

A STUDY OF INTEGRAL EDUCATION OF SRI AUROBINDO

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ABSTRACT

Integral education is a true education which helps to bring out full advantage, makes ready to full purpose and scope of human life. It is helped in unifying the different dimensions of knowledge- Mental and subliminal and superconscient. It is also helpful in the manifestation of the perfection already existing in the man and the development of consciousness from the material to the spiritual, from the inconscient to superconscient. It is also helpful in developing the integrated personality in a man. It develops man's psychic and spiritual development. It helps him during the period of puberty or pre adolescence. Knowledge of true education removes anxiety and brings psychological stability. It is based on the psychological principle of development of consciousness. We have selected this study because it is helping in removing the dissatisfaction with conventional education of the time, developing the integrated personality in man.

Key words: Psychic Education - Psychic education is a kind of education that leads to the future evolution of man.

Supramental Education - Which leads to our evolution towards the supramental, however necessary pass through and only after evolution of physical, the vital, the mental, and the psychic.

Vital education - It includes sense training and development of character.

Subliminal- below the threshold of conscious perception. **Conscient**- conscious

INTRODUCTION

Education plays vital role in our life. A man goes on receiving education in one form or the other from his birth till death. Beauty of life seems difficult without education. All this means that word education is so deep which is very difficult to put into words. Its importance can only be experienced and not expressed in words. An individual educates himself as long as he breaths. Education of an individual beings from conception and continues till cremation. It goes from womb to tomb or cradle to grave, whatever broadens our horizon, deepens insight, refines our emotions and stimulates our feelings and emotions and educates us.

Sri Aurobindo says true education i.e. Integral education is that which develops hidden powers of an individual and provides him with the necessary competencies for leading a truly spiritual life. To acquire various types of information about various subjects is not education. True education is that which enables

one to understand real meaning of life and soul, trains the mind to give right direction towards worthwhile living in this world education must be treated as a mechanical process.

True education makes one conscious of his real being which is the real meaning of life on this earth. Only that education is true which helps one to realize this real being. Sri Aurobindo believes that in addition to the physical soul i. e. Pursa is also a vital, mental, a supramental and a supreme well being. True education makes one conscious of all powers. True education according to Sri Aurobindo is not only spiritual but also rational, vital and physical. In other words it is an Integral education. The Integral education has been explained by Sri Aurobindo's closest collaborator the mother, in these words, "Education to be complete of human being the physical, the vital, the psychic and spiritual."

Usually these phases of education succeed each other in a chronological order following the growth of an individual. This

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however does not mean that one should replace another but that all must continue, completing each other, till the end of life. Integral education is a true education according to Sri Aurobindo, "That alone will be a true and living education which helps him to bring full advantage, makes ready for full purpose and scope of human life. All that is in individual man, which at the same time helps him to enter into his right relation with the life, mind and soul of people to which he belongs and with that great total life, mind and soul of humanity of which he himself is a unit and his people or nation a living, separate and yet inseparable member."

True education or Integral education aims at development of the integrated personality in man. Man as he is today, is disintegrated alienated within himself. There is no co-hesion in his thought, will, action and he is pulled apart among his divergent thoughts, desires, emotions and activities. Integral education helps in bringing about a harmony among the different elements of his personality.

Need and importance of the study

True education or Integral education according to Sri Aurobindo is not only spiritual but also rational, vital, and physical. Usually these phases of education succeed each other in a chronological order following the growth of individual.

It aims at developing the integrated personality in man. Man as he is today, is disintegrated, and alienated with himself. There is no cohesion in his thought, will, action and he is pulled apart among his divert thoughts, desires, emotions and activities, integral education, helps in bringing about, harmony among the different elements of his personality.

True education is consciousness from that carries the light and power of light carries the earth with this consciousness at the center of our being. And a growing child is nothing but consciousness. It means an increasing amplitude or wideness of the light.

The light that is spoken here is the divine light, the light of soul or the divine knowledge that

is already present and embedded in every human being. We have selected this study because it is helping in removing the dissatisfaction with the conventional education of the time developing the integrated personality in man.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To know educational thoughts of Sri Aurobindo.
2. To understand the basic concepts of Integral Education of Sri Aurobindo.
3. To familiarize the different aspects of Integral Education of Sri Aurobindo.
4. To evaluate the need and importance of Integrated Education of Sri Aurobindo.
5. To understand teaching learning process suggested by Sri Aurobindo.
6. To familiarize with Integrated curriculum suggested by Sri Aurobindo.
7. To know about the concept of teacher and student according to Integrated Education.
8. To evaluate the instructional aids of Integral Education of Sri Aurobindo.

METHOD

Philosophical research method is used in this study.

FINDINGS

Integrated education breaks down the dichotomy between matter and spirit, it aims at achieving the authority of the spirit over a matter fully developed and utilized.

It is helpful in unifying the different dimensions of knowledge mental, subliminal and superconscient. It is found that it is helpful in the manifestation of the perfection already existing in man and the development of consciousness from the material to the spiritual, from the inconscient to superconscient.

Integral education and true education is helpful in developing the integrated personality. It helps in bringing different elements of his personality.

True education is the growth of consciousness. It is consciousness which carries the light and power of the light. We are born upon

the earth with this consciousness at the centre of our being and a growing child is noting but growing consciousness.

True education develops man's psychic and spiritual development. Which helps him during the period of puberty or pre-adolescence. Knowledge of true education removes anxiety and brings psychological stability. Once this stability is established, boys and girls progress steadily, emotionally, mentally, socially and psychically.

Through integral education man develops socially and morally because at the stage of later childhood group activities and group games are to be provided not only for physical development but also for emotional stability and socialization.

Capacity of learning is very high at the stage. This requires the offering of a variety of subjects including science and mathematics with opportunities to develop logical thinking and reasoning.

Conclusion

True education is based on psychological principle of development of consciousness and in this sense the process of education becomes a process of yoga which implies uniting, the outer with higher the inner, the lower with the material with spiritual, the human nature with the divine nature, or rather transforming man into divine. This is done through the four fold principles of purification, concentration, liberation and transformation. All these principles depend on the psychic opening of the individual and lead to his psychological perfection.

In the present scenario it is very helpful in developing integrated personality in mans. There is no cohesion in his thought, will and action and he is pulled among his divergent thoughts, desires, emotions and activities. Integral education helps in bringing about harmony among the different elements of his personality. Instructions aids are necessary to make learning efficient and effective. These aids include text books, work sheets, programmed

learning materials, audio-visual aids and the educational technology.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

Any research work can not say the final word of a problem, because it is very difficult for a research to touch all the aspects of a problem. So the suggestions for future research in this directions may not be kept out of place here. These are as follows:-

1. The present study is confined to the integral education of Sri Aurobindo. Similar study can be conducted on yoga education of Sri Aurobindo.
2. A similar type of study can be undertaken on 'Nai Talim' by Mahatma Gandhi.
3. Same type of study can be conducted deeply on the any one part of integral education like supramental, psychic education, moral and social and vital Education.
4. A comparative study can be conducted on Mahatma Gandhi's 'Nai Talim' and Aurobindo's integral education.
5. An indepth study can be undertaken taking only one variable of Integral education or 'Nai Talim' or basic education of Sri Aurobindo or Mahatma Gandhi.

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