



## Educational Philosophy of Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji and its Relevancy in 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**Dr. Mohit Dixit**

(Assistant Professor) , Babe Ke College Of Education , V.P.O. Daudhar , Moga (Punjab).

**Amandeep Kaur**

(M.Ed. Student) , Babe Ke College Of Education ,V.P.O. Daudhar , Moga (Punjab).

**ABSTRACT**

The paper highlights the educational philosophy of fifth Sikh Guru Arjan Dev Ji and its Relevancy In 21st Century . Guru Arjan Dev Ji had a very strong philosophy of education along with a philosophy of life. He used education as a tool to make the masses understand his point of view. He put his thoughts on all aspects of education i.e. Aims Of Education , Curriculum, Methods Of Teaching, Role Of Teacher , Discipline And Examination System. He had a philosophy, an educational philosophy, pedagogy and his own techniques of explaining and solving problems.

**KEYWORDS**

Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji , Educational Philosophy

Education is as old as human race. It is a never ending process of inner growth and development and its period stretches from cradle to grave. Education is a real sense is to humanize humanity and to make life progressive, cultured and civilized. It is through education that he is transformed in to human, social moral and spiritual being. In this age of science and technology man has become passive towards truth, goodness, beauty and love which relate humanity with God. All this goes to indicate that Sikh Gurus had their own philosophy which led to their own way to tackle the worldly problems and their educational solutions too. They wrote Gurbani in their mother tongue. The fifth Guru Arjan Dev not only philosophised the prevalent conditions but also worked out the solutions of these problems. Guruji lived, worked and conceptualized for the masses. He also worked out the philosophical solutions for the benefit of the masses. He organized centres of learning at Amritsar and Kartarpur. He compiled Shri Guru Granth Sahib. He collected the Bani of other five Gurus, 15 Saints, 11 Bhattas and 4 Sikhs and put his seal of authenticity upon it as a Paki Bani. In all, it contained the Bani of 36 Scholars, Philosophers, Saints and Intellectuals of different castes and creeds.

The main theme of Guru Arjan Dev's philosophy was spiritual emancipation along with the development of other values. He compiled Guru Granth Sahib keeping in view the spiritual theme under different stages as these helped in concentration. Education was also philosophized along with the spiritual theme. Guru Arjan discussed educational philosophy with social philosophy. Although Guru Ji used different techniques, terminology and approach of education yet he expressed ideas on education like Rousseau and Dewey.

**JUSTIFICATION OF PROBLEM**

Our education system today faces many problems which are similar to the time of Shri Guru Arjan Dev Ji. He solved these problems very successfully during his life time. Although we may not be able to apply the same solution to the same problem, yet we are surely awakened to know how Guru Arjan Dev worked out the solution of the social, cultural and educational problems with his logic. So our political leaders and our Education Ministers may be able to draw a proper path from it. However, it may be helpful to work out the cause and solution of the each problem when they can work in the present system. The solution of each and every problem was found by Guru Arjan Dev concentrating at philosophical level which has much relevance today also. The educational ideology envisaged by Guru Arjan Dev Ji can do wonders in the 21<sup>st</sup>

Century of Education system.

**STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Educational Philosophy of Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji and its Relevancy In 21<sup>st</sup> Century .

**OBJECTIVES**

- (i) To study the life history of Shri Guru Arjan Dev Ji, in brief.
- (ii) To study the general philosophy of Shri Guru Arjan Dev Ji.
- (iii) To study the educational philosophy of Shri Guru Arjan Dev Ji.
- (iv) To study the relevancy of educational philosophy of Shri Guru Arjan Dev ji in 21<sup>st</sup>Century.

**METHOD AND PROCEDURE**

The present study is a historical analytical. The main purpose of historical research is to arrive at an accurate account of past so as to gain a clearer perspective of the present. It is a library work, confined to work of prominent writers or authors of the different publishers. The main process which are involved in the historical method of research are:

- Collection of data (from primary and secondary sources)
- Criticism of data collected.
- Interpretation and reporting of findings.

The primary source in this research work is the selected bani of Shri Guru Arjan Dev Ji as it is in Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji.

In secondary sources, the investigator consulted many books of different writers and authors review of related studies and steak's (meaning) of the "Gurbani".

**GENERAL PHILOSOPHY OF GURU ARJAN DEV JI**

Guru Arjan Dev Ji (1563-1606), was a great saint, philosopher, poet and first martyr of Sikhism. He belonged to the great Indian philosophical tradition and gave continuity to it. Guru Arjan Dev considered self-sacrifice as the foundation of all goodness. According to him, self-sacrifice is the law of nature. The mother has to sacrifice her beauty to see the child.

Guru Arjan Dev Ji's compositions are one of the most remarkable and rare works that have occurred in the field of devotional and sacred literature. The verses of Guru Arjan Dev Ji are highly philosophical, mystical and full of peace and profoundness flowing from the heart of one who has realized Brahma and bliss.

In the teachings of Guru Arjan Dev Ji: God, Naam, Man, Nature, Truth, Hukum, Maya, Science, Religion (Dharma) are the key words and it is necessary for adequate comprehension of general philosophy of life of fifth Guru to ponder over these terms in the light of his own views

### EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF GURU ARJAN DEV JI

Guru Arjan Dev Ji had a definite philosophy of life. His educational philosophy was based on his ideal of life

Guru Arjan Dev Ji propounded a theory of education, which is as relevant to modern times as it was during his own period. His philosophy is much wider in its sphere and its contents are rich in providing substantial and solid knowledge. Guru Arjan Dev Ji believed that education must enable the individual to live away from worldly and social-evils and help him to understand his essence. Real education consists of practical training in wisdom, truth, Naam and Shabad of God.

### AIMS OF EDUCATION

#### Ultimate aim of Education

To lead one of the stages of self-realization. A man of wisdom is one who gains self-knowledge through self-enlightenment.

#### Subordinate Aim

It is about spiritual development, honesty, character development, humility and simplicity and individual and social aims, cultural development and all round development of personality.

### CURRICULUM

Guru Arjan Dev Ji advocated that mere recitation of Vedas and Puran is futile, without the precious 'Naam' of God. He recommended the curriculum that included Languages, philosophy, sociology, music, art and ethics. Guru Ji believed that the subjects and knowledge must have practical value and applicability in daily life.

### METHODS OF TEACHING

Concentration, insight into deeper experiences, Questioning and Answering Techniques, Teaching through Examples, Gurumatta, discussion, demonstration and lecturing are some important methods used by Guru Arjan Dev Ji. Teachings of Guru Ji should be carried on with love and sympathy. Motivation is essential. Students should learn by doing practical work.

### ROLE OF TEACHER

Guru Arjan Dev Ji believe in recitation of Vedas but the priest who recites the Vedas and sweet and melodious sound, does not know that this prohibits the man from doing evil deeds and actions. True teacher is that who himself practices whatever he teaches.

### DISCIPLINE

Guru Arjan Dev Ji favoured self-discipline and inner discipline. Self-discipline helps in the development of an integrated personality. Guru Arjan Dev Ji threw light on the kind of discipline practised by people.

### EXAMINATION SYSTEM

Guru Arjan Dev Ji's teachings portray that he did not advocate any prescribed system of education. Guru Arjan Dev Ji recognized inner-assessment and self-evaluation as the greatest system of evaluation of the self.

### EDUCATION FOR BROTHERHOOD AND MANKIND AND FATHERHOOD OF GOD

Guru Arjan Dev Ji's teachings, much of the work in this direction can be done for the establishment of international peace. The education concept of Guru Arjan Dev Ji is so comprehensive that it stands good not only in Indian situation but also in the context of other cultures of the world.

### Suggestions for Further Study

The educational philosophy of Guru Arjan Dev Ji is complete in all aspects. It might also be the facts that the investigator is ignorance and short sightedness could not go deep into excellence of the 'Bani' in treating many more educational problems. So the investigator has come up with his suggestions for carrying out research work in following probable fields of research.

1. The educational philosophy of Shri Guru Ram Dass ji.
2. Concept of discipline in Guru Arjan Dev ji Bani and its relevance to present educational system.
3. Comparison of Guru Arjan dev Ji's educational concept with western educationalist i.e. John Dewey, Plato, Socrates, Rousseau.
4. Cultural aspects of Sikhism and its suitability for the modern scientific age.
5. A Comparative study of the educational thoughts of Guru Arjan Dev Ji and Lord Mahavir.
6. A comparative study of the educational thoughts of Guru Arjan Dev Ji and Buddha.

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