philosophy of a great scientist Dr. Abdul Kalam. Dr. Abdul Kalam believed that in order to get synced with the world and bring progress and development, we need to have an utter knack of the digital technology. His profound vision regarding the implementation and applicability of practical education has far reaching consequences and are relevant in the current times. He firmly believed that education can be used as a vital tool for the economical and technological upliftment of any nation.

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I. Introduction

Dr. Abdul Kalam has contributed a lot to different aspects of education including the aims of education, curriculum, teaching methodology, role of teachers, parents, schools and so on. Dr. Abdul kalam has put forth his views regarding various issues like women education, moral education, value based education. He has given various educational ideas to improve the standards of education in India through various speeches, lectures and writings.

Need and Importance

Dr. Abdul Kalam was one of the most celebrated and loved presidents of India. He was widely hailed as the missile man of India. Despite being involved in the missile programmes of India another important facet of his personality was his contribution to the field of education which did not the recognition it deserved. This piece of work aims to uncover his contribution in the field of education viz a viz aims of education, curriculum reforms, student centric teaching, concept of schooling, value education, and spiritual education.

Objective of the Study

To know the contribution of Dr. AbdulKalam in the field of Education.

Method and Procedure

Historical and philosophical methods of research have been used in this study. Data was collected from the primary and the secondary sources.

Primary Sources: The primary sources in this study include the writings, and correspondences of Dr. Abdul Kalam autobiographies, original drafts of speeches, articles etc.

Secondary Sources: The secondary sources in this study include the journals, books, newspapers, magazines, editorials, and research reports on Dr. Abdul Kalam.

Aims of Education

The following aims of education can be summed up after going through the content available about Dr. Abdul Kalam.

1. To build character and to cultivate great human values in the students.
2. To develop scientific attitude and creativity.
3. To ensure creation of enlightened citizens.
4. To develop the research attitude in the students.
5. To develop moral leadership.
6. To develop spiritual values in the learners.
7. To develop love for art and literature.
8. Development of democratic attitude among the learners.
9. Development of love for fellow beings.
10. Development of the habit of asking questions.

Curriculum

Some of the educational thoughts and ideas for curriculum designing stated by Dr. Abdul Kalam are:

1. Educational institutions have to gear up to evolve a curriculum that is sensitive to social and technological needs of developing India. Student's activities toward developmental mission should be seamlessly integrated with the existing curriculum so that the future members of the knowledge society are fully developed in all aspects of societal transformation.
2. Creativity in education system can be promoted by reducing the theoretical burden at primary level, and progressively increasing it at secondary and higher level.
3. At primary stage education must nurture the child's curiosity about the environment and integrate the thinking process with the skills of hand, limb and body.

Teaching methods:

Dr. Abdul Kalam believed that teaching method plays a significant role in the process of education. He advised that at primary level emphasis should be on exploration and creativity through activities. At secondary level emphasis should be on experiments, problem solving and team work. He favoured learning by doing and self- observation and believed that self-observation outside the classrooms is equally important for the overall development of the students.

According to him, question answer method, debating, discussion method, lecture cum demonstration, laboratory methods of teaching should be put to use. He was of the view that a practical approach should be used by the teacher's by giving the live illustrations to make the lectures more interesting.

Medium of Instruction

He emphasized that language should be a barrier for the growth and development of the learners. He advised that mother tongue should be used as medium of instruction at school and college level. But at the same time he promoted English as an essential global link language.

Teacher

He believed that teachers have tremendous responsibility in shaping the child. He visualised that role of teacher role of teacher is like a ladder which is used by everyone to climb up in life. He believed that aim of the teacher should be to build character and inculcate values that enhance the learning capacity of children, build confidence to be innovate and creative which in turn will make them ready to face the future. He advised the teachers to teach the students the process of learning and enable them to become life- long autonomous learners. According to him the delivery of quality education is possible only through quality teachers. He believed that success of students is the testimony of the great service of the teachers.

Teacher Student Relation

Dr. Abdul Kalam believed in a healthy teacher student relationship; in which teacher gives full freedom to students to explore, create and innovate. He believed that teacher and student both should maintain their dignity by self- control and there should not be any need for external forces to control the behaviours of both. Thus according to Dr. Abdul Kalam, teacher student relationship should be based on mutual understanding by holding their positions firmly.

Role of schools

Dr. Abdul Kalam in his educational philosophy has given due importance to schools. He was of the view that schools must be more from being educational centres to becoming knowledge and skill centres. Some of the characteristics of a good school as per Dr. Abdul Kalam are:

1. A school is great if creativity bubbles there.
2. A school is great when it creates true learning environment by providing all facilities to the students.
3. A school is great when it creates and generate students with confidence that "I can do it" and that in turn generates the spirit that "we can do it".
4. A school is great when it has teachers who are chartered and become role models for the students.
5. A school is great if the alumni of that school are proud be alumni of that school.

Discipline

As per Dr. Abdul Kalam, true discipline comes from self-control. It is the responsibility of the parents as well as teachers to develop discipline from very beginning by presenting their own disciplined character before the children and becoming the role models for them. He himself lived a great disciplined life so he always gave due importance to a well-disciplined life.

Value education

Dr. Abdul Kalam believed that education without values is meaningless. Only value based education can produce civilised countrymen.as per him value education is the basic need of a democratic nation. He gave importance to individuality but he believed that nation is bigger than individual. He further believed that a nation can prosper only when the citizens are well mannered and chartered.

II. Conclusion

Dr. AbdulKalam, popularly known as Missile man for India for his profound and great contributions to science and technology. His insights and conception about education and its applicability and implementation has great consequences. His ideas about education has domain not constrained to teachers only but extends to various other professions. His main focus was education and Information Technology (IT). For any nation to bloom, these two sectors play a vital role. He emphasized a lot on youth to carry forward the technological advancements and imbibe the new skills so that his pursuit of seeing India leading the world is fulfilled.

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