



BASIC EDUCATION

KEYWORDS

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Basic education

The following are the fundamentals of Basic Education:

- All education to be true must be self-supporting, that is to say, in the end it will pay its expenses excepting the capital which will remain intact.
- In it the cunning of the hand will be utilized even up to the final stage, that is to say, hands of the pupils will be skillfully working at some industry for some period during the day.
- All education must be imparted through the medium of the provincial language.
- In this there is no room for giving sectional religious training. Fundamental universal ethics will have full scope.
- This education, whether it is confined to children or adults, male or female, will find its way to the homes of the pupils.
- Since millions of students receiving this education will consider themselves as of the whole of India, they must learn an inter-provincial language. This common inter-provincial speech can only be Hindustani written in Nagari or Urdu script. Therefore, pupils have to master both the scripts.¹

Education Through Craft

- Speaking about education through a craft Gandhiji said
- "If such education is given, the direct result will be that it will be self-supporting. But the test of success is not its self-supporting character.² but that the whole man has been drawn out through the teaching of the handicraft in a scientific manner. In fact he would reject a teacher who would promise to make it self-supporting under any circumstances. The self-supporting part will be the logical corollary of the fact that the pupil has learnt the use of every one of his faculties. If a boy who works at a handicraft for three hours a day will surely earn his keep, how much more a boy who adds to the work a development of his mind and soul".³ The following are the conclusions Gandhi arrived at, regarding education in 1932. He laid those down on paper while he was in detention in the Yervada Prison after his return from the Second Round Table Conference. What is known as the Wardha Scheme was but only a step

forward.

- Boys and girls should be taught together.
 - Their times should be mostly spent on manual work under the supervision of a teacher. Manual work should be considered as a part of education.
 - Work should be entrusted to each boy and girl after ascertaining his or her inclinations.
 - The child should know the why and the how of every process.
 - General knowledge should be imparted to the child as soon as it is able to understand things. This knowledge should proceed literary education.
 - The hand of the child should be trained to draw geometrical figures before he learns to write, i.e., good handwriting should be taught from the beginning.
 - The child should learn to read before he is able to write, i.e., he should learn to recognise letters as if they were pictures and then draw their figures.
 - By this method and by word of mouth, the child should acquire much knowledge before he is eight-years-old.
 - Children should not be compelled to learn anything.
 - The child should be interested in whatever he learns. playful manner, for play is an essential part of education.
- All education should be imparted through the mother-tongue of the child.⁴

REFERENCE

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