

APJ ABDUL KALAM'S CONTRIBUTION TO WOMEN'S EDUCATION

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Abstract: *A great leader has too much clear vision, bravery, strong power of integrity, honesty and less-like of focusing himself, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam regarded as one of the India's great leaders , best educators and social reformers. He was concerned about Indian women's education. In his writings, Dr. Abdul Kalam discussed the pressing challenges and difficulties of education at every levels as well as proposed social remedies of Women's education, gender equality in society and equality in the workplaces. He commented, "You cannot change your future, but you can change your habits, and surely your habits will change your future." In this paper, the researcher intends to review and analysis the APJ Abdul Kalam's contribution to different branches of women's education.*

Keywords - *Women Education, Great Thinker, Social Reformer, Promotion and Contribution.*

Introduction : People of all ages find Abdul kalam to be an inspiration. He accomplished numerous social activities in his life for India. In 1980s, his research and leadership prompted the government to appoint him as director of an advanced missile programme. He was a former president of India from 2002 to 2007. His life and teaching emphasis on sincerity, dedication, hard effort, and genuine challenges in pursuit of success and advancement in life. He was born on 15th October, 1931 at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu. His ideas and considerations on women's education and higher education were outstanding. He said, "A nation will be empowered only when its women population got empowered". The remarkable contribution of APJ Abdul kalam on Women's education have been enlightened and focused in this research Paper.

Objective of the study:

- To study the educational ideals of Abdul kalam.
- To discuss the activities of Abdul kalam to promote education to the Women.
- To discuss the activities of Abdul kalam to promote higher education to the Women.
- To study the role of Abdul kalam in spreading women's empowerment.

Research questions:

- Is there any contribution of Abdul kalam in the field of education?
- Is there any contribution of Abdul kalam to promote concept of women's education?
- Is there any contribution of Abdul kalam to promote Women for higher education?
- Are there any activities of Abdul kalam to reform of women development?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The study is Historical in nature. Both primary and secondary sources are employed to acquire data in this historical study. In this study mainly, secondary sources are used. Data have been collected from various research journals, articles, books, Research theses and websites. The analytical approach was employed in this study for data analysis and interpretation. So, qualitative data have been used in this study.

1. Educational ideals of Abdul Kalam:

According to APJ Abdul kalam , the normal curriculum of the children should job oriented through which they get job after the completion of academic carrier. APJ Abdul Kalam believes that education is the most important area in the field of service life of the trainee as it provides the required knowledge and skill to do any work. Library, laboratories with the most up-to-date information technology tools, equipment, safe drinking water, clean restrooms and a playground should all be included in the school and this can be accomplished by allocating an additional 2% to 3% of GDP. He said, "Educationists should build the capacities of the spirit of inquiry, creativity, entrepreneurial and moral leadership among students and become their role model."

Dr. Kalam's main educational goals are as follows:

- ❖ To build character and to cultivate human values as students.
- ❖ To inject creativity and to develop scientific attitude with spiritual foundation.
- ❖ To improve learning capacity through ICT.
- ❖ To build confidence to face the future.
- ❖ To ensure the creation of enlightened citizens to make the nation prosperous happy and strong.
- ❖ To develop capacity for research and enquiry among students.
- ❖ To active innovating powers and entrepreneurship.
- ❖ To develop moral leadership.
- ❖ To make the country energy independent.
- ❖ To foster among students a sense of dignity, self-respect, and self-reliance.

2. Concept of women education:

Emphasis of Dr. Kalam on women education is very relevant in present system. He wrote that education system should retain the smiles of children. This be happened if the education system is made creative throughout and entire employment is provided to all. He also advised that education must build character and inculcate human values in students. He firmly believed that concentration is a key factor in acquisition of knowledge. He desired that every school should provide mission-oriented learning with values among the children. According to Dr. Kalam, "True education is the acquisition of enlightened feelings and the enlightened power to understand the daily events and to understand the permanent truth by linking citizen, to his environment, human and planet, we live."

3. Women in higher education:

In 2006 in a conference of Avinashlingam University, Abdul kalam said, "If women get into the Assembly, they would bring some order. We can also hope to see developmental politics instead of political politics if more women enter the scene. Universities and educational institutions should aim at generating employment and not employment seekers." He believes that proper education nurtures the sense of dignity and self-respect among our youths. He also suggests that there is need to ensure the continuity of secondary education and university education for girls and distance education packages have to be evolved to cater the women in remote areas. He said, "we have to ensure the continuity of secondary education and university education for girls."

4. Women empowerment:

He advised that a girl should be able to opt vocational training programme which would enable them to seek either self employment or employment in establishments. He recommends that India should work for the betterment of women's education to gain the status for a develop nation. When woman receives education, it educates the whole generation. He also said, "Empowering women is a prerequisite for creating a good nation, when women are empowered, society with stability is assured. Empowerment of women is essential as their value system leads to the development of a good family, society and ultimately a good nation. When the woman is happy, the home is happy. When the home is happy, the society is happy and when the society is happy the state is happy and when the state is happy there will be peace in the country and it will develop at greater pace." The former president appreciated the work was done by Andhra Mahila Sabha for the uplift of women, especially in the field of education. In his autobiography Wings of Fire, that he co-wrote with Arun Tiwari, A.P.J Abdul Kalam wrote, " when it comes to burning social issues like those related to women, dowry, girl child and others; we make loud drawing room protests and continue to do the reverse at home. Our excuse? Whole system of society has to be changed. So who's going to change the system?".

5. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's quotes on women development:

- “I firmly believe that the respect that its women enjoy tells us how developed a country is Equally, I truly believe that in every man burns the courage to stand up against any injustice done to the other gender. He has demonstrated this over centuries and we must salute and further this quality.”
- “When the women are empowered, society with stability gets assured”.
- “...a woman with her inherent characteristics such as compassion, patience, perseverance, honesty, sensitivity to social issues, constructive approach towards problem solving and hard work, will be able to play a vital role in realising this mission. Such women, when empowered through the democratic process, can collectively produce spectacular results.”
- “Our nation has a noble tradition of respecting women, and all good minds must unite to eliminate the inhumanities which blot our traditions. When we respect women we respect our nation. All men must stand by and stand up for all women. In this, they would be doing nothing more than nurturing their own inherent goodness, be the best they can be – and act as a morale booster for others of our gender.”
- “I ask the students to take an oath that they will work in their life to change the lives of at least 100 women by empowering them through education in different spheres of life.”
- “All of us do not have equal talent. But, all of us have an equal opportunity to develop our talents.”
- “First, we must get 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament. Then you can become the President.”

Major finding of the study:

The major findings of the study are explained bellow:

1. Firstly, Dr. Abdul kalam belived that the right kind of education on moral values would upgrade the society and the country. His educational accomplishments were not sufficient to be discussed in a one sentence.
2. Dr. kalam was a visionary and practical thinker in the field of women’s education who advocated for the integration of ancient and modern education. He has stuck balance between science and spiritualism in his educational philosophy.
3. Dr. Kalam trusted that education would bring dignity for women into society. He always believe that youngsters are the key of energy, to build the nation .
4. APJ Abdul Kalam believed that every woman should be educated and economically self-sufficient as soon as possible. There should be no discrimination at all.
5. Lastly, we find that one of our finest educators, as a tribute to the woman, his books, quotes and instances of his life will keep us inspired. He gave importance for encouragement of women education along with the gender-equality in the society and equality.

Conclusion:

APJ Abdul kalam constantly tried to close down the narrowness of society. His humanity, thinking, contribution reached in every nook of society. He was driving force behind the development of India’s first satellite launch vehicle. For his contributions to nuclear science, Kalam was awarded the Bharat Ratna, and he became a well known as the people's president. He is a true inspiration to every student all over the world. The United Nations cannot find a better day other than the birthday of Dr. Kalam to dedicate “World Students' Day”.

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