



MAHATMA GANDHI

By

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Life Sketch

- Born on 2nd October, 1869 at Porbandar in Kathiawar of Gujarat.
- After matriculation, in 1887, he went to England for studying law.
- In 1893, he went to South Africa in connection with a civil law case of an Indian company and stayed there for about twenty years
- In 1914 returned to India and took part in India's freedom struggle.

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- Finally in 1947, India became independent.
- Launched three important movements during his leadership— Civil Disobedience Movement (1930), Non Co-operation Movement (1920) and Quit India Movement (1942).
- Dead on 30th January, 1948.

Literary works

- Hind Swaraj, published in Gujarati in 1909
- Edited several newspapers which included Harijan (1937) in Gujarati, in Hindi and the English language; Indian Opinion, Young India (1919-31), in English, and Navajivan, a Gujarati monthly
- Wrote his autobiography, The Story of My Experiments with Truth.
- Other autobiographies included: Satyagraha in South Africa, Hind Swaraj or Indian Home Rule

Philosophy of Life

- ***His belief in God:*** He believed in God implicitly. God is the all pervasive reality. He says, “To me God is Truth and Love. God is Ethics and Morality. God is the source of light and life”.
- ***Truth:*** To Gandhiji, truth is the supreme principle. The realization of truth is the only way to realize god. According to Gandhiji, god is truth and truth is god.
- ***Non-violence (Ahimsa):*** It is the second main tenet of his philosophy of life. Ahimsa is the only means to realize truth and God. To him truth and Ahimsa are the two sides of the same coin.

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- ***Brotherhood of man:*** His motto was to establish a universal community of free persons without racial discrimination and artificial barriers of caste and creed. He tried to establish **Ram Rajya** which he identified with justice, peace, happiness and welfare of all.
- ***Satyagraha:*** Satyagraha is the practical application of non-violence. It is a method of securing a right by personal suffering. It is to achieve change of heart by self-suffering of the adherence to truth and nonviolence.
- ***Service into humanity:*** It is the core of his philosophy. His greatest creed was service of God through service of humanity.

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- ***Fearlessness:*** He emphasized the fact that without fearlessness, it is practically impossible to practice truth and ahimsa.
- ***Economic equality:*** He despises industrialization which makes the rich richer and the poor poorer. He is in favour of decentralization of capital, promotion and distribution of wealth and income among the masses, absence of competition and co-operation and encouragement of the native skill of the craftsman.

Educational Philosophy

- *Education is Development: He said, “By education I mean an all-round drawing out of the best in child and man-body, mind and spirit.”*
- *Education is not literacy: Literacy itself is no education. Literacy is just a means of education. He emphasized the development of head, heart and hand (3 H). According to Gandhiji “true education is that which draws out and stimulates the spiritual, intellectual and physical faculties of the children.*

Basic Education System

- In July 1937, Gandhiji wrote in the Harijan, “*Literacy itself is not education, I would, therefore, begin the child’s education by teaching it a useful handicraft and enabling it to produce from the moment it begins its training.*”
- Wardha Conference held on 22nd and 23rd October, 1937 under the chairmanship of Dr. Zakir Hussain.
- The report of the committee, published in March 1938, came to be known as the Wardha Scheme of Education.
- The Wardha Scheme of Education is also known as Nai Talim/Basic Education/Buniyadi Talim (Shiksha).

Resolutions taken

- *Free and compulsory education be provided for seven years on a nation-wide scale.*
- *The medium of instruction be mother-tongue.*
- *The process of education throughout this period should centre around some productive form of manual work, and that all other abilities, as far as possible, be integrally related to the central handicraft chosen with due regard to the environment of the child.*
- *That the conference expects that the system of education will be gradually able to cover the remuneration of the teachers.*

Views of Aims

AIMS OF EDUCATION

**IMMEDIATE AIMS OF
EDUCATION**

**ULTIMATE AIM OF
EDUCATION**

[Immediate Aims]

- ***The Utilitarian Aim:*** *Considering the basic needs of human* life, such as food, shelter, clothing etc., Gandhiji advocated self-supporting education.
- ***Cultural Aim:*** *Man* needs culture to refine his personality. Education should develop qualities of mind, which should be reflected through his behaviour.
- ***Moral aim:*** The end of all knowledge should be building up of character. Character building implies cultivation of moral values such as courage, strength of mind, righteousness, self restraint and service of humanity.

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- *Total development aim:* Gandhiji once wrote, “The real education is that which fully develops the body, mind and soul of children.” A proper and harmonious contribution of all the three is required for the making of the whole man.
- *Ultimate aim of education:* The ultimate aim of education is to realize God. All other aims are subservient to this supreme aim. It is the same aim of self-realization which constitutes the very essence of Indian Philosophy

Curriculum

- The basic education is designed for children between seven and fourteen years of age
- For the boys, general science and for girls, home science
- The subject in the curriculum includes in the following:
 1. **Basic craft** – Agriculture, Spinning, Weaving etc.
 2. Mother – tongue.
 3. **Mathematics** – useful for craft and community life.
 4. **Social studies** – social and economic life of the community, culture the community, history of craft etc.
 5. **General science** – nature study, zoology, physiology, hygiene, physical culture, anatomy etc.
 6. Drawing and music.

Methods of Teaching

Correlation

Learning by Doing

Learning by Living: Participation in community life and rendering self-less service

Lecture, Questioning and Discussion methods

Views on Teacher

- *A lover of truth and non-violence and he should possess a sound base of knowledge, skill, enthusiasm, patriotism, dedication, love for children and labour, respect for the dignity of individuals and special training in the basic education.*

Views on Discipline

- Critical of free discipline and strongly favoured **self discipline or inner discipline** through self-control.
- It emerges out of pure life, self-restraint, fearlessness, sacrifice, usefulness and practice of non-violent conduct.
- **Social discipline** through some productive works based upon co-operation, initiative, accuracy and individual responsibility.

Merits of Basic Education

- *Compulsory free education*
- *No wastage*
- *Ideal citizenship*
- *Close to life*
- *Productive and self sufficient education*
- *Activity based Curriculum*
- *Social Activities and Community*
- *Education through Correlation*
- *Self-Discipline*

Demerits of Basic Education

- *Concept of basic education is not clear*
- *Unsound psychological foundations: Lack of emphasis on mental development*
- *Undue emphasis on craft*
- *Not suited in an age of industrialization*
- *Lack of finance*
- *Lack of adequate supply of efficient, trained and sincere teacher*