

## Educational Thoughts of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

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### Introduction

**D**r. APJ Abdul Kalam is a scholar who stands for the integration of ancient and modern educational ideals. He is a noted scientist and his contributions to the field of science and technology have gained him worldwide recognition.

Dr Kalam lays great emphasis on education. He believes that the teachers, particularly school teachers, have tremendous responsibility in shaping the life of an individual. Childhood is the foundation stone upon which stands the entire life structure. He states that the seeds sown in childhood blossom into the tree of life. He firmly believes that the education system should be able to retain the smiles of children. He further states that the education system has a tremendous responsibility to transform a child into a leader-the transformation from "What can you do for me?" to "What can I do for you?" He believes that proper education would help nurture a sense of dignity and self-respect among the students. He maintains that the purpose of teaching is to create nation-building capacities in the students and these capabilities are derived from knowledge, education, own experience and value system inherited through civilization.

### Kalam's Alms of Education

According to Dr. Kalam education system should retain the smiles of children. This can happen if the education system is made creative throughout and full employment is provided to all. Dr. Kalam lists the main aims of education as follows:-

1. To bold confidence among children to face the future
2. To enlighten and empower citizens to contribute towards healthy nation building
3. To Maki character and to cultivate human values in students
4. To encourage creativity and to develop scientific attitude with spiritual foundation
5. To develop capacity for research and enquiry among students.
6. To unfold innovating powers and entrepreneurship
7. To develop moral leadership
8. To make the country energy independent
9. To develop the sense of dignity. self-respect and self-reliance among students

### Some Crucial Factors for Better Education

#### Capacities to be built among students

The primary locus of the students should be to excel in their studies. This is their first contribution to the development of the nation. The education system should instil in the minds or students capacities of inquiry, creativity, technology, entrepreneurial and moral leadership. If we develop in all our students these five capacities we will produce "Automomous I earner" a self-directed, self-controlled, lifelong learner, who will have the capacity to both respect authority and at the same time is capable of questioning authority, in an appropriate manner.

**Planning for good education for children in villages-**

Every school should have basic amenities such as a good building equipped with ventilation and lighting. The rooms should be airy and have spacious classrooms. The school should also have a library, laboratories including the Latest Information Technology tools and infrastructure, safe drinking water, clean toilets and a playground. This is possible by earn marking the additional 2 to 3 per cent of GDP.

**Mission of education-**

Education is the most important element for growth and prosperity of a nation. India is in the process of transforming itself into a developed nation by 2020. Yet we have 350 million people who need literacy and many more who have to acquire employable skills to suit the emerging modern India and the globe.

**Inequality of access to educational resources-**

It is essential that we enlighten and create widespread awareness of education among all sections of society particularly in rural areas and among the urban poor. We should use technology for this important social purpose. It is possible for NGOs, other social and philanthropic institutions and the media to focus on this area of creating awareness. We should also mobilise necessary resources for providing education to the underprivileged people.

**Technology Enhanced Education-**

Constraints of time and space together with the rapid obsolescence of knowledge in some areas of science and technology. have created a huge demand for different courses from different institutions in the distance mode. There is a need for a working digital library system that alone can. in the long run. provide the kind of access required for a Knowledge Society. Technology Enhanced Learning is a solution. It attempts to exploit the ninth developments in Information and Communication Technology. As the communications bandwidth continues to increase and the cost of computer power continues to drop. Technology Enhanced Learning

will become an economically viable solution. Virtual classrooms of the nature will have students from many locations taught by a main of geographically distributed instructors through the tele-education delivery system.

**Reducing Dropouts**

It is reported that 39 per cent of children drop out from school after studying 5th Class and 55 per cent drop out after studying up to 8th Class. This situation needs remedial action, especially since assent has been accorded to the 86<sup>th</sup> Constitution Amendment Act? The Right to Education Bill for children between the age group of 5 and 14 years. But, an Act alone cannot achieve the goal, unless education is delivered in a manner. which will take into account the socio-economic reality and perception of the people to whom it is addressed.

**Some Thoughts of A P J Abdul Kalam Regarding Education-**

Dr. Kalani believes that education is the pillar of a developed and powerful country, and also the most important element for growth and prosperity. He trusts that education is the most important area of the service sector as it provides the required knowledge and skill to do any work. Some of his educational thoughts are:

**a. Curriculum:**

Dr. Kalam maintains that the curriculum and syllabus should be structured in such a manner that it should meet the changing societal and occupational needs, and inculcate high moral values among the students in addition to learning skills. Dr. Kalam has struck a balance between science and spiritualism in his educational philosophy, which he believes is imperative, and suggested that curriculum must include the teachings and experiences of our eminent and great leaders.

**b. Schools:**

In his educational philosophy, Dr. Kalam has also laid due emphasis on schools. He advocates that there is an urgent need for every school to have basic amenities, such as good building equipped with ventilated, lighted, airy and spacious classrooms, safe drinking water, clean toilets and



playgrounds. Fixing the responsibility for the same he further states that it is the responsibility of the sponsoring organization to see that their schools maintain basic minimum norms both in academics as well as in providing physical facilities on their campus. Certain safety features must be built in school buildings without which it should not be possible to get affiliation for these schools.

**c. Children:**

Children are our greatest wealth. Each child born in the nation allowed to blossom. It is particularly important to provide extra care and facilities to the children including those who are not fortunate to have their families to look after them. This noble service should be promoted by all individuals and government organizations, leading to the development of enlightened citizens who will become an asset for national development.

**d. Imparting moral values:**

The right kind of education on moral values will upgrade the society and the country. After every child is nurtured during the early years with love and affection and when he reaches a school-going age he needs a value based education. The prime learning period for a child is from six to seventeen years of age. Hence the school hours for children are the best environment and mission-oriented learning with value based educational system.

**e. Teacher:**

Dr. Kalam has provided a glorious place to teachers in his educational philosophy. He has thrown light on the role of teachers, various qualities of teachers and teacher-student relationship. Dr. Kalam believes that teachers have tremendous responsibility in shaping the life of an individual and their great mission should be to ignite the minds of the young. Dr. Kalam realises that these ignited minds of the young are the most powerful resource on the earth, above the earth and under the earth. He visualises that the role of a teacher is like the proverbial 'ladder' which is used by everyone to climb up in life, provided the ladder stays in its place.

**f. Capacity to Use High-End Technology:**

All students should learn how to use the latest technologies for aiding their learning process. Universities should equip themselves with adequate computing equipment, laboratory equipment, and internet facilities and provide an environment for the students to enhance their learning ability. In the midst of all the technological innovations and revolutions we cannot think that the roles of the teachers will. In fact the teacher will become even more important and the whole world of educator will become teacher assisted as technology would help in tele-porting the best teacher to every nook and corner of the country to propagate knowledge.

**Conclusion**

Thus, it can be concluded that the essence of Dr. Kalam's personal experience, his life, his educational philosophy and his educational thoughts are a treasure, worthy to be possessed, studied deeply and implemented. He is the only president who has a lot of love for children and feels that the future of India lies in them. Today's young students want the education system to feed and challenge their innovative and creative minds. Educators must have to year up to evolve a curriculum that is sensitive to the social and technological needs of a Developed India.

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