

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF SRI AUROBINDO GHOSE

- Dr. Vinita



About Aurobindo Ghose

- Born on August 15, 1872 at Calcutta
- His father Krishna dhun Ghose was the assistant surgeon of Rangapur, Bengal.
- Aurobindo was sent to Loretto convent school, Darjeeling.
- In 1879, at the age of 7, he was taken along with his two brothers to England for education and lived there for 14 years.
- He also cleared the Indian civil services examination during this time and returned to India in 1893.
- His career began when he entered the Baroda govt. Service. Later, he joined the Baroda college as a professor of English.

- It was during his imprisonment in Alipore jail that he dreamt of setting out on a divine spiritual mission and this became a turning point in his life.
- He moved to Pondicherry and embarked on his spiritual career.
- At Pondicherry, where he moved Aurobindo initially lived with 4 or 5 companions. Gradually their numbers increased and an Ashram was founded.
- He preached various aspects of philosophy such as brahmacharya, dharma and karma, spiritual growth and learning through philosophical and scientific means.
- His mission was to bring out the divine within every individual through integral yoga and turn that person into a divine being.
- In 1926, with the help of his spiritual collaborator , Mirra Alfassa (The mother) he founded the Aurobindo ashram.
- The rest of Aurobindo's life was spent in the ashram doing yoga and meditation for spiritual growth and development.
- He died on 5th Dec. 1950 at Pondicherry.

AUROBINDO'S CONCEPT OF EDUCATION

- **What does a true education really signify?** Sri Aurobindo said that there are three things that education must take into account : (1) the man, (2) the nation or people, and (3) universal humanity.
- He narrates the kind of education , we need in our country in the following words :-
“we need an education proper to the Indian soul temperaments, and culture that we are in quest of , not indeed something faithful merely to the past, but to the developing soul of India, to her future need, to the greatness of her coming- self creation, to her eternal spirit”.
- According to him there are 6 aims of education that are :-
 1. Physical development and holiness
 2. Training all senses – hearing , speaking , listening, touching, smelling and tasting.
 3. Achieving mental development of the child
 4. Development of morality
 5. Development of conscience
 6. Spiritual development

- His main motto was to synthesise western rationalism with Eastern metaphysics. His academic interest was interdisciplinary in scope; he incorporated the ideas of political science, education, sociology, psychology, and philosophy in his thoughts .
- He was deeply influenced by western thought , most significantly, Charles Darwin evolutionary theory and French intellectual Henri Bergson's philosophy of Cognitive evolution.
- Aurobindo emphasised that education should be imparted in accordance with the needs of modern life. He believed that education should create such citizenship who are dynamic and able to face any challenge in modern society .
- He emphasised that the main aim of education is to promote spiritual development. According to him every human being has a fragment of divine existence withing himself and education can scan it from each individual to its full extent.

CORE IDEAS OF AUROBINDO GHOSE ON EDUCATION:-

- Despite having western education Aurobindo Ghose was critical of the education of his times.**
- He was aware of the fact that the education system which was in existence had just turned to be a machine of knowledge and didn't touch upon the needs and spirits of citizens of modern times.**
- If education confines itself to accumulation of knowledge it can't be called 'real education'.**
- A balance must be struck between the various faculties of memory , imagination, perception and reason which are the edifices of thought and knowledge and the tools and materials used in education .**
- In his view , memory , judgements and creative powers are ever growing faculties that give a boost to education.**

PRINCIPLES OF TEACHING:-

• *Sri Aurobindo enumerated three principles of teaching .*

These are :-

1. The first principle of the true teaching is that nothing can be taught. The teacher is not an instructor or task master , he is a helper and guide.
2. The second principle is that the mind has to be consulted in it's growth . The idea of hammering the child into the shape desired by the parent or teacher is a barbarous and ignorant superstition.
3. The third principle of teaching is to work from the near to the far, from the known to the unknown . Man's nature is moulded by his soul's past, his heredity and his environment. The past is foundation , the present is the material and future is the aimand each must find its due and natural place in any national system of education.

ABOUT MOTHER TONGUE:-

- **Aurobindo Ghose was of the view that Indian brains have tremendous potential, but with the introduction of a language unknown to a large number of people their potential was hampered.**
- **The new system of education introduced subjects in a foreign language unknown to masses.**
- **He believed that the medium of instruction is an essential factor in learning.**
- **Unless a child doesn't mentally master a language he/she will be unable to understand the subject and gain mastery over it.**
- **He suggested that mother tongue is the best medium of instruction.**
- **In the new national system of education Ghose had proposed that mother tongue should be the medium of instruction.**

THE AUROBINDO ASHRAM AT PONDICHERY

- The Ashram located near the seashore has a number of fine buildings scattered over a vast area . Over 800 inmates of the Ashram are drawn not only from different parts of Indian but also from the world.
- There is no high or low in the Ashram. The Ashram is intended to provide an environment of peace and harmony .
- Efforts are made to put into practice the “ideal of human unity”. A strict code of discipline has to be maintained by the ‘sadhaks’ and also the visitors.
- All activities in the ashram are taken in the spirit of service and dedication to the second . The library and the reading room are well-equipped.



THE ASHRAM SCHOOL AND THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF EDUCATION

- The school was originally started in 1943 for the children of Sri Aurobindo's disciples. It expanded gradually from a primary school to a full fledged high school.
- ***The international centre of education***

The objectives underlying the centre are:-

1. To evolve a system of education for making it dynamic , ideal for society.
2. To organise an environment which may provide inspiration and facilities for the exercise and development of the five aspect of personality - the physical, the vital, the menrak , the psychic and the spiritual
3. To emphasis the unity of all knowledge
4. Ti develop the sense of oneness of mankind
5. To discover and prepare for the role India has to play in the formation of the new international harmony.

AUROVILLE



- Auroville 'the city of Dawn' near Pondicherry was inaugurated by The Mother on 28 February 1968, with representatives from 121 nations pouring soil from their respective lands into a lotus shaped urn symbolising the unity of the human race.
- It was intended to give practical expression to Sri Aurobindo's vision of a modern, self-supporting community, whose members would take full advantage of scientific developments while playing greater emphasis on spiritual awareness.
- According to its own charter, Auroville belongs to nobody in particular. It belongs to humanity as a whole.
- Conceived as "the city of human unity", its objective was that there should be somewhere upon the earth a place that no nation could claim as its sole property, a place where all could live freely as the citizens of the world.



- **Alas, the objective is far from reality. Today , Auroville is a house divided against itself. Apart from the two major societies , and number of small groups within groups have taken shape to protect their own self-interest.**
- **The most disturbing factor is that a large number of residents of this “city of dawn” are either drug addicts or people who are simply running away from life.**

Thank
you!