



DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM'S PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION AND NEP 2020 IN BUILDING A SELF-RELIANT INDIA: A THEORETICAL ANALYSIS FROM A PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT Building a self-reliant India refers to the process of strengthening the country economically, socially, technologically and knowledge-based and making it more dependent on its own capabilities and resources. Its main objectives are to increase domestic production, make better use of local resources, encourage entrepreneurship and innovation, build skilled human resources and increase employment opportunities for the youth. The main objective of the present research paper is to analyze the interrelationship between Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's philosophy of education and the National Education Policy 2020 and assess its potential relevance in building a self-reliant India. Dr. Kalam's educational thought placed special emphasis on knowledge, science and technology, creativity, innovation, skills, moral values, entrepreneurship, youth development and national development. NEP 2020, on the other hand, focuses on multidisciplinary education, skills and vocational education, research and innovation, digital education, entrepreneurship, experiential learning and the integration of Indian knowledge and traditions. Dr. Kalam's vision of self-reliance, knowledge-based society, and science mindset and youth empowerment is consistent with many of the objectives of NEP 2020. Therefore, effective application of these concepts in the education system can help in building a self-reliant India by developing skilled, innovative, value-based and responsible human resources. The study will be mainly qualitative, descriptive and analytical in nature and will be based on content analysis of books, research articles, government documents, Dr. Kalam's works and NEP 2020 documents.

KEYWORDS : Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Philosophy of Education, NEP 2020, Self-Reliant India, Skills, Innovation, Youth.

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is one of the main drivers of social, economic and cultural development of a country. In the modern world, a country's self-sufficiency does not depend solely on economic output or resources; rather, it also depends on the quality development of knowledge, skills, science and technology, innovation, entrepreneurship and human resources. In this context, the role of education is particularly important in making India a knowledge-based, efficient, innovative and self-reliant country.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's philosophy of education placed special emphasis on acquisition of knowledge, creativity, scientific mindset, moral values, skill development, entrepreneurship and empowerment of youth. He believes that education should develop the latent talents of students and make them active partners in the development of the country. On the other hand, the National Education Policy 2020 focuses on holistic and multidisciplinary education, skills and vocational education, research and innovation, digital technology, entrepreneurship and the development of Indian knowledge and traditions.

Therefore, the research paper entitled '*Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's Educational Philosophy and NEP 2020 in Building a Self-Reliant India: A Theoretical Analysis from a Practical Perspective*' analyzes the consistency and interrelationship between Dr. Kalam's educational thought and the goals, objectives and characteristics of NEP 2020. It also theoretically discusses how the practical application of these concepts in the education system can contribute to the goal of a self-reliant India through developing competent, innovative, ethical and confident citizens.

II. Objectives of the Study

1. Analyze the main concepts of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's philosophy of education.
2. Study the goals, objectives and key features of NEP 2020.
3. Identify and analyze the similarities and interrelationships between Dr. Kalam's philosophy of education and NEP 2020.
4. Analyze the role of education in building a self-reliant India and the relationship between education, skills, science and technology and entrepreneurship.
5. To assess the practical relevance of Dr. Kalam's thoughts in youth empowerment, skill development and self-employment.
6. Theoretically analyze the potential contribution of Dr. Kalam's philosophy of education in the practical application of the policies of NEP 2020.
7. To study the possibility of increasing self-reliance through the harnessing of local resources, knowledge and skills.

8. To provide a practical and theoretical analysis of how the integrated implementation of Dr. Kalam's philosophy of education and NEP 2020 can help in building a self-reliant India.

III. Research Questions

- a. What are the basic concepts of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's philosophy of education and what is their relevance in building a self-reliant India?
- b. How do the goals, objectives and key features of NEP 2020 reflect the concept of building a self-reliant India?
- c. What are the similarities between Dr. Kalam's philosophy of education and NEP 2020 in terms of knowledge, skills, creativity, science and technology, innovation and entrepreneurship?
- d. How can the multidisciplinary, skills-based and vocational education system of NEP 2020 help in building self-reliant human resources?
- e. What are the possibilities and challenges in the integrated practical implementation of Dr. Kalam's philosophy of education and NEP 2020?
- f. How can the combination of modern science and technology with local knowledge, resources and skills play a role in building a self-reliant India?

IV. Review of Related Literature

Samir Dodhiya (2023) studied on 'A Comparative study of the philosophy of education of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam and Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan'. It focuses on aspects such as moral values, educational objectives, teacher-student relationships and personality development. This study helps to understand the value-based and human-centered aspects of Dr. Kalam's philosophy of education.

Nirmali Deka (2023) studied on 'Dr. Kalam's philosophy of education and its relevance to the modern Indian education system.' In particular, emphasis is placed on the development of values, creativity, scientific mindset, skills and youth. This study provides a basis for linking Dr. Kalam's educational thought with contemporary educational reforms.

R. Shrien Bargana (2022), Bargana's study focuses on various aspects of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's educational thought, especially the relationship between youth empowerment, science and technology, creativity and national development. The study shows that Dr. Kalam believes that education is a powerful means of developing the inner talents of individuals and building the country. This vision is related to the development of skilled and creative human resources required for a self-reliant India.

Losonita Hazarika & Rajashree Dutta (2021), Hazarika and Dutta's study discusses the changing role of higher education, quality

development, skills, research and education in the context of NEP. Their discussions help to understand NEP 2020 not simply as a curriculum change, but as a policy effort to build knowledge, skills and innovation-based education systems.

V. Research Gap

A review of the above literature shows that previous studies have discussed Dr. Kalam's philosophy of education, NEP 2020, skills development, values, research, innovation and youth separately. However, there are relatively limited studies that theoretically analyze Dr. Kalam's philosophy of education and NEP 2020 together from a practical perspective of building a self-reliant India. Therefore, the present research paper will attempt to fill this literary gap and analyze the possibilities of building a self-reliant India through the interrelationship between education, skills, science and technology, innovation, entrepreneurship and youth.

VI. METHODOLOGY

The present study is mainly qualitative, descriptive and analytical in nature. This study mainly uses the Library Method and Content Analysis. Various books, lectures, articles and education-related thoughts of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, government policy documents of NEP 2020, research articles, books and other relevant literature have been used for data collection. Through qualitative analysis of the data collected, the consistency, interrelationship between Dr. Kalam's philosophy of education and NEP 2020 and its potential practical relevance in building a self-reliant India has been analyzed.

VII. Major Areas of Analysis

In line with the objectives of the present research paper, the main areas of analysis are highlighted below.

• Main Concepts of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's Philosophy of Education:

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's philosophy of education is based on knowledge, creativity, ethics, scientific mindset, skills and nation building. He believes that education is not just a means of acquiring information; It is a powerful means of developing the learner's inherent talent, thinking and creativity to become a responsible citizen. He placed special emphasis on dreaming, thinking and acting to make those dreams come true. He advocated the integration of education with human welfare and development of society by combining moral values with knowledge of science and technology. One of the goals of his educational thinking is to develop students' curiosity, self-reliance, innovation, leadership and problem solving skills. He also regarded teachers as the inspiration and guides of learners. In his view, education is a major means of personal development, empowerment of youth and building a better, knowledge-based and self-reliant India.

• Goals, Objectives and Key features of NEP 2020:

The main objective of the National Education Policy 2020 is to build an inclusive, equitable, quality, accessible and skills-based education system in India. Its purpose is to develop learners' knowledge, creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, moral values and social responsibility. The policy focuses on making education more learner-centric, flexible and multidisciplinary. One of its features is the 5+3+3+4 educational structure, use of mother tongue or regional language, experiential and skills-based education, integration of vocational education, use of digital technology and encouragement of research and innovation. There is also an emphasis on multidisciplinary learning, academic flexibility and inclusion in higher education. Overall, NEP 2020 aims to build a knowledge-based society and a self-reliant India.

• Similarities and Interrelationships Between Dr. Kalam's Philosophy of Education and NEP 2020:

There are many important similarities and interrelationships between Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's philosophy of education and NEP. Both consider education not only as a means of acquiring information but also as a means of holistic personality development and national development. Dr. Kalam emphasized the creativity, inquisitiveness, innovativeness, scientific mindset and self-reliance of students; Similarly, NEP 2020 also recognizes critical thinking, creativity, skills and innovation as important parts of education. Dr. Kalam advocated integrating knowledge of science and technology with moral values, which is consistent with the concept of holistic and value-based education in NEP 2020. Also, both emphasize learner-centered education, experiential learning, multidisciplinary knowledge, teachers as pioneers, and the development of research and problem-solving skills. The two are also closely linked in terms of youth

empowerment, skill development, knowledge-based society and the goal of building a self-reliant India.

• The Role of Education in Building a Self-reliant India:

Education plays a fundamental and transformative role in building a self-reliant India. Education is not just a means of acquiring knowledge; it develops a person's skills, creativity, innovativeness, confidence and problem-solving capabilities. Quality education can equip the youth with vocational and technical skills to enhance employment opportunities and encourage them to become entrepreneurs. The integration of science, technology, research and innovation with education paves the way for the proper use of the country's own knowledge and resources. At the same time, combining local resources, indigenous knowledge, handicrafts and traditional skills with education can strengthen local economies. Education creates responsible citizens by developing values of morality, responsibility, cooperation and patriotism. The concept of skills-based, multidisciplinary, research-oriented and innovation-oriented education in NEP 2020 can help in this goal. Therefore, education is one of the main foundations for human resource development, productivity increase and building a self-reliant economy.

• Practical Relevance of Dr. Kalam's Thoughts in Youth Empowerment, Skill Development and Self-employment:

In the thought of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the youth is considered as the main force of development of the country. He believes that if the dreams, knowledge, skills, creativity and motivation of the youth can be developed in the right direction, they can play an important role in changing society and the state. In practice, his thinking can be applied to students through goal setting, problem solving, innovative thinking and leadership development. More emphasis needs to be placed on technical education, vocational training, digital skills, research and project-based learning for skills development. Instead of looking for jobs, Dr. Kalam focused on creating new opportunities through knowledge, skills and innovation. Therefore, education can be combined with entrepreneurial education, start-ups, local resource-based enterprises and social innovation in the field of self-employment. This approach can help boost the self-confidence of the youth and build self-reliance, entrepreneurial mindset and commitment to national development.

• Potential Contribution of Dr. Kalam's Philosophy of Education in the Practical application of the Policies of NEP 2020:

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's philosophy of education can provide an inspiring intellectual basis in the practical application of the principles of NEP 2020. His emphasis on learner-centered education, creativity, scientific mindset, innovation, skills development, ethical values and self-reliance is consistent with the overall education objectives of NEP. Project-based learning, problem solving, research, use of technology and experiential learning can be encouraged by applying Dr. Kalam's thinking in educational institutions. Teachers can identify the talents of learners and inspire them to think and innovate. Also, the combination of science and technology with ethics and social responsibility can help in the overall development of learners. Opportunities for self-employment and national development can be created through the development of skills, entrepreneurial mindset and leadership qualities of the youth. Thus, Dr. Kalam's philosophy of education can potentially help in achieving the goals of NEP 2020 of a knowledge-based, skills-oriented, innovation-oriented and self-reliant India.

• Possibility of Increasing Self-reliance Through the Harnessing of Local Resources, Knowledge and Skills:

The proper use of local resources, traditional knowledge and local skills creates considerable potential for increasing self-reliance. Combining a region's agriculture, forestry, water resources, handicrafts, food-culture, medicinal plants and indigenous technical knowledge with modern science and technology can create new economic opportunities. Through education, local youth can be equipped with the necessary skills to use, conserve, add value and market these resources. Developing small scale industries, cottage industries, agro-based industries and social enterprises based on local raw materials can increase self-employment and employment opportunities. The use of digital technology and online marketing also increases opportunities to take local products to larger markets. Also, documentation of indigenous knowledge facilitates knowledge transfer from generation to generation. Therefore, the scientific and responsible use of local resources and skills can play an important role in strengthening local economies and building self-reliant societies and states.

• **Dr. Kalam's Philosophy of Education and Integrated Implementation of NEP 2020 in Building a Self-reliant India:**

The integrated implementation of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's philosophy of education and NEP 2020 can provide a promising educational framework for building a self-reliant India. Dr. Kalam emphasized knowledge, scientific mindset, creativity, innovation, skills, ethics and self-reliance. On the other hand, NEP 2020 emphasizes learner-centric, multidisciplinary, skills-based, vocational and research-oriented education. The integrated application of these two perspectives can develop learners' problem solving abilities, entrepreneurial mindset and leadership qualities. Local resources, indigenous knowledge and skills can be combined with modern science and technology to create new industries and self-employment opportunities. Also, the promotion of digital education, research and innovation can make the youth more efficient and productive. Value-based education will help in the development of responsible citizenship. Therefore, the integrated implementation of Dr. Kalam's inspirational thoughts and the policy measures of NEP 2020 can help in building a knowledge-based, efficient, innovative and self-reliant society.

VIII. Findings of the Study

The main findings of the present research paper are -

- Both Dr. Kalam's philosophy of education and NEP 2020 emphasize knowledge as well as creativity, ethics, skills and personality development.
- Dr. Kalam's skills, innovation and entrepreneurial thinking are consistent with the vocational and skills-based education of NEP. This can increase the self-employment opportunities of the youth.
- Both approaches consider the use of science and technology, research and innovation as important means of national development.
- Combining local resources, indigenous knowledge and skills with modern education and technology can strengthen local economies and increase self-reliance.
- The combined application of Dr. Kalam's inspiring philosophy of education and the policy framework of NEP 2020 can provide a promising educational basis for building a knowledge-based, efficient, innovative, ethical and self-reliant India.

IX. CONCLUSION

The present study shows that education is an important transformative force in building a self-reliant India. Dr. Kalam's philosophy of education emphasizes the development of knowledge, scientific mindset, creativity, innovation, skills, moral values and self-confidence of the youth. On the other hand, NEP 2020 emphasizes holistic, learner-centric, skills-based, multidisciplinary and research-oriented education. The integrated application of both perspectives can enhance learners' problem solving abilities, entrepreneurial mindset and potential for self-employment. In particular, the combination of local resources, indigenous knowledge and modern technology can create new economic and social opportunities. Therefore, the effective use of Dr. Kalam's inspiring thoughts and the principles of NEP 2020 can certainly help in building a knowledge-based, efficient, innovative and self-reliant India by qualitatively transforming education.

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