



Implications and Impact of Sri Aurobindo's Educational Philosophy in Indian Education System

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Abstract

Sri Aurobindo was an eastern educationalist Indian thinker and an ideal philosopher. He innovated integral education and comparative educational philosophy. He also propagated holistic development. It encloses physical development, emotional development, mental development and spiritual aspects. It is difficult to summarize Aurobindo's educational philosophy. I would like to discuss in this research article about implications and impact of Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy in this Context of Indian education system. The investigator has used qualitative research methodology to inquire secondary Sources such as online journals documents, Newspapers, and internet sources. This research article explores and investigates Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy regarding NEP 2020 themes. According to Sri Aurobindo, education should be along with the need of our modern life. This research article emphasizes on aim of education, curriculum, School, innovative teaching methods, role of teacher, role of students and discipline in the context of Indian education system.

Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy and principles of teaching are very much significance if institutions, stuffs, educators and stakeholders properly apply in Indian education system. Everywhere we see that there is a gap of practical understanding and application of theoretical knowledge in real-world contexts. It is a contemporary problem. We should concern for to find the solution of this problem. Otherwise, we won't get good teachers and ideal citizens for present and future generations. All of us have to be conscious about this present problem.

Keywords: *Educationalist, Integral Education, Context, Educational Philosophy, Discipline*

Introduction

Sri Aurobindo was an educationalist, nationalist, philosopher and a poet. He was an influential leader of India. He propounded a philosophy of divine life on earth through spiritual evolution. His educational philosophy was based on several principles, including holistic development, spiritual evolution, individuality, harmony with nature, social responsibility, integration of knowledge. His philosophy becomes gradually relevant in the field of education. His integral education encloses physical, psychic, mental, vital and spiritual aspects. He recommends for holistic approach. It brings up academic excellence, moral integrity and emotional well-being. It fosters the comprehensive growth of an individual. It also moves beyond mere intellectual accumulation, focusing on self-discovery, character, creativity and evolution of consciousness. This article explores Aurobindo's philosophy. How it helps to accept the challenges and opportunities of ultramodern education. His key principles and their applications in the present educational context aim to explain the relevance and implications of the philosophy of Aurobindo in spiritual evolution, individuality, innovation, integration of knowledge, holistic development and ethical leaders for present time.

Objectives of the Study

1. To go through Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy.
2. To investigate the relevance of Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy for holistic development.

Method of the study

Sri Aurobindo Ghosh was an Ideal philosopher. He has wanted to transform his idea in Indian education System, as a role model. The present study is with regard to the educational philosophy of Sri Aurobindo. Thematic analysis was used to know about the educational philosophy of Sri Aurobindo Ghosh. For this inquiry, the investigator has used a qualitative research methodology. The researcher examines secondary sources such as books, online journals and online documents.

Findings

Sri Aurobindo Ghosh was a nationalist, educationalist and an ideal philosopher. His educational philosophy was based on integral education which is called holistic development. Educational philosophy is a transformative process.

Philosophy of Sri Aurobindo

Sri Aurobindo was an eminent idealistic philosopher. His theory is best outfit in the present situation. Aurobindo's educational philosophy is based on several principles. They are holistic development, spiritual evolution, individuality, harmony with nature, social responsibility and integration of knowledge. He wants the evolution of the individual, nation and humanity through education. He wants holistic development of individuals. Holistic development means development of physical, emotional, mental, higher consciousness and spiritual aspects. According to Sri Aurobindo, education facilitates spiritual evolution and self-discovery. He emphasizes tailoring education. It suits the needs, interests and abilities of individuals. Aurobindo's vision of education acts as a transformative process. It awakens the highest potential and purpose of individuals.

The main elements of his educational philosophy are-

1. Integral Education:

Integral education means all-round development of the individual. These are the development of physical, physiological, psychic, mental and spiritual aspects of human beings. Integral education transforms a man into a superman. It can solve various problems of human life.

2. Self-Realization and Self-discovery: According to Aurobindo, education helps to realize inner potential. It also helps to discover the true self. Self-realization involves realizing the essential, unchanging nature (Atman or soul). It is a state of being free from the limitations of the ego. Self-discovery focuses to uncover the desires, fears and passions of an individual.

3. Spiritual Evolution:

Education should support the spiritual evolution of humanity. According to him, life is an ongoing process of spiritual growth. Education can accelerate this process.

4. Unity of Knowledge

Aurobindo emphasizes the interconnectedness of all the fields of knowledge. True education integrates various disciplines. It reflects the unity of life and the universe. It is a unique project. It aims to improve universal culture and education. It has been supported by the Government of India (Sabar & Ratha, 2023).

5. Culture and Ethical Values

Sri Aurobindo made a very significant contribution to the foundation of Indian culture. It brings up empathy, integrity, compassion, social responsibility, a sense of responsibility and respect for others. Both NEP 2020 and NCF 2023 emphasize to promote ethical values, character-building and citizenship.

Culture is explained in terms of three tasks which are given below.

1. To recover ancient spiritual knowledge (Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas and Gita)
2. To pour that knowledge into new modes of philosophical, scientific and critical knowledge.
3. To deal with contemporary problems in a new manner and realize a spiritual society (Auroville society).

Concept of Education

Sri Aurobindo was an evolutionary leader in the field of education. His educational concept is based on the holistic development of the individual. This approach helps to connect with nature, to foster evolutionary consciousness, to encourage inner growth and self-discovery. Students are encouraged to develop self-awareness, self-mastery and self-management for their future and future generations. According to Sri Aurobindo, truth, love, compassion and integrity are most important for harmony in social life. The spiritual dimension cultivates spiritual qualities and virtues. Education should bring up different types of human qualities such as creativity, innovation and independent thinking. Students should always be cheered up to participate in their own learning process for effective learning.

Implications of Aurobindo's Philosophy in the Present Situation

Aim of Education

Education should have an aim. Aurobindo was an eminent idealist educationist. Sri Aurobindo writes, "Education to be true must not be a machine-made fabric but a true building or living evocation of the power of mind and spirit of human being." According to him, education is a process. It helps to grow intellectual development, aesthetic development, emotional development, moral development, communal life development and spiritual development.

According to Sri Aurobindo, education should have the following aims:

- i) Development of the latent potentialities of the child.
- ii) To train all the senses for to gateway of knowledge.
- iii) Control of the mind.
- iv) Realization of the self for education.
- v) To bear education in mind.
- vi) Techniques of self-management.
- vii) Successful management of outer life.
- viii) To become strong in organizational development.
- ix) Decision-making.
- x) Management of money and materials.

This Eastern spiritual thinker emphasizes to holistic development of an individual through these aims. He always wants to bring a learner from stereotyped-knowledge to a modern education system.

Curriculum

Sri Aurobindo was a modern prominent nationalist educationist. He has given instructions for curriculum for different types of institutions and learners. It serves as a road map. It should encompass diverse areas of knowledge and experience. It should be flexible and adaptive. curriculum should promote balanced development across physical, emotional, mental and spiritual dimensions. Curriculum should include relevant subjects to the society. The relevant subjects are English, history, arithmetic, mother tongue, language, literature, social science, general science, various vocational subjects and various foreign languages.

He has also given the instructions to follow the principles for curriculum

- i) It should be made interesting for the learners.
- ii) It should include variety of subjects and activities.
- iii) It must have a scope to motivate the learner to learn.

- iv) It must promote creative potentialities.
- v) It must ensure up-to-date knowledge.
- vi) It should take the learner from the present to the future and from the near to the far.

School

He was a nationalist political leader of India. He retired from his political life and came to Pondicherry in 1910. He meditated in Pondicherry. Seekers and followers of Aurobindo increased day by day. The Aurobindo Ashram was established in Pondicherry in 1926. From 1940 he advised the followers to keep children in the ashram. He observed the needs of the children and established the Ashram School in 1943. The school environment should be helpful for holistic development. It brings up a sense of community, respect and mutual support. School is a center of integral education where learners explore their potentials. There are multiple opportunities for physical exercise and artistic expression in the school. There can be created a balanced and harmonious learning environment. There should be inclusive and accessible to all students regardless of their background and abilities. There should be equal opportunities for learning and growth in the school. Learners can get holistic learning environment in the school. It is an expression of faith in the future of man. According to Aurobindo, school is an ideal place where learners can develop their potentials and democratic values for their future life.

Innovative Teaching Methods

According to Aurobindo, a student cannot be taught anything that was already contained in him. Students should always have the freedom for to learn. Teachers should create a favourable context for learners. The desires and interests of learners are very important for learning.

The Following teaching methods should be followed:

1. Self-learning should be cheered up.
2. Learning by doing should be followed.
3. The teacher has to follow 3 A's, i.e., age, ability and aptitude of the learners.
4. Project-based learning should be encouraged.
5. Innovative teaching methods should be followed by teachers. (Debbarma, 2017)
6. Critical thinking and self-discovery should be followed in teaching methods.
7. Observation method should be followed.
8. Activity method should be encouraged.
9. Discussion method should be followed.
10. Teaching with love and sympathy should be followed by the teacher.
11. Learning by self-experience should be encouraged.
12. Teaching-learning through the mother tongue should be followed.
13. Technology and multimedia resources should be followed by the teacher.
14. Cooperative learning during the teaching-learning process should be followed.

Role of Teacher

Learner is the center of the teaching-learning process. Every learner has his own inherent interests and abilities. The teacher has to know the age group, interests and abilities of his learners before teaching. Teacher should be mentor, friend, philosopher, and guide. He should be a facilitator in the teaching-learning process.

“The teacher is not an instructor or task-master; he is a helper and guider. His duty is to suggest and not to impose. He does not actually train the pupil's mind; he only shows him how to perfect the instruments of knowledge to him.”

Maharishi Sri Aurobindo has given instructions of the principles of true teaching. These principles should be followed by the teacher on going teaching-learning process.

Principles of True Teaching

1. The first principle of true teaching is that nothing can be taught.
2. The second principle is that mind has to be consulted in its own growth.
3. The third principle of education is to work from the near to the far, from that which is to that which shall be.
4. Medium of instruction should be the mother tongue.
5. Emphasis on sense training

Role of student

Learner is the main center of the teaching- learning process. The learner should engage as a active participant and collaborator during the teaching-learning process. The student is self- directed learner, critical thinker, problem solver and evaluator in the modern education system.

Discipline

Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy brings up inner discipline. It is a natural process of personal growth. He was against inflexible discipline. The teacher should provide favourable environment for the learners to develop self-discipline through self-reflection, mindfulness, and ethical conduct. Discipline addresses emotional, behavioral, mental, and spiritual issues. It is called holistic development. Aurobindo propagated the concept of self-discipline. This concept is very relevant for modern education systems and future generations.

Relevance of Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy for holistic Development in the context of Indian education system.

- 1) Holistic development:** Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy depends on holistic development. Holistic development is all- round development of individual. The research article highlights a five -fold system such as Physical, psychic, mental, vital and spirituals aspect. sports and activities are related to physical education. Emotional intelligence, self-awareness and positive relationship are related to emotional education. Analytical reasoning, inventiveness and problem solving abilities are related to mental education. The growth of individual is related to psychic and spiritual education. Both NEP-2020 and NCF-2023 have included Aurobindo's educational philosophy in education-system for development of holistic development, flexibility, Student-centered pedagogy and ethical values.
- 2) Integration of Tradition:** Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy emphasizes from ancient Indian wisdom to modern educational practice. This educational concept of Aurobindo enhances educational practice in the present context.
- 3) Flexibility:** Aurobindo's educational philosophy addresses flexibility in education. It should be followed in curriculum design, teaching learning process and assessment methods. Both NEP-2020 and NCF-2023 support Aurobindo's educational philosophy which is applied in different type of educational levels.
- 4) Innovation in Education:** Aurobindo's educational philosophy introduces innovation in education. Innovation in education is the process of introducing new methods, tools or techniques. Project- based learning, educational technology and hybrid models are new innovation in modern education system. It improves Learning outcomes and enhances management. This educational philosophy is relevant in the present context.
- 5) Learner-centered pedagogy:** Aurobindo's educational philosophy introduces learner-centered Learning. It increases effectiveness and relevance of contemporary education practices. Learners get more opportunities to engage in learner-cantered learning. Learners can develop their ideas and democratic values through learner-

centered learning. Learner centric concept is supported by NEP-2020 and NCF 2023. Learner centered pedagogy which should be very relevant in the present time.

- 6) **Interdisciplinary learnin:** Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy innovates interdisciplinary learning for education. His educational philosophy exceeds stereotyped subject -knowledge boundaries. It is rapidly important day by day in the field of education. This concept helps the learners to explore complex real-world problems and promotes critical thinking, synthesis of information and holistic understanding.
- 7) **Teacher Training:** Aurobindo's educational philosophy emphasizes for teacher Training which can enhance learning quality in the teaching-learning process. This concept helps educators to realize present need of the learners that is very relevant in the real-world context.
- 8) **Value-based Education:** Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy innovates value -based education. Value-based education brings up human qualities such as empathy, respect, ethical behaviour and integrity. This concept Promotes social responsibility and character building. This concept is included by NEP-2020 and NCF-2023 in Indian education System. Active participations of the institutions, stuffs and stakeholders can enhance value-based education. Fully participation of the learners are very important in teaching- learning process for development of values. This concept helps the learners to be good citizens.
- 9) **Assessment methods:** According to Sri Aurobindo, assessment of educational methods are rooted in integral education which prioritize the holistic growth of individual. Comprehensive assessment methods evaluate Student's ability and growth areas. It helps the teachers to know the learners. It is very relevant in the real-word context.
- 10) **Resource:** Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy emphasizes all- round development of individual which is called holistic development. Holistic development demands multiple resources. The resources which are time, training, trained teacher, quality teaching, Skills, Knowledge which are very challenging matters in Indian education system in real world context.

Conclusion

In this context, Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy has given the greater emphasis on holistic development which promotes integral education and Character building worldwide. Integral education has five aspects which are Spiritual, mental, psychic, physical and vital. This approach prepares learners to lead happy purposeful lives. This philosophical concept is very useful to uplift the learners from stereotyped knowledge to holistic development. Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy and principles of teaching are extreme important if institutions, stuffs, educators and stake holders properly apply in education system. Everywhere we see that there is a gap of practical understanding and application of theoretical knowledge in real-world contexts. It is a contemporary problem. we should concern for to find the solution of this problem. If Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy is properly used as a role model in education system, it can motivate and shed light on the way of learners and for future generations. As a result, we shall get good national citizens for future.

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