



## Educational thoughts of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

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### Abstract

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam is known as the father of Indian Missile Technology. He bought dignity to whatever he did even politics. He served as India's 11th President from 2002 to 2007, and was undoubtedly one of the most loved politicians of the country. He was a scientist, writer, inspirational speaker and motivational figure. DR. APJ Abdul Kalam writes that if people remember me as a good teacher it will be the biggest honor for me. He expressed his thoughts about education. According to Dr. Abdul Kalam education is endless journey through knowledge and enlightenment. He writes that education system should retain the smiles on the faces our children He also writes that education must build character and inculcate human values in student. He writes that curriculum should be based on science and technology. The best method of education is by imparting behavioral patterns. Teaching is very noble profession that shapes the character, caliber and future of an individual. Teacher is the most important profession in the world. Dr. Abdul Kalam writes that parents play a major role in life of children. Every parent should guide children to be good human being. He writes that universities are prime knowledge generation centers of the nation and quality of education is linked to the development of the country.

**Keywords:** Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, educational thoughts, children, teachers, parents, universities

### Introduction

Since many centuries philosopher, educationists, social reformers, saints are expressing their views about education.

Lord Buddha, Mahaveer Swami, Shankaracharya, swami Vivekananda, Swami Dayanand, Dr. Radhakrishnan, Maharshi Arvind are some of them.

Though Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam is famous as scientist, he also expressed views and thoughts about education. He was a practical educational thinker and visionary who stands for integrating an ancient and modern educational ideals for the development of a balanced Indian society.

Avul Pakir Jinalabdeen Abdul Kalam usually referred as Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

Dr. Abdul Kalam was an Aerospace engineer, professor and chancellor of Indian Institute of Science and Technology. During his time as president, he was popularly known as "the people's president".

Due to his contribution in the field of education, United Nations organization declared to celebrate his birthday as World Student Day. Dr. Abdul Kalam wrote many books in which he expressed his views about education. He loved children very much. In an Event in Delhi at the Delhi secretariat, Dr. Abdul Kalam claimed to be a teacher right from the start of his carrier. Up to the last moment of his life. Dr. Abdul Kalam has constantly contributed his thoughts on education.

Dr. Abdul Kalam believed that five important areas to transform India are - Education and health care, agriculture, information and communication, infrastructure and critical technology.

Dr. Abdul Kalam placed education at first place out of five areas. It shows the importance of education and his love for

education.

### Concept of education

According to Abdul 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."
- "Education is an endless journey through knowledge and enlightenment."
- "Education is drawing out and developing creativity inherent in students."

### AIMS and objectives of education

According to Dr. Abdul Kalam ancient India was an advanced knowledge society that contributed a great deal to civilization. Invasions and colonial rule destroyed its institutions and robbed it of its core competence. Indian people have been systematically degraded to lower levels of existence. We need recover ancient Indian status and become a knowledge power. Dr. Abdul Kalam writes that a proper education would help nurture a sense of dignity and self respect among our youth. These are quality no law can enforce - they have to be nurtured ourselves.

According to Dr. Abdul Kalam, the prime aim of education should be to provide quality education with value system and provide 'creative learning environment', at primary level all over India. He writes that education system must note stifle power houses of creativity. Dr. Kalam wrote that "education system should retain the smiles on the face of our children." He writes that education must build character and cultivate human value in students.

### **Thoughts on children**

Dr. Abdul Kalam believed that every child is born with some inherited characteristics, into a specific socio-economic and emotional environment and trained in certain ways by figures of authority.

As children grow up they should be given opportunities to practice certain good act repeatedly so that good habits can be inculcate in them. These good habits will be assets in their future.

The Initial years of one's life are formative and therefore crucial for one's developments.

Dr. Abdul Kalam considered the children of India the future of the country and always showed his deep concern over the increasing atrocities being perpetrated against them.

### **Dr. Abdul Kalam writes**

"It is easier to build strong children then to repair broken adults". According to Dr. Abdul Kalam, today's people may not remain and survive in the future, but the expectation is that today's children will survive naturally therefore, if the present children are moulded in their attitudes, in their values, in their ideas and in their ideals - we can expect a better and more organized world tomorrow. And we can achieve our vision for the world that we hope for at this moment.

### **Curriculum**

According to Dr. Abdul Kalam the curriculum should be based on science and technology. There should be provision for expression provision for experiencing, provision for learning by doing.

Development of values, humanity, discipline, co-operation, non-violence, religious harmony, spiritualism, creativity and faith in god must be the part of curriculum. Entrepreneurship and management skills should be taught with the other subjects of study.

### **Methods of education**

According to Dr. Abdul Kalam, the best method of education is by imparting behavior patterns. Teachers and parents should behave in such a way as to imbue in children acceptable. Decent morality, sowing the seeds of moral values in their minds.

Enlightened behavior of parents fasters a spiritual and moral atmosphere at home.

Dr. Abdul Kalam says that learning by doing method should be followed in schools and colleges. He also favors the experiments method.

According to Dr. Abdul Kalam (2002) knowledge has many forms. Knowledge is acquired through education, information and experience. Dr. Abdul Kalam further writes that ironically, all through school, we were taught to read, write and speak but never to listen and even today, the situation is same.

### **Thoughts on academic institutions and academicians**

Dr. Abdul Kalam writes that he has always had a deep regard for academic institutions and respect for excellent academicians. Dr. Abdul Kalam opines that academicians play an important role in the development.

Dr. Abdul Kalam writes that it would have been very difficult

to achieve our advanced technological goals without the active partnership of our academic institutions.

In his convocation address in Madurai Kamraj University Dr. Abdul Kalam said that every convocation day of every university is like opening the flood gates of energy which, once harnessed by institution. Organizations and industry aids in nation building.

Dr. Abdul Kalam (2002) suggested that higher education must be made more relevant to industry and society and aspect in which it is inadequate at present.

According to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam (2005) Universities are reservoirs of knowledge. So these are prime knowledge generation centres of the nation. Further he writes that transformation of any society has close relationship with the quality of education and national development. All disciplines- sciences, humanities, commerce, management and languages must play their role in national development.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam writes that no Indian youth should be without either a world-class higher education or without world-class skills sets.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam talks about national policy for creating a Global Human development cadre for Indian must emerge and certainly, it is here that vice chancellors may study and contribute their inputs towards achieving this mission. To ensure the success of this national mission, vice chancellors must be entrusted with the responsibility to inspire the youth of India to study subject of their interest be it poetry, music, art or philosophy, commerce, literature, finance and all the disciplines of engineering along with support from the government in creating well-funded institutions in different subjects. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam (2005) writes that a urgently needed for discussion and for realizing all aspects of the educational system that will enable it to generate the quality of human resource for the meeting its developments goals.

### **Moral values**

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam (2002) writes that if any society wants to do progress, there are two important needs - prosperity through wealth generation and cherishing the value system in the people. The combination of the two will make the nations truly strong and prosperous. Dr. Abdul Kalam believed that the full development of a child with value system can only come from teachers and parents.

Dr. Abdul Kalam (2005) writes that the best part of a person's life is the learning years in a school - from five to sixteen. Dr. Abdul Kalam further writes that if we want to make good citizens, value-based education should be given in school and at home also. School hours are the best time for learning. The child needs the best and most stimulating environment and mission-oriented learning with value system.

Dr. Abdul Kalam (2005) writes that if the child misses the value education of the school campus, no government can establish a society with integrity. If the child misses this period of the learning, the nation lost an enlightened citizen.

### **Role of teachers**

Dr. Abdul Kalam says (2004) that it was Hardy who discovered Ramanujan. Our teachers should search another Ramanujan in our schools.

According to Dr. Abdul Kalam - "Teaching is a very noble

profession that shapes the character, caliber and future of a count". The teacher in the school has great responsibility in shaping the character of the student especially during the adolescent periods.

Dr. Kalam writes that if people remember me as a good teacher it will be the biggest honour for me.

Dr. Abdul Kalam believed that there is no other profession in the world that is more important to society than that of a teacher. Teachers are the back bone of any country, the pillar upon which all aspirants are converted into realities.

Dr. Abdul Kalam writes that teachers have to play important role in learning by the students. He writes that learning needs freedom to imagine, and both have to be facilitated by the teacher.

Dr. Abdul Kalam stress upon the planning by teachers. He writes that a good teacher with meticulous planning, prepare himself for teaching and the student for acquisition of knowledge.

Dr. Abdul Kalam writes about the sacrifice of teacher. He writes that the role of the teacher is like the proverbial 'ladder', it is used by everyone to climb up in life, but the ladder itself stays in its place.

### **Role of parents**

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam believed that every parent should guide children to be good human being - He writes that it is very important for every parent to be willing to make the effort guide to be good human beings enlightened and hard working. According to Abdul Kalam parents should allow their children to dream. Success always follow dreams attempted through there may be some setbacks and delays.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam thought that parents and teachers play major role in life of children. He writes that if parents and teachers show the required dedication to shape the lives of the young, India would get a new life. As it is said - Behind the parents stands the school and behind the teacher the home.

### **Conclusion**

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam is known as missile man in the world. He was scientist and became 11<sup>th</sup> president of India but as he writes - he wanted to be known as teacher. He writes that learning is a lifelong process. The one who knows other is learned but the wise one is the one who knows himself. Learning without wisdom is of no use.

Dr. Abdul Kalam writes - "It will not be presumptuous enough to say that my life can be a role model for anybody but some poor child living in an obscure place in an under privileged social setting may find a little solace in the way my destiny has been shaped".

Dr. Kalam was a great inspiration to many, especially kids and always inspired them to dream big and achieve great goals in life. We have seen that he expressed his thoughts on every aspect of education. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam must be placed among great educational thinkers.

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