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**DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM'S VIEWS ON THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN
THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH IN ACCORDANCE WITH NEP 2020**

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Abstract:

Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India, is a visionary scientist as well as teacher who occupy an important role in the history of Indian science and education. He is distinguished for his inspirational and motivational writings and speeches. In 'Wings of Fire' he, records various aspects of his personality and his personal philosophies that helped him achieve success to motivate his fellow human beings to dream and achieve extraordinary things for personal and national growth. "Today's young students want the education system to feed and challenge their innovative and creative minds. They are the creators of tomorrow and they want to think about it today. A good system of education should be able to satisfy their insatiable hunger for knowledge" (Spirit of India, 57). This research dealt with the idea of ignited minds where the researcher tried to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of today's youth and the qualities required to become an autonomous learner. In this research, I seek to find ways how education will help the development of the youths. For this, I tried to seek the educational perspective of Dr. Kalam in accordance with the third objective, at various levels of educational setups keeping in mind the recent educational policy, i.e. National Education Policy of 2020. At present time, the reference of national education policy is must to provide a more apt vision to meet the aspiration of new India as dreamt by Dr. Kalam. In his view, education is the primary driving force of personal growth for an individual. Change is the only constant. As we all know, philosophy and education are intimately as well as integrally connected with each other and determines the various aspects of education. In this modern period, the philosophy of life has also changed. As a result, revolutionary changes began transforming education also. A paradigm shift in the education system is considered imperative to transform the existing status quo with a modern and futuristic approach. As a practical educational thinker, Kalam proposed the framework for future education in the country by converging science and technology with spirituality. Today the education system is challenging. But Dr. Kalam's vision and mission for the field of education could provide a solution for the removal of illiteracy in rural and urban India, upgrading education to enhance social and economic progress of our country. Dr. Kalam is considered to be the wing of inspiration to spread the glow of goodness for today's youth. He has tried to summarize the knowledge of his personal experiences and disseminates this amalgam of knowledge in an aphoristic and lucid way to inspire the students to resurge the present education system.



Keywords: *Visionary, Science, Education, Philosophy, Motivate, Innovative and Creative.*

A Brief Insight of National Education Policy, 2020:

The world is undergoing a drastic change in the field of education. Scientific and technological advancement leads to demand for high-quality education in order to determine the future of our country. Also with climatic change as well as a change in the employment landscape, it has to become critical to reconfigure the entire system of education so that children not only learn but more importantly learn how to learn. The aim of education should focus on less content and more on critical thinking to develop all aspects and capabilities of learners.

In order to understand the relevance of Dr.Kalam's educational philosophy in today's time, I have given a brief insight into National Education Policy. The main highlights of this policy are as such:

- To meet the needs and interests of learners and also making it relevant for today's time, the policy seeks to restructure the school education pattern in a new design of 5+3+3+4 covering ages 3-18. The first five initial years will be termed as 'Foundation Stage'. The next stage is the 'Preparatory stage' will comprise of three years and then three years of Middle stage. The High stage will include students of class 9 to 12.
- The first and the foremost aim of this policy is to achieve universal foundational literacy in primary schools by 2025 as a necessary foundation and an indispensable prerequisite for all future schooling and lifelong learning. For this, the Ministry of Human Resource Development shall set up a National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy and also a national repository of high quality will be made available on the Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) as a technological intervention to serve as aids to teachers.
- Another important aim or goal of implementing this policy is to ensure that the Gross Enrolment Ratio from preschool to secondary education should be 100 percent by 2030. In order to achieve the aim, two initiatives will need to be undertaken as the policy states that
 - a) Universal participation in schools shall be achieved by tracking students and their learning levels to ensure they are enrolled and attending school.
 - b) Have suitable opportunities to re-join or catch up at school in case they have dropped out or fallen behind.
- The policy states that there is a need to reconfigure the curricular and pedagogical structure of school education so as to make it responsive and relevant to the developmental needs and interests of learners at different stages of their development, corresponding to the age. Also the policy suggest to reduce the curriculum content and include mainly experimental learning in order to enhance essential learning and critical thinking.
- Since it is well known that young children easily learn and grasp nontrivial concepts mainly in their home language or mother tongue, therefore in the policy it is suggested that the medium of expression until at least grade five – but preferably till grade eight or beyond – shall be the student's mother tongue, or the local or regional language.
- One of the distinguishing features of secondary school education is holistic development and a wide choice of subjects and courses year to year. There will be no particular differences among curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular. Same is with the streams, i.e. no hard separation in arts, humanities and science.



- In today's rapidly changing world, curricular integration of essential subjects, skills and capacities to make good, successful, innovative and productive human beings. Skills like scientific temper and evidence-based thinking, creativity and innovativeness at relevant stages will be undertaken. Activities involving coding will be introduced in the middle stage also.
- Based on the principles of National Education Policy, 2020 the formulation of a new and comprehensive National Curricular Framework for School Education, NCFSE2020- 21, will be undertaken by the NCERT.
- All national textbooks shall aim to contain the essential core material deemed important on a national level, but at the same time any desired nuances and supplementary material as per local contexts and communities needs. Also NCERT, SCERT's are trying concerted efforts to reduce the weight of school bags and textbooks.
- In order to optimize learning and development for all the students, the educational policy suggest to shift the aim of assessment from summative and primarily tests rote memorization skills to more competency based, where high-order skills, conceptual clarity and critical thinking are to be analyzed and will be reported through the progress report card. It is also proposed to set-up a National Assessment Center, PARAKH (Performance assessment review and analysis of knowledge for holistic development) as a standard setting body under the guidance of MHRD.

At present, India is at a point where strong and well defined steps are needed to rejuvenate the nation and the new education policy is seen as one of the revolutionary steps that can propel the country in right direction. The new education policy 2020 is in tune with the vision and mission of Dr. Kalam where education is being capable of transforming humans as creative and reflective being. Keeping in mind the national mission of Dr. Kalam of evolution of knowledge society, the educationist tried to align it with the new education policy so as to seek the relevancy in present education system. The vision of Dr. Kalam regarding Indian education system is to deliver improve mechanism of education at all levels which is fully tuned towards creation of enlightened citizens who in turn will transform India into a prosperous, happy, strong and safe nation. In other words, Dr. Kalam recognized the importance and need of perfect fusion of quality education and proper guidance to youngsters for their growth and development and also of nation. He opined that the aims of education are quite comprehensive but can be defined in following statements which are:

- To create nation building capacities in students.
- To character building by cultivating human values in students.
- To develop a scientific attitude with a spiritual foundation.
- To build or transform a child into a leader.
- To train students to become autonomous learner.
- To retain the smiles on the faces of children.
- To build confidence to face uncertain future.
- To develop in youths a sense of dignity, self-respect and self-reliance.

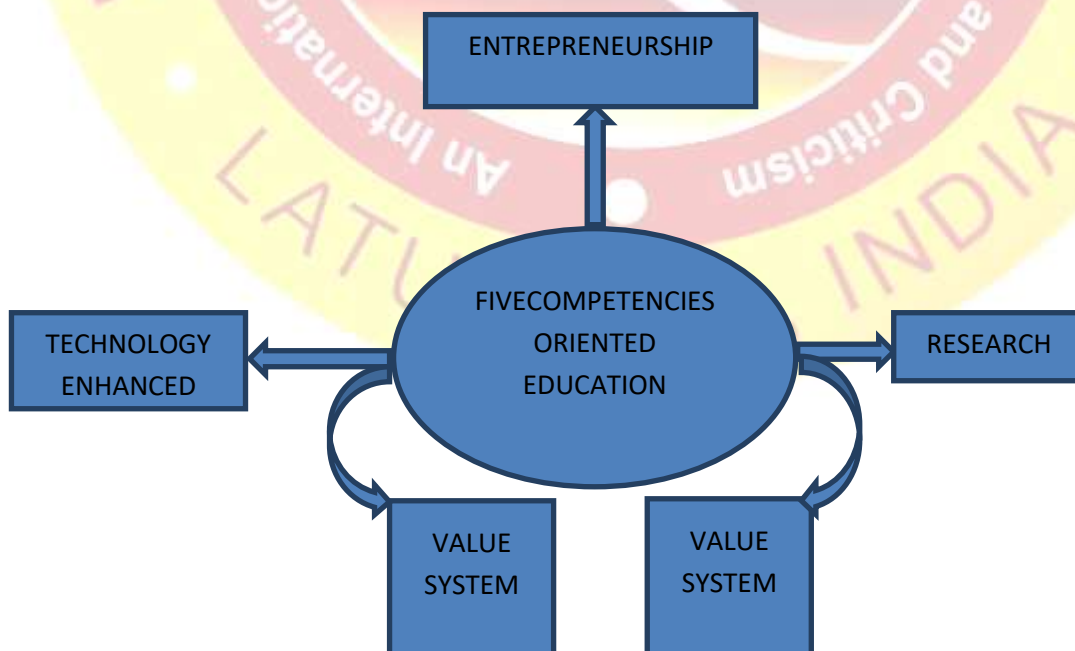
Dr. Kalam while delivering a lecture in an inauguration of CII Educational Summit, 2007 discuss about employment and education. He provided the data that the university education is contributing 3 million graduates and post graduates each year, while about 7



million students seeks employment after their secondary school education in 10th and 12th. Thus nearly 10 million youths are injected every year in the society to get job or seek employment. However, there is a large gap in the availability of employable skill. To bridge the gap, an interface is needed between the education system and the needs of the three sectors of the economy. With the passage of time more youth will be seeking employment, therefore Dr.Kalam suggested the concept of creating global human resource cadres. He said that keeping in mind the problem, the universities as well the school educational systems need to create two cadres of personnel:

- A global cadre of skilled youth with specific knowledge of special skills
- Another global cadre of youth with higher education

The need for creating two types of cadres is to fulfil the purpose of requirements of skilled human resource locally as well as globally. Also it will power the manufacturing and services sector by providing skilled youth. Thus, the university education should be such that the graduates who come out should have specialization linked to employment potential and the percentage of generating skill youth or the skill oriented category should increase by the year 2030. This task will need reorientation of our education system for generating world class skills among the youth which will enable their productivity and therefore resulting in better competitiveness. Another aim of education system should be to have at least all the remaining students to have a secondary school qualification with training for employment in agriculture or service sector. Further Dr. Kalam suggested that a national policy should be evolved for creating a global human development cadre for India with the help of national team including experts from multiple ministries, from education sector, experts of the three sectors of the economy and various professionals. This evolution of policy will help in generating quality, knowledge and skills needed by all sectors of Indian economy and also will allow global employable human resource. The idea behind evolving a national policy is to create employment generators instead of employment seekers. To achieve this aim the following five competencies should be developed.





I. Entrepreneurship Oriented Education:

In one of the speeches Dr. Kalam discussed the importance and need of entrepreneurship study while formulating curriculum of schools and colleges as well. He suggested that a three pronged strategy is required to make the education more attractive so to impart skill and create employment potential youths simultaneously. He continued saying that according to a study conducted in several countries that any nation which has large economic growth are mainly dependent on the large number of small and medium enterprises. These enterprises are contributing to nation's wealth generating capabilities. Thus, it is important to provide opportunities to youths to pursue the study so that they can start any enterprises in various field of their choice.

II. Research based Education:

The 20th century was for the generation of knowledge. But the 21st century has updated a lot with the management of all the knowledge and information that have been generated earlier and have been given value to it. It is important that we should pass on to our youth, the skills with which they find a way through the sea of knowledge that we have created. In today's time, research has not only become important but it's now becoming driving force in the process of self-reliance of all cutting edge technologies. Certain universities have realized that it is the research that has been the main contributor and the guiding force in achieving the core competence. Dr. Kalam insists that universities and higher institutions of various disciplines should come together to realize the importance of research and the effect in educational areas that they are going to have in shaping the future. It emphasizes research in new and emerging areas. Dr. Kalam while giving the examples of various scientific organizations like ISRO, DRDO, DAE and DBT where they spend more than rupees 500 crores per year in sponsored research emphasize for research in areas of arts and literature, humanities, political science and management to promote balanced growth of the societal system preserving the civilization heritage.

III. Education Develop Creativity and Innovation:

In his Address at the Valedictory function of the 3rd International Conference on Creativity and Innovation at Grassroots (ICCIG-2015), Dr.Kalam said, "Creativity is a process through which, we can continuously improve ideas and find unique solutions by making gradual alterations and refinements to our works. Innovations come through creativity. Creativity comes from beautiful minds. The important aspect of creativity is seeing the same thing as everybody else. Thus, it is essential that the education system should nurture creativity so that it leads to evolution of self-reliant youth with knowledge and action. Dr. Kalam always believed that if we release the locked potential of each child and ignite their minds, then there is nothing that India cannot achieve.

IV. Education with Value System:

Dr. Kalam had always emphasized the need for a value based education that instills righteousness at a young age to make a cultured citizenry capable of transforming India into a prosperous, peaceful, secure, happy and developed nation. In one of the interaction with students, Dr. Kalam while discussing about the mission of education told "When I look at you



dear friends, I see one integrated system of education, the system of learning and system of knowledge. The seeds of peace in the world have their origin in the righteousness in the heart of every individual. Such righteous citizens lead to the evolution of an enlightened society. Education with the value system has to be so designed that the righteousness in the heart is developed in young minds. That should be the mission of education.” Moral leadership includes two features. First it is necessary for a leader to have the ability of powerful dreams or visions of human betterment. And second, the disposition to do the right things and influence others also to do right things.

V. Technology Enhanced Education Capacities:

According to Dr. Kalam, one of the primary aims of education is to enhance learning capacity through technology. He wanted that each and every student should be made aware and also brought in contact with technology to aid their learning process. All the educational institutions should be equipped with adequate computing equipment, laboratory equipment and also internet facilities with high band connectivity so as to facilitate an environment where the students are able to enhance their learning ability. He insisted that to improve the computer literacy programme across the length and breadth of the country. Further, he said that computer literacy should not to be restricted only to the usage of computer but must be extended in form of eLearning packages on various subjects with illustrations. This will make the learning more interesting as well as productive.

Model Implementation:

One of the models is a necessity in order to carry out, execute or practice the plan so that the concept becomes a reality. For effective and successful implementations, it is important that the person whom it get influenced should perform its role efficiently. The vision and mission of Dr. Kalam’s developed India through education can be achieved through implementing the capacity building model. While implementing the model, the role of parents, teachers, academic community and society is important.

A. Role of Parents:

The role of parents is very essential as they lay the foundation of development in the children. When asked about role models to students, Dr. Kalam said when you are growing up, say till the age of fifteen, the best role model I can think of would be your father, your mother and your school teacher. They to my mind are the people who can impart the best guidance during this period. I turned to the teachers and parents present there and told them what a big responsibility they have. I personally believe the full development of a child with a value system can only come from these people. Every parent must make the efforts to guide their children to be good human being, hardworking and enlightened one.

B. Role of Teachers:

On the special occasion of Teacher’s day, 2003 Dr.Kalam began his speech by saying that “a student spends 25000 hours in the school campus. The school must have the best teachers who have the ability to teach, love teaching and build moral qualities.”(a text of speech given on 5 Sep 2003). A good teacher has to prepare generation, which is a unique characteristic of moral



value and professional capabilities. Dr. Kalam thus, believes that the teacher needs to empowered themselves with knowledge and experience, so that they are able to shape good human beings with value system. Also the method of teaching is very important as it makes the student, a lifelong autonomous learner.

C. Role of Society:

The overall development of child gets influenced by society also. It's therefore very essential that society should understand its role in providing good education to children and in implementing the capacity building model. The society plays an important role in shaping the life of children by helping in formulating the aims and objectives of education needed at different levels of education. Dr.Kalam suggested that the society should facilitate means provision of equal opportunities to all. Thus, society plays an imperative role by controlling the system of education keeping in view the needs and requirements of today's society.

The twenty-first century belongs to knowledge society and it has opened up tremendous opportunities in every field. It has open up whole new worlds of personal, civic, economic, and lifelong-learning opportunities for individuals that enable them to progress personally and professionally. It can be concluded that the essence of Dr. Kalam's personal experience, his life and his educational philosophy are a treasure worthy to be possessed, studied deeply and need to be implemented. It is applicable and to be followed by teachers, entrepreneur, trainers, corporate mentors and leaders by anyone who is mentoring and teaching someone or a team to go beyond limits and create greatness. Also, I tried to seek the educational ideas of Dr. Kalam with that of the New National Education Policy-2020 based on the five pillars of education. The new education policy aims at holistic and multidisciplinary education that would aim to develop all capacities of human beings -intellectual, aesthetic, social, physical, emotional, and moral in an integrated manner. Such an education will help develop well-rounded individuals that possess critical 21st century capacities in all fields. Thus, with the implementation of National Education Policy, 2020 it is assumed that Kalam's dream is going to be fulfilled very soon and youth will play a vital role in the development of the India.

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