



A Study of Philosophical and Educational Views of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan with Reference to National Education Policy-2020

ANURAG MISHRA

Assistant Professor,

Department of Teacher Education, D.S. College
Aligarh, (U.P.), India.

SUMAN SHRESTH

Assistant Professor,

Department of B.Ed. N.K.B.M.G. P.G. College
Chandausi, Sambhal, (U.P.), India.

Abstract:

Our glorious country is the birth place of many Saints, Rishis, knowledgeable personalities, educationists and philosophers. These great personalities spreaded the light of their knowledge and wisdom, not only in India but also in the whole world. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was one of the great philosophers and educationists of India. In the present research paper, authors studied the philosophical and educational views of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan in reference to the National Education Policy-2020. A descriptive library survey method was adopted in the present study. Primary data were collected from the reputed books authored by Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. A detailed review of University Education Commission was done to collect the data about the philosophical and educational views of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. Different books and research work of notable authors were reviewed. Their philosophical and educational views were analysed in reference to the recommendations of NEP-2020. Conclusions were drawn on the basis of collected detailed literature review. The valuable contribution of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan is very relevant in the present scenario of education in special reference to NEP-2020.

Keywords: *Rishis, Saints, NEP-2020, University Education Commission*

1. Introduction

Knowledge is the powerful tool to excel the human potential to its maximum. Indian philosophers and educationists played a very vital role in the spread of knowledge and education; Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan is one of them. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was a great philosopher, a great teacher, a great thinker, a great humanitarian personality, a spiritualist, a man of mission, a man of principles, a notable writer, an educationist, very first Vice-President, and second President of Republic of India. He was awarded supreme award of India the 'Bharat Ratna'. He was a man of simple, easy, and visionary thoughts. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan gave his useful and valuable contribution in the field of philosophy and education. He was especially known for constructive, qualitative and rational criticism of philosophical ideas of western thinkers. He spreaded the divine light of Indian philosophy and culture to the western part of the globe. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan dedicated his entire life in the education of the youth of the country. He gave a notable and significant contribution in the field of philosophy in modern scenario. He enriched the intellectual society with the comparative study of different schools of philosophy. He visualized the concepts of knowledge, task, consciousness, and development in his own way of thinking. He emphasized on the spiritual development of the human beings to express the innermost soul. In his views without spirituality proper all-round development of human personalities is not feasible. By spirituality an individual could be enriched with positive and constructive approach and divinity in the personality. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan explained the religion, philosophy, and science in his own way and said that these three are very closely related to each other. Science tried to solve the problems of human beings in its way while religion and philosophy

also have the same motive of solving problems of human beings in their own ways. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan emphasized on the socialization process and tried to correlate with the Upanishad.

In the present scenario of education where the quality of the education is the cause of concern due to which problem of unemployment is increasing day by day, the number of universities and higher education institutions are increasing day by day but moral values and characters of youths are deteriorating, perspective of national integration is changing, in such conditions the philosophical and educational views of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan are very important and relevant.

2. The nature of problem and it's rationale

A great teacher, the first Vice-President, second President of Republic of India, chairman of University Education Commission and very first awardee of Bharat Ratna; Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was one of the great Philosophers and educationist of the world. It is a well-known fact that his name and fame is due to his philosophical and religious thoughts. He said that philosophy is the rational discussion of ultimate reality “Darshan Yatharth Ke Swarup Ki Tarkik Vivechana Hai” (Philosophy is the logical inquiry into the nature of reality) -Dr. S. Radhakrishnan. By this precise but factual definition of philosophy he enlightened the different aspects of education and defined the education as, “Education should be men making and society making”. By the above words he tried to throw light on the constructive and productive approach of education due to which the all-round development of youths is possible. Without quality education the development of nation is not possible and quality of education depends on the philosophy and ideology of the state. In the present day India the problem of population explosion increasing due to which the physical and mental health of Indian youths are deteriorating day by day. Improper and miss-guided use of mobile phones and internet services are creating the problems of indiscipline among students and youths are going downward in terms of the character and moral values. NEP-2020 also focused on the all-round and maximal development of the students based on their caliber. The target of holistic development of children cannot be envisaged without the moral and the religious development of children as Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan described in their philosophical thoughts. National Education Policy-2020 originated from the philosophy of logical and moral development of children to achieve full human potential developing an equitable and just society and promote national development (National Education Policy-2020). In this regard the philosophical and educational views of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan are very relevant.

3. Objectives of the study

- 1.To study the philosophical and educational views of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
- 2.To make a expository study of the implications of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan’s educational philosophy in the light of National Education Policy-2020

4. Philosophy of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Radhakrishnan’s philosophy was grounded in the Advait Vedant so he was a kind of idealistic philosopher. He compared the Indian philosophy with the western philosophical schools. He glorified the Hinduism and Indian philosophy against the uninformed western criticism. He explained about the matter and the spirit that matter shows the superiority of human brain but a non-natural element is also found in human which exceeds the quality and potentially of matter and that element is the spirit of man which controls the matter. He firmly believed in the religious virtues but he emphasized that religion and science are not contradictory, both seek truth and for well being of humanity. Ethical virtues of Indian philosophy are very crucial for the holistic development of children. The philosophical views of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan are reflected in the literature written by him. Some of the important books of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan are-

- 1.Indian Philosophy (volume-1 & volume-2)
- 2.Religion and Society
- 3.Spirit of Religion

4. Search for the Truth
5. Religion and Culture
6. East and West in Religion

5. Educational ideology and philosophy of national education policy-2020

The Indian government has framed the National Education Policy-2020 which is regarded as the India's first Educational Policy of the 21st century. On reviewing the policy document of NEP-2020, it can be inferred that NEP-2020 is originated from the philosophy to achieve the full human caliber and potential to develop an equitable and just society and promote the national development. The main fundamental pillars of National Education Policy are access, equity, quality, affordability, accountability. NEP-2020 envisaged that the philosophical purpose of education is to nurture human beings as they could be enriched with rational thinking, empathy, courage, and resilience, scientific temper, creative imagination with sound ethical moorings and values. Ideologically National Education Policy-2020 intended at producing engaged, productive and contributing citizens for building an equitable, inclusive and plural society as envisaged by the constitution of India. The vision is to build a globally best education system rooted in Indian ethos, thereby performing India into global knowledge super-power.

The major priorities of NEP-2020 are to achieve Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) among all children by 2025 and the achievement of sustainable development goals which is not possible without quality education. Achievement of SDG-4 (quality education) is one of the main objectives of NEP-2020.

6. Meaning of education

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (1956) narrated, "Education to be complete must be humane it must include not only training of intellect but refinement of the heart and discipline of the spirit. No education can be regarded as complete education if it neglects the heart and spirit". Education must be not only for gaining facts and knowledge but also for achieving wisdom and truth. He said "Education should be men making and society making" (Radhakrishnan 1960).

7. Aims of education

Philosophy of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was idealistic based on Advait Vedant so the main aim of education was upliftment of spirit in co-ordination with material world to find the ultimate truth. He emphasized on the holistic development of children by education. Character building should also be the primary aim of education.

8. Curriculum

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan emphasized on the life centered education so the curriculum must be based on this critical understanding nurturing the creativity, enhancing the logical thinking, all these are envisaged in the NEP-2020 too. He recommended the subject like language, mathematics, history, geography, literature, grammar, philosophy, and religion. For physical and social development of children, they must be involved in the games; physical exercise, Yoga and other activities like NCC-NSS plantation and activities of social welfare should be included in the curriculum.

9. Methods of teaching

The best teaching methods are those which create maximum learning, lifelong learning and learning that creates positive change in the life. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan in report of University Education Commission suggested the following teaching methods-

1. Teaching through discussion
2. Meditation
3. Textbook method

4.Seminar

5.Learning by doing

He also suggested the use of information communication technology in delivering the content in the classes. The medium of instruction should be the mother tongue of the children.

10. Role of teacher

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was very vigilant about the teacher. He said that teacher is the mirror of the society and students are very much influenced by the personality of their teachers. A teacher should be very knowledgeable with good character and idealistic personality of the society. He said the kind of education that the society is providing to our youth is determined overwhelmingly by the kind of men and the women which secured as teachers.

11. Discipline

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan believed that discipline is the personal matter of a person it cannot be enforced. It should come from inside of the spirit, so he believed in the self discipline. Self discipline could be nurtured in the students by Yog and spiritual activities. He advocated that good character results in the good discipline so the character building must be the principal aim of education. He contended that personality development is more significant than accumulation of intellectual knowledge. He said that character is destiny. He prioritized that acquisition of technical knowledge and skills may be important in modern society but development of that bent of mind, attitude of reason, spirit of democracy will make responsible citizen for our country (Dey 2021).

12. Women education

Dr. sarvepalli Radhakrishnan emphasized on women education in different ways. In his views women are the most important element of the society. Education of women is very necessary for the development of society. A woman could spread the light of education into two families i.e. firstly her maternal and secondly her husband's family after marriage. He narrated in the document of University Education Commission (1948-49) "No society can progress satisfactory with backwardness of woman. If women are uneducated, the society will remain uneducated".

13. The relevance of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's educational thoughts in today's India in the reference of National Education Policy-2020

As the society's view point the current education system in India is more or less unable to achieve the goal of good character building and development of moral values in the students. The document of National Education Policy-2020 also emphasized on the very same issue. The goals of economic, industrial and technological and intellectual development cannot be fulfilled without enriching the students with spiritual values, democratic values, constitutional values, moral values, and good character. In the draft of University Education Commission (1948-49) he has given a proper road map for achieving these goals. The idea of sustainable goals is discussed in the NEP-2020. In this regard Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan said in the draft of University Education Commission that with the technological advancement the religious, spiritual and moral aspect of development should not be neglected. Education is incomplete without these. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was very strongly advocated for free and compulsory education for all the children irrespective of gender, caste, creed, and socio-economic status which is envisaged in the National Education Policy-2020.

14. Conclusion

From the above comprehensive discussion, it could be concluded that the educational value-based goals envisaged in the document of NEP-2020 are very relevant in the present scenario of education. These goals are based on educational philosophy of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. So, in the present context of education, the educational and philosophical views of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan are very much relevant. His educational and philosophical views should be incorporated in the present education

system. These must be followed by stakeholders of education system to improve the value based quality of present education. When implementing National Education Policy-2020, the philosophy of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan should be assimilated practically in the whole education system. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan universally respected and loved for their unique philosophy. Every citizen of India will salute this great personality.

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