

Indian Philosophers: Foundational Ideas in Education and How They Affect the Present-Day Educational System

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Abstract

Indian educationists, philosophers, and thinkers have an impact on the country's educational system. Their ideologies have a significant influence on the educational system in India. Prioritising religion over philosophy was the main focus of our educational system. Nowadays, education may be used to accomplish a wide range of objectives in all spheres of life. India has created its own unique educational values, and in order to properly develop the educational system, the country's great thinkers have outlined all of the key educational concerns, including character development, the humanistic approach, self-development, individuality, physical and moral development, the scientific approach, and, most importantly, the overall development of the child via education. Basic and common principles explored by well-known educators, philosophers, and thinkers are covered in this article. Indian educationists, philosophers, and thinkers have an impact on the country's educational system. Their ideologies have a significant influence on the educational system in India. Prioritising religion over philosophy was the main focus of our educational system. Nowadays, education may be used to accomplish a wide range of objectives in all spheres of life. India has created its own unique educational values, and in order to properly develop the educational system, the country's great thinkers have outlined all of the key educational concerns, including character development, the humanistic approach, self-development, individuality, physical and moral development, the scientific approach, and, most importantly, the overall development of the child via education. Basic and common principles explored by well-known educators, philosophers, and thinkers are covered in this article. It is crucial to talk about.

Keywords: Curriculum, Development, Education, Principles, Values, Morality

Introduction:

Any nation's ability to define its growth in the years to come can be determined by its level of education. In actuality, investing in education can yield returns that are significantly greater than the initial outlay of funds. A nation can reach its full potential if its population receive high-quality education as the main priority in terms of budgetary allocation. Raising the bar for a nation's social, economic, physical, mental, moral, and intellectual standards—as well as the general growth of its populace—can be accomplished through education. In order to deliver high-quality education, the curriculum should centre around a few fundamental ideas that also serve to define the requirements for the system's structure. The primary tenets upon which the educational ideas are based

Educational principles, influenced by Indian philosophers, are crucial for society's advancement. These principles guide Indian children's education and guide future generations. This article focuses on these fundamental ideas, emphasizing their importance in addressing the challenges faced by young children and ensuring they lead happy lives. Adherence to these principles is essential for a well-rounded education system.

Educational principles, including curriculum, pedagogy, and community involvement, impact the education system. Despite increased education, civilization faces threats. Education helps students become confident, motivated, and self-sustaining, preparing future generations for challenges and preparing them for success. According to Chanakya, “education means training for the country and love for the nation”. However, Mahatma Gandhi described education as an all-around drawing out of the best in a child and man, body, mind, and spirit. Education is based on certain principles, which can play a very important role in the teaching and learning process. These principles also include a number of factors as a base, like motivation, cognition, communication, and social interaction. Many educational thinkers like Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda, Rabinder Nath Tagore, Swami Dayanand Saraswati, and Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan have presented their ideas on the basic principles of education that laid the foundation of the Indian education system.

In today's competitive world, students are becoming more practical and intelligent, but society's degrading values hinder their development. The suicide rate has increased due to a lack of moral values, emotional intelligence, and sensitivity towards human values. To address this, it is crucial to impart education that develops human values, and the Indian Education System should follow basic principles.

Education should develop inner love for nature, honesty, truthfulness, humanity, etc. The aim of education should be to bring about perfection in all aspects of life. Tagore says, “We should know that the great task of our institution is to provide for the education of the mind and all the senses through various activities”. Education should also develop patriotism and a love for culture. Let us discuss various definitions given by the philosophers and thinkers of India. –

“By education, I mean all around drawing the best out of the child and man's body, mind, and spirit. Literacy is not the end of education or even the beginning”. M.K. Gandhi (July 31, 1937)

“Education means enabling the mind to find out that ultimate truth that emancipates us from the bondage of dust and gives us wealth not of things but of inner light, not of power but of love. It is a process of enlightenment. It is divine wealth. It helps in the realisation of truth”. - Rabindernath Tagore

According to Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, “education is the assimilation of values and ideas for character building and preparing to face life’s challenges”.

Indian great thinkers have identified key principles of education, including character building, humanistic approach, self-development, individuality, physical and moral development, and a scientific approach. These principles are crucial for the current education system, which primarily focuses on science and technology. These principles, based on moral, social, intellectual, and noble values, can guide national education policies.

Principles of Character Building:

The modern world focuses on financial success, but students often struggle with depression and wrong decisions. To help them succeed in all spheres of life, character development is crucial. Education is the main tool for character building, incorporating values like love, truth, genuineness, beauty, and goodness. Character building leads to righteousness and the path of righteousness. Education is an instrument for the betterment of humans by acquiring knowledge, and it is essential for individuals to develop character to distinguish right from wrong.

Principles of Morality

Immoral values like dishonesty, corruption, falsification, and crimes are increasing, making it crucial to impart moral values to future generations. Indian thinkers emphasize character building as the main principle of education, focusing on qualities like honesty, truth, integrity, judgement, and willpower. Moral development is essential for providing courage and the right path to students, as it forms a solid foundation for self-development. In ancient Indian education, teachers often inhibited high moral standards, influencing students' character. Quality qualities like hard work, service to humanity, good habits, and learning from mistakes are key to improving moral values, making moral development a basic principle of education.

Self Realisation

Indian education is deeply rooted in culture and religion, with self-realisation being a key goal. Indian thinkers and philosophers, including Rabinder Nath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, and Swami Vivekananda, emphasize the importance of self-realization as the ultimate goal of life. To achieve self-realization, it is crucial to receive both religious and moral education, and to increase inner strength, willpower, self-discipline, and wisdom.

National and international brotherhood

Education is crucial in fostering patriotism in students and promoting national and international brotherhood. Indian thinkers and philosophers emphasized the importance of understanding the history of their nation and promoting unity. They believed in love and respect for each other, despite cultural differences. Education can help citizens develop peace and harmony in their behavior and conduct, broadening their vision of life and philosophy. Therefore, education plays a vital role in fostering patriotism and understanding among students.

Vocational Skill

India, a developing country, faces poverty as a major hurdle. To address this, Indian thinkers like Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi supported vocational education. Vivekananda believed that scientific and technological education could help Indians grow like western countries. Gandhi introduced the concept of handmade products and education for earning a livelihood, helping students earn their livelihoods and continue their education. India urgently needs to provide vocational skills to its citizens.

Implications of these principles in the present system of education

- School education is crucial for building social and life skills, as children's intelligence and grades are not enough to lead a beautiful life. Morality and ethics are essential for character development. As crime rates increase and sensitivity decreases, schools must focus on promoting positive behavior and morality in students. The changing family system and increased isolation have led to a need for increased school responsibilities.
- India needs to introduce vocational education to provide children with working skills and opportunities to earn their livelihoods. This education, facilitated by trained teachers, can help the young generation face life challenges and raise the country's economic standard. It can make children independent, capable of earning, and contribute to the country's economic strength.
- Moral education is crucial in a society where values are declining due to competition, parental expectations, and media influence. As children transition from joint to nuclear families, moral education is essential to help them distinguish between right and wrong deeds. Schools now have a responsibility to teach moral ethics, as children are becoming less social and less exposed to moral education at home.
- The progress of a nation relies on its citizens' nationalistic feelings, which can be cultivated naturally in schools. As technology advances, it's crucial to develop respect for other nations and treat all humans as equal, requiring principles of nationalism and international brotherhood.
- India's diverse religions influence citizens, with children instilling God's concept from family. Self-realisation requires training, methods, and experience, focusing on habits

like self-discipline, self-control, honesty, truth, and tolerance. Education helps children develop these attributes, as the ultimate goal is self-realization and reaching life's goals. Religion has been a part of Indian education since ancient times.

- The modern world's emphasis on science, technology, and industrialization hinders students from recognizing moral values and establishing a balance between education and practical life. To maintain this balance, basic principles must be followed in the education system.

Conclusion

India is an ancient civilization that is very rich in its cultural heritage. In India, religious education was given from the ancient times, and religion still has a significant impact on our education system. Indian educationists, philosophers, and thinkers have an impact on the country's educational system. Our education system was basically religion-oriented earlier, and the concept of philosophy comes later. Education may now be used to accomplish a wide range of objectives in all spheres of life. India has created its own unique set of educational ideals and has established an effective educational system properly. Indian scholars and philosophers have given their opinions and suggestions from time to time, which formed the foundation of educational theories. Some basic principles were common and urgent for generations of all ages. Hence, primary principles are discussed in this article, and these principles are very important to making progress in our country. These principles should always be kept in mind for the betterment of our coming and present generations.

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