



EDUCATIONAL THOUGHTS OF MICHAEL MADHUSUDAN DUTT

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ABSTRACT

This Study is an attempted to explore Michael Madhusudan Dutt's thoughts on educational. Objectives of the study are to describe the provenance of Mr. Dutt's educational thoughts and its serial progression; to know the aims of education, nature of curriculum, role of teachers and students, teaching methods through the writings of Madhusudan Dutt; his view on the importance of education to solve various problems of personal and social life; determine the significance of his educational thinking in the context of the present time and to reveal the innovative phenomena of Madhusudan Dutt's educational thoughts. Qualitative research method adopted for this study. In this case historical method was applied for this research. Data was collected from primary and secondary sources; collected data were internally and externally criticised. Used Segmenting, Memoing, Coding, Catagorizing techniques for data analysis. Some other task also been followed during analysis such as Confirmability, Dependability, Credibility & Transferability and Enumeration. Findings of the research revealed that Madhusudan Dutt was a naturalistic poet and he had own thoughts about the goal of education, role of teachers and students, universalization of education, curriculum or syllabus construction, immense need to use mother tongue as a medium of instruction. So, Madhusudan Dutt had different thoughts on education and it is equally relevant in present situation as well as in future generation.

Key Words: Education for all, Renaissance, Dramatic method, British India.

Introduction:

Since ancient times various educators have been involved in the pursuit of the essence of education and they have given their personal views on education. Alterations of ideas or attitude towards education have been notified with the change of times. Education is increasing his range over time. In fact, any educated person has an educational thinking that is inherent in one's appearance. The writings of psychic writers are not only limitations of real events; they are also including possibilities of our future events. That is why they can predict the upcoming situation. They know what will happen in the future. The writings of psychic writers are not only limitations of real events; they are also including possibilities of our future events. That is why they can predict the upcoming situation. They know what will happen in the future. Michael Madhusudan Dutt (15 January, 1824 - 29 June, 1873) one of the great poet and dramatist of nineteenth-century Bengal, is still alive in the heart of the readers for his invaluable literary work. Only after the study of Madhusudan Dutt's literary works, it is possible to get an idea of his educational thinking. On the other hand, undoubtedly any writer's literature has influenced by their education life, professional life and literally works. Therefore in order to get an accurate or deep understanding of Madhusudan Dutt's thoughts on education, it is necessary to enquire or study about his education life, professional life and various works etc.

The fact that Madhusudan Dutt has left a trail of literary creations for 49 years amazes the Bengali readers of the past and the present. If any poet before Rabindranath is able to be awarded the honor of a great poet he is Michael Madhusudan Dutt.

Rationale of the Study:

Education is very important for the betterment of our society and country. Education is backbone of the Nation and it's needed for the human development. Special action has been taken several times for human resource development by British India and Independent India. Many educational commissions, committees and educational policies have been formed and construct various curriculums for that purpose. In determining such education policy the present status of our country, our social system, our economic conditions are kept in mind. Similarly, thoughts of the educators are given importance with dignity. For instance Mahatma Gandhi's Basic education for the development of indigenous education, Rabindranath Tagore's naturalistic approach on education, Swami Vivekananda's man making idea through education, Sri Aurobindo's Integral education are remarkable. Even then, in the 21st century there have been many questions about the quality, quantity, ratio of teachers & students, literacy rate, drawbacks of education in our country. And thus it is very important to re-search on various education policies and educational thoughts also. In this regard Michael Madhusudan Dutt is remarkable among the representative of era. He is successful Bengali play writer, Bengali sonnet was first introduced by the hand of Madhusudan Dutt and he is the first epic writer also in Bengali literature. He was editor of several newspapers, school teacher, professors, Barrister by profession. It is unbelievable that a person, who have experienced so many fields of education and create different field on education, but he do not have any ideal thoughts on education.

Among the orientalist Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda, Aurobindo Ghosh and at present Saratchandra Chattopadhyay, Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay, Tarashankar Bandopadhyay's educational ideas mostly came to the field of research. But research on Madhusudan Dutt's educational ideas cannot be noticed till now. And that is why it is very important to research on Michael Madhusudan Dutt educational thoughts at this present state. Elevating the educational thoughts of Madhusudan Dutt in the present context the researcher will discuss its needs and usefulness.

Statement of the Problem:

The present Researcher wants to find out educational thoughts of Mr. Madhusudan Dutt. He has adopted the following title for the research work. So the research problem can be pin pointedly stated as- "Educational thoughts of Michael Madhusudan Dutt."

Research Questions:

1. What was the nature of educational thoughts of Madhusudan Dutt?
2. What did Madhusudan Dutt mean by Actual education?
3. According to Madhusudan Dutt what should be the nature of curriculum of education?
4. What was Madhusudan Dutt's view on the duties and responsibilities of teachers and students?
5. What was the opinion of Madhusudan Dutt about the teaching method?
6. What was the relevance of Madhusudan Dutt's educational thoughts at present?

Objectives of the Study:

1. To describe the provenance of Michael Madhusudan Dutt's educational thoughts and its serial progression.
2. To know the aims of education, nature of curriculum, role of teacher and students and teaching methods through the writings of Madhusudan Dutt.
3. To discuss his view on the importance of education to solve various problems of personal and social life.
4. To determine the significance of his educational thinking in the context of the present time.
5. To reveal the innovative phenomena of Madhusudan Dutt's educational thoughts.

Delimitation of the Study:

The Researcher has restricted some of research work to certain case for saving time.

- The present researcher will limit the discussion within Madhusudan Dutt's Bengali literature and his personal letters for this research work.
- The current research work will be limited to the extent of History of education.

Methodology:

The research work can be included under Historical research. Historical research are often defined as the process of investigating past events systematically to supply of information about incidents within the past. It is a qualitative technique for studying the past events. In education sector historical research is widely used. It tries to interpret the facts and explain the causes with the current effect. Historical perspectives of education, literature, linguistics, culture etc are the main sector of this research. Current trends can be interpreted with past happenings.

Data collection procedure:

Historical sources usually fall into two categories, namely, primary and secondary sources.

Primary sources:

Primary source plays a significant role in historical research. Primary data is that type of data which is collected by the researcher directly from the main sources. The primary sources of current research are as follows

- Writings of Madhusudan Dutt.
- Personal letters of Madhusudan Dutt.

Secondary Sources: The secondary sources of current research work are

- Writings by other Authors on Madhusudan Dutt.
- Reliable information of other Authors.

Criticism of Data:

The process of appraisal which is used to derive useable and trustworthy data is known as historical criticism. It involves the two processes, one is external and another is internal criticism. Considering and analyzing the various primary as well as secondary sources both External and Internal criticism has taken for.

External criticisms: External criticisms form the genuineness of the evidence as well as textual integrity. It is a preliminary and preparatory step of verifying the authenticity, consistency and characteristics of the historical material used in the research work.

Internal criticism: Internal criticism determines the reliability by accurately interpreting the contents of the document. Use of original and genuine sources, awareness of individual biasness, substantiating the document with collaborative sources are assessed through internal criticism.

Data analysis Techniques:

Segmenting:

- Read the text data line by line to identify the segments.
- Divide the data into meaningful analytical units.

Memoing:

- Recording reflective notes about what is learnt from data.
- Write the memos when I have ideas and insights.

Coding:

Process of naming segments of data (basically text data) with a label, a short name, Symbols, descriptive words, that simultaneously summarizes and accounts of each Piece of data.

Catagorizing:

- It is the process of reducing the list of codes.
- Bringing similar codes together in a particular category.

Some other task also been follow during Analysis-

Constant Comparision: It is a process of comparing constantly all the collected data to find out commonalities and variations.

Confirmability: Here the results of study could be confirmed or corroborated by others.

Enumeration: Process of quantifying data in term of amount or frequency, Minimizing data, Displaying data.

Ensure Dependability: Ensure Dependability by Check transcripts to avoid mistakes and Cross- check codes.

Ensure Credibility & Transferability: Ensure Credibility & Transferability Trangulate data, External audit, Member check.

DATA ANALYSIS:

Objective 1. To describe the provenance of Michael Madhusudan Dutt's educational thoughts and its serial progression.

The writings of psychic writers are not only limitations of real events; they are also including possibilities of our future events. Based on personal life, educational life and professional life they have published various compositions of their writings. Their personal educational thoughts remain dormant in their works like poem, story, novel, drama, prose, essay, personal letters etc. So, The present Researcher concentrate on Madhusudan's educational life, professional life and his various creation and found that early childhood education from his mother, Western education in Hindu College and Bishop's college, and Renaissance controlled the origin and progression of Madhusudan Dutt's educational thoughts.

Objective 2. To know the goal of education, nature of curriculum, role of teacher and students and teaching methods through the writings of Madhusudan Dutt.

After analysing Mr. Dutt's several literary creations Researcher revealed that awakening of humanity, social reformation, preservation of harmony - friendship and moral development should be the goal of education. Curriculum is the path to reach the goal of education. He has given the priority to both core-curriculum and co-curriculum activities. He always expressed in various ways about the importance of mother tongue and need for mother tongue as a medium of instruction.

He had selected the dramatic method, story-telling method and mass education system as the teaching- learning method. Motivation is one of the teaching method according to Madhusudan Dutt, He emphasized on encouraging students to increase their motivation. As per Madhusudan Dutt, the teacher is friend philosopher and guide. As an ideal relationship of teacher and students he acknowledges the ancient Gurukul education system.

Objective 3. To discuss his view on the importance of education to solve various problems of personal and social life.

According to Mr. Dutt The problem of social life as well as personal life such as superstitions, caste system, gender inequality etc can only be solved by the education. Imitation of western culture is one of the main reasons for the emergence of social problem in human life. Naturalistic poet Madhusudan Dutt has found new learning elements in nature. He hopes that naturalistic approach of person will be very helpful in solving the personal problems. In a word according to Madhusudan Dutt denial of nature is the root cause of problem in human life.

Objective 4. To determine the significance of his educational thoughts in the context of the present time.

Madhusudan Dutt's educational thoughts are equally relevant in present context. He was willing to emphasize co- curriculum activities with core-curriculum. Mr. Dutt has acknowledged the need for mother tongue in education. His dream of womens education implemented by Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's

initiatives to establishing schools for women and several act like Right to Education Act- 2010. Mr. Dutta was in favour of motivating the students by encouraging them. This concept has emerged in Skinner's operant conditioning theory as positive reinforcement and programmed instruction teaching-learning method. Madhusudan's efforts to give moral education can be found in Kohlberg's moral development theory and it has been implemented by various stories for children in different syllabuses.

Objective 5. To reveal the innovative phenomena of Madhusudan Dutt's educational thoughts.

Madhusudan Dutt's innovative ideas on education revealed that his thoughts recognised the needs for women's education, realised the importance of mother tongue in education, found solution of social and personal problems from the nature, used Lotus leaves as a paper; flowers stalk as a pen and kajal of the eyes as ink and advised to use encouragement method to motivate students.

Major Findings:

1. Early childhood education from his mother, Western education in Hindu College and Bishop's college, and Renaissance controlled the origin and progression of Madhusudan Dutt's educational thoughts.
2. According to Madhusudan Dutt the goal of education is awakening of humanity, social reformation, preservation of harmony - friendship and moral development. He has given the priority to both core-curriculum and co-curriculum activities for curriculum construction. He always expressed in various ways about the importance of mother tongue and need for mother tongue as a medium of instruction.
3. He had selected the dramatic method, story-telling method and mass education system as the teaching-learning method. Motivation is one of the teaching methods according to Madhusudan Dutt, He emphasized on encouraging students to increase their motivation.
4. As per Madhusudan Dutt, the teacher is friend philosopher and guide. As an ideal relationship of teacher and students he acknowledges the ancient Gurukul education system.
5. Madhusudan Dutt's innovative ideas on education revealed that his thoughts recognised the needs for women's education, realised the importance of mother tongue in education, found solution of social and personal problems from the nature, used Lotus leaves as a paper; flowers stalk as a pen, kajal of the eyes as ink and advised to use encouragement method to motivate students.
6. Madhusudan Dutt's educational thoughts on woman education, curriculum construction, use mother tongue as a medium of instruction, dramatic method and story-telling method as the teaching methods are also equally relevant in the present context. We can relate his curriculum construction theory with Gardner's multiple intelligence theory, positive reinforcement method with Skinner's operant conditioning theory, moral development concept with Kohlberg's moral development theory etc.

Limitation:

Due to pandemic situation maximum library are closed that's why the present researcher could not access libraries. So he feel difficulty to gathering data related to the research work and this is the limitation of this Study.

Suggestion for further research:

1. A comparative study of the educational ideas of the two great poets Madhusudan Dutt and Rabindranath Tagore.
2. Discuss the nature of education from the 19th century to 20th century based on Madhusudan's literature.

Conclusion:

From the above discussion we can come to this point that according to Madhusudan Dutt the goal of education should be development of humanity, social reformation, maintaining harmony - friendship and development the sense of values. The ancient Guru - shishya relationship of Gurukul education system is the ideal relationship between teachers and students. Mr. Dutt had introduced the role of teachers as the student's friend philosopher and guide. He was in favour of universalisation of education. Therefore he thought about the women's education, those who were socially backward class.

He emphasized on both core - curriculum and co - curriculum activities in determining the curriculum or syllabus. At the same time he says in various ways about the necessity and usefulness of mother tongue. Even he felt the immense need to use mother tongue as a medium of instruction. Madhusudan was a naturalistic poet; he found the elements of education in nature. So, Madhusudan Dutt has different thoughts on education and it is equally relevant in present situation as well as in future generation.

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