

The relevance of Gandhiji's Nai Talim in the right of children to free and compulsory act in India.

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Introduction:

'Education is the most powerful weapon in the world' Nelson Mandela.

Education is not only needed to read and write but also to understand the world around. By taking education we can acquire skills and gain better perspectives. The more educated the society, the more accepting it is. Education helps one to recognize oneself and also to recognize one's strength. By education, one gets an opportunity to develop oneself. Because of education, one's logical thinking is also developed. Education also opens up new avenues. Last but not least, education gives you financial stability. Education teaches values and helps in development of society as a whole. ¹

By being educated, one becomes aware of better life choices, better skills and self-advocacy. It not only improves the quality of life but also develops effective habits. By education, we can understand how the world works presently and then only we can come up with solutions and alterations for existing problems. Educated people always become a part of a community and by this we can develop and improve ourselves.

The concept of Nai Talim:

The phrase of Nai Talim is a combination of two words, Nai means new and Talim means education. In 1937, Gandhiji introduced the concept of Nai Talim in India. It aimed to achieve gram Swarajy, the object which Gandhiji forwarded for liberalization of villages. Through Nai Talim Gandhiji wanted to achieve independence of villages and their self-reliance. It is an approach towards the total personality development of an individual.

Some of the basic objectives of Nai Talim included, education or learning should be done in mother tongue along with handicraft work, work should be linked with most useful vocational needs of the society, learning should be linked with vocational work and work should be socially useful.

Basic education through Nai Talim:

Gandhiji led emphasis on the basic education. He defined the term of basic education as universal minimum education to all children. The course of this education is to run for seven years beginning from the age of seven. It does not cover preschool stage or post school stage. Basic education should be imparted through the mother tongue. In Nai Talim, the teaching learning process should be in accordance with some sort of art or handicraft. The craft chosen must be systematically learnt with a view of efficiency and practice results. The product of the craft must be economically paying. The state should cover the rest of the expenses of the school building, furniture, books, maps and the whole of the apparatus including tools for the craft education.

¹ [schoolconnect.com-importance of education](http://schoolconnect.com-importance-of-education) as visited on 28th January 23

Gandhiji's aims of education were vocational efficiency, cultural development, spiritual development supported by character building. Work education should be based on economic activities and craft based activities. Self-reliance should be the basic aim of education.

Gandhiji further lead down the process through which the system of Nai Talim can be implemented. He recommended to appoint qualified teachers who possess both knowledge of theory and of craft work. Policy makers should concentrate on physical, psychological intellectual, emotional and social development of children. Schools should be proper funded so that they will make available all the material which is required for the overall development of the child. Importance should be given to all types of work. Appropriate curriculum should be included in the textbooks of the children. The role of a teacher should be like a innovator, initiator, dynamic with challenges in work order. The government should take a lead in the implementation of the process.²

The right of children to free and compulsory education act 2009:

This act is enacted by the Parliament to provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years of age. The act says that every child has a right of free education till the completion of his other elementary education. The act also makes special provision for children not admitted or who have not completed their elementary education. A special and unique character of the act is that the act makes special provision for the duties of appropriate government and local authorities to establish schools. Duties of appropriate government include providing free and compulsory education to children and along with that providing appropriate infrastructure to schools which are established so that the motive of the act may be served.

The act makes provision regarding extent of schools responsibility for free and compulsory education. The act specifies that there will not be ant capitation fee or screening procedure for the admission of the child. Holding back or expulsion of a child from the school is totally banned by the act in a similar manner punishments are also banned by the act. The act also suggest for the norms and standards of the school. It also recommends the establishment of School management committee. The act also specifies duties of teachers along with redress of the grievances.

For protecting the rights of the child we have the formation of the national and the state advisory committee as well as the constitution of the state advisory committee.

The relevance of Nai Talim in Right to free and compulsory education of children Act:

Nai Talim is a step for an overall development of a child. But for this reason education need to change its strategy, and it should focus on the development centered education. It is possible only when the child is kept in free environment where there are a lot of activities like field activity, class activity, and lab activity. The child is required to be kept in free learning activity. According to Nai Talim, bookish knowledge is not important, but the child should attained the activities which include culture, art, music, dance, sport, games etc. The

² MGNCPExperiential learning as vivisted on 1st feb 23

reason is because of this the child develops creativity, imagination, innovation and togetherness.

For effective implementation, it is required that educational planning should depend upon rural development, rural students, tribal students, below poverty students etc. according to Gandhiji, the whole education should impart the 3 H's that is head, heart and hand. Hence Nai Talim makes a way to create an earning source to all children.

Teacher is a facilitator of children in learning manner to increase the level of knowledge and duty to make a task for student to improve the creativity part. So process should be initiated to provide a platform to students for field based activity, school based activity, class based activity, lab based activity, child centered activity, experienced based activity, development based activity.

In order to make Nai Talim a lifelong, creative and innovative process, task should be created by innovation of new ideas by imagination. This also creates a new thought process. By introducing this process to students, there will be encounter to new challenge, new experience, and new strategy. A teacher needs to develop these basic ideas and then impart such kind of ideas to students.³

³ Dr. Sonali Channawar- Nai Talim a lifelong process-IJEAM