



Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's Vision about Education

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Abstract:

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the legendary Missile Man, had a vision for India. Vision 2020 was a document prepared under the leadership of Dr. Abdul Kalam to become a developed nation. During his presidency period, he talked about two main points: Education and Information Technology. Dr Abdul Kalam writes that education is the most important element for growth and prosperity of a nation. He writes that we should mobilize necessary resources for providing education to the under privileged people. Dr. kalam claimed to be a teacher right from the beginning of his career. He writes about qualities of teacher. He believes that students should ask questions to teachers. He advocates skill based education and also technology enhanced education. He believes that there is need to create a virtual university and virtual classrooms in India. He is of the view that education system has to be designed in a way that produce large number of employment generators and just not employment seekers.

Keywords: *Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, teacher, students, virtual, schools, universities, technology, skill based education*

1. Introduction

An exceptional personality with whom none can be compared (Upadhyay,S.R.,2013), decent person as a president (Garch, Jasvinder,2013), great scientist and inspiration for millions of Indians (Obama, Barack,2012), outstanding scientist and a wise states man (Putin, Bladimir, 2012) , these are thoughts about Dr. Avul Pakir Jinaalbdeen Abdul Kalam usually referred as Dr. Abdul Kalam, known as the missile man of India for his contributions to ISRO (Indian Scientific Research Organization), was also one of the favourite presidents of Indian kids. Just like Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Kalam adored kids and inspired in them a streak to achieve excellence. He spent a lot of his presidential tenure (2002-2007) visiting educational institutions and interacting with the youth of India.

In an interview Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam said that “ When I took over as president, I studied the constitution, and the more I studied it, the more I realized that it does not prevent the president of India from giving the nation a vision in parliament and in legislative assemblies; everyone welcomed it, irrespective of party affiliations.”

The humble president, adorned with Bharat Ratna, was a great scientist and an inspiring leader. He gained popularity for motivating children for scientific pursuits, thus becoming a role model and also earning the title ‘Peoples President’. His life epitomized simple living and grand thinking. He wrote the book ‘India 2020’ to show the youth a vision of developed India by 2020.

2. Mission of Education

Dr. Abdul Kalam writes that Education is the most important element for growth and prosperity of a nation. India is in this process of transforming itself into a developed nation by 2020. Yet we have 350 million people who need literacy and many more that have to acquire employable skills to suit the emerging modern India and the globe.

3. Inequality of Access to Educational Resources

It is essential that we enlighten and create widespread awareness of education among all sections of society particularly in rural areas and among the urban poor. We should use technology for this important social purpose. It is possible for NGOs, other social and philanthropic institutions and the media to focus on this area of creating awareness. We should also mobilize necessary resources for providing education to the underprivileged people

4. Thoughts About Teachers

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was a huge advocate of education as the primary force of personal growth. He believed that it was knowledge that made a person great. Despite the range of titles he had earned in his lifetime, the visionary preferred to call himself a teacher. In an event at the Delhi Secretariat, in the presence of Delhi's Chief Minister, Dr Kalam claimed to be a teacher right from the beginning of his career.

Mishra, Ajay writes that Dr. Abdul Klam is one of the Greatest Teacher India has ever seen. According to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam , a teacher must have following four qualities:

1. Teacher should love teaching . A teacher must have passion about give his/her knowledge.
2. Teacher should encourage question from students. Teacher should let them think beyond their thinking.
3. Teacher puts the student ahead.
4. Teacher create pressure on the student to explore own capabilities.

5. About Students

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam writes that” My message, especially to young people is to have courage to think differently, courage to invent, to travel the unexpected path, courage to discover the impossible and to conquer the problems and succeed. These are great qualities that they must work towards. This is my message to the young people.”

Dr. Abdul Kalam believes that students should ask questions to teachers because it is one of the very important characteristics of a student. Dr. Abdul Kalam stresses on thinking by students. He says that thinking is progress. Non thinking is stagnation of the individual, organization and the country. Thinking leads to action. Knowledge without action is useless and irrelevant. Knowledge with action, converts adversity into prosperity. He further writes that thinking should become student's capital asset, no matter whatever ups and downs student's come across in their life. Dr. Abdul Kalam believes that everyone should have Dreams. He writes-

“Dream, Dream Dream
Dream transform into thoughts
And thoughts result in action.”

He conveys the message that dream, thoughts and action are inter related. He writes that dream is not that which you see while sleeping it is something that does not let you sleep.

Dr. Abdul Kalam believes that primary focus of the students should be to excel in their studies. This is their first contribution to the development of the nation. The education system should instill in the minds of students capacities of inquiry, creativity, technology, entrepreneurial and moral leadership. If we develop in all our students these five capacities, we will produce “ Autonomous Learner” a self directed, self controlled, lifelong learner, who will have the capacity to both respect authority and at the same time is capable of questioning authority, in an appropriate manner.

6. Skill based Education

Dr. Abdul Kalam believes that our education system requires certain reforms, both in terms of spirit and practicality of the knowledge imparted. In his speech at the Delhi Secretariat he emphasized on the inclusion of skill based education at the school level. At the event in Delhi Dr. Kalam said, “When the

students pass out of senior secondary schools, they should have two certificates- of passing 10+2 examination and a specific skill acquired by him during schooling.”

According to him, besides the normal curriculum the children should receive special training towards one skill set which will offer an extra certification which will not only help them get a job after school but also make them aware of the how real world industries function. To

Deal with the infrastructural costs he elucidated on mobile setup consisting of engineering labs on wheels which can cover multiple schools in a day.

7. Technology Enhanced Education

Constraints of time and space together with the rapid obsolescence of knowledge in some areas of science and technology have created a huge demand for different courses from different institutions in the distance mode. There is a need for a working digital library system that alone can, in the long run, provide the kind of access required for a knowledge Society. Dr. Abdul Kalam (2005), writes that libraries need to be digitized and the books should be available seamlessly across the universities and distance learning programmes for universal access. He further writes “ When a student desires to read a certain book, he or she could be given online access. Tele- education software can be an important tool for the digital library.

8. Virtual classrooms

Dr. Abdul Kalam (2005) writes that with the growth in information technology, distance education programmes can now have virtual classrooms. The students would not merely be passively listening , there would also be scope for interaction and asking question by having two-way connectivity between the teacher and the taught. The best teachers can be taken to the students, irrespective of physical distance.

Technology Enhanced Learning is a solution. It attempts to exploit the rapid developments in Information and Communication Technology. As the communications bandwidth continues to increase and the cost of computer power continues to drop, Technology Enhanced Learning will become an economically viable solution. Virtual classrooms of the future will have students from many locations taught by a team of geographically distributed instructors through the tele-education delivery system.

9. Virtual University

Dr. Abdul Kalam (2005), writes that there is need to create a virtual university in India. This can be done through networking of all the universities of India. This would make it possible for all the networked universities to pool their resources and provide students with a better education than they could manage on their own. Dr. Abdul Kalam suggests following tasks for virtual university:

- Virtual university will act as a central hub of all universities which are networked.
- Identify experts of national/international eminence in specialized areas.
- Coordinate, organize, schedule and broadcast the lecture of specialists at a time convenient to all participants.
- Record the live transmission of the lecture with interaction details in a databank for easy access by participants for review learning.
- Digitize all the university libraries and make it available for seamless access by all the universities.
- Provide for lectures, laboratory, learning, and the library, all through the Internet.

10. Planning for Good Education for Children in Villages

Every school should have basic amenities such as a good building equipped with ventilation and lighting. The rooms should be airy and have spacious classrooms. The school should also have a library, laboratories including the latest Information Technology tools and infrastructure, safe drinking

water, clean toilets and a playground. This is possible by remarking the additional 2 to 3 percent of GDP.

11. Mobilising resources for the mission of Education

Over the last 50 years, successive governments have been committed to achieving the national goal of universal education and have steadily increased the budgetary allocation for education. However, 35 percent of our adult population is yet to achieve literacy. The expenditure on education as a percentage of our Gross Domestic Product has a direct impact on our literacy.

Today our expenditure on education in India is more than 4 percent of our GDP. If we have to achieve nearly 100 percent literacy, it is necessary to increase expenditure on education to about 6 to 7 percent of GDP. This 2 to 3 percent increase has to be sustained only for a few years. Thereafter, a lower percentage of GDP allocation to education will be adequate to sustain the high degree of literacy in this country for all time to come.

12. Reducing Dropouts

It is reported that 39 percent of children drop out from school after studying 5th class and 55 percent drop out after studying up to 8th Class. This situation needs remedial action, especially since assent has been accorded to the 86th Constitution Amendment Act. The Right to Education Bill for children between the age group of 5 and 14 years. But, an Act alone cannot achieve the goal, unless education is delivered in a manner, which will take into account the socio-economic reality and perception of the people to who it is addressed. Dr. Abdul Kalam believes that apart from attracting children to schools, the education system should be able to provide nourishment and inject creativity among them. The aim of the education system should also be to build character, human values, enhance learning capacity through technology and build confidence among children to face the future.

13. Unemployment

Dr. Abdul Kalam believed in different approach towards the issue of unemployment. He emphasized on a holistic view of the current employment scenario. On the 54th foundation day of IIT Bombay, Dr. Kalam stated, "In present context, the education system has to be designed in a way that produces large number of employment generators and not just employment seekers. According to him, the particular skill set at a younger age will promote entrepreneurship in the country. This kind of education system will generate job creators instead of job seekers.

14. Conclusion

Mishra, Ajay (2015), writes that "Wonderful thoughts of Dr. Abdul Kalam are a great insight for everyone. It is applicable and to be followed by teachers, entrepreneur, trainers, corporate mentors and leaders, by anyone who is mentoring and teaching someone or a team to go beyond limits and create greatness."

Dr. Abdul kalam talked about two main points: Education and Information Technology. Right now, India is really exploring these two fields where employment is also increasing. So our education as well as Information technology is growing at a tremendous rate. Kalam's dream is going to be fulfilled very soon and the youth are playing a vital role in developing India.

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