

# A Study on Philosophy and Educational Thoughts of Sri Aurobindo Ghosh

**Kakuli Dey**

Ex Student, Kalyani University, Nadia, West Bengal, India

## ABSTRACT

The education field always needs someone to enrich the field of education for learning in a better manner. Several Indian educationists contributed in it. Sri Aurobindo also contributed a lot for bringing changes so that the future generation can gain better system and ideas in education. It has been mentioned in this paper that it deals with his involvement in which his philosophy of life and social psychology influence spiritual education. It also has been dealt with the principles of educational philosophy on Mind, Knowledge, Intelligence and Consciousness that is a very essential part of spiritual Education.

**KEYWORDS:** Educational thoughts, Philosophy, integral education

## Objectives of this study:

1. To study the relevance of Aurobindo Ghosh educational thought in the Integral education system.
2. To study the significance of Aurobindo Ghosh contribution of Education.

## INTRODUCTION

Aurobindo was an Indian Nationalist, a freedom fighter, a philosopher, a yogi and a poet. According to Sri Aurobindo Ghosh, "the aim of yoga is an inner self development, by which each one who follows it can discover it on time. He was born in Calcutta on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1872. According to Aurobindo, real education is that which provides a free and creative environment to the child and by developing his Interest, creativity, mental, moral, and aesthetic sense finally leads to the development of his spiritual powers.

## Philosophy of education:

*"True knowledge is not attained by thinking. It is what you are, it is what you become". \_SriAurobindoGhose.*

His philosophy is based on an Integralism. It is the synthesis of idealism realism pragmatism and spiritualism. SriAurobindo's philosophical thoughts and principles of teaching are almost important if a human being wants to live in peace and harmony. In the global era, his Philosophy is very much relevant to achieve and maintain permanent peace in the world. It is very necessary to uplift the human being from the materiality to spirituality. Sri Aurobindo said, "Peace is the first condition, without which nothing else can be stable". A human being now engaged in searching the peace and happiness but true happiness lies in the finding and maintenance of natural harmony of spirit, mind, and body" as Sri Aurobindo said. Aurobindo has given the greater emphasis on yoga. He said, "The yoga we practice is not for ourselves alone, but for the Divine in the world, to effect a spiritual transformation and to bring down physical nature

and life of humanity". He also gave emphasis to national and international integration and value in education.

## Important publication of Sri Aurobindo

1. The mind of light
2. Ideal Essay on the Gita
3. The secret of the Vedas
4. Life divine
5. The Savitri
6. Upnishada
7. The human cycle.

## Aims of Education:

According to Sri Aurobindo "Indeed if the education is to have its maximum result, it must begin even before birth Sri Aurobindo emphasised that education should be in accordance with the needs of our real modern life. In other words, education should create dynamic citizens, so that they are able to meet the needs of modern complex life According to him, "The chief aim of education should be to help the growing soul. To draw out that in itself which is best and makes it perfect for a noble use".

According to Aurobindo, physical education aims of education As such, he not only emphasised mere physical development but physical purity also, without which no spiritual development is possible. In this intense, physical development and purification are the two hands, on which the spiritual development is built.

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## Curriculum

Sri. Aurobindo prescribed free and creative environment for child & stresses integrated Curriculum which includes various activities, subjects and real-life experiences all in a Unifying whole. He gave emphasis that curriculum should include all those subjects which are according to need and interest of the child and promote his mental & spiritual development. It should contain creativity of life and constructive capacities. He suggested various subjects according to the different level of a child. However, the curriculum should include basically those subjects which are very relevant to the society like mother tongue, english, history, social science, history, chemistry, physics, arithmetic, general science, Literature, various foreign languages and various vocational subjects.

## Method of Teaching:

**Nothing can be Taught** It means that the pupil has to acquire new knowledge by his own attempt and the teacher is to work as helper or guide to the pupil. The pupil is allowed to study by his own capacity and interest.

**Self-Pacing Learning** According to the method of teaching, the teacher should not impose on the child from the above if the child is not prepared to receive the knowledge. Once the mother said that a child wants to remain ignorant, we may explain to him consequences or remaining ignorant but we should not pressurise the child for learning. The child to be allowed to learn according to his interest.

**Teaching from Near to Far** This means that the child should be led from near to far. That is all education should be built upon the day to day experience of the learners.

## Discipline:

Children should be provided with a better environment in a school so that they can gain more knowledge themselves. According to Aurobindo, any imposed environment stunt the growth and natural development of children. Shri Aurobindo promoted the concept of Self-discipline that was the healing of proper discipline. In his theory of education, Shri Aurobindo concentrated wholly upon the development of life, mind and soul of the students. His educational system is integral because it aims the better life, soul factor of learners and mind and also he talks about several pieces of training for the learners.

## Role of teacher

As per Shri Aurobindo, teachers should be respected and they have a very responsible job. The different tasks of the learners should be Sincerely seen so that he could guide. He told that a teacher should show the learners the appropriate path, and show the ways to achieve. That and find out the self-guidance. And also told not to impose any knowledge instead he shows them how to get different skills

## Integral Education:

According to Sri Aurobindo, It is one which helps to bring out to full advantage, makes ready for the full purpose of life and scope of all that is in the individual man, which at the same time helps him to enter into his right relation with life, mind and soul of the people to which he belongs and with the great total life, mind, soul of humanity of which he himself is a unit and his people or nation, a separate and yet inseparable member. It will recognise the individual not as a vague combination of matter and spirit, but a personality having four distinct aspects, i.e. physical, vital, mental and psychic. An ideal system of education must open up avenues

for the best possible development of each of these faculties of the student.

## Two fold basis of integrated education are :

1. Individuality is one whole.
2. Humanity is one.

Integral education would not only aim at the integral development of personality, but it would also embrace all knowledge in its scope. An important characteristic of integral education is its insistence on simultaneous development of Knowledge, Will, Harmony, and Skill as also various parts of the being to the extent possible from the earliest stages of education. The knowledge of the secrets of the process of integral education is largely contained in the Veda and Upanishads, and what we find missing there has been the special subject of study and experimentation in Sri Aurobindo.

## Educational implication of Aurobindo's:

Education being the dynamic side of philosophy, every philosopher is ultimately an educator. Education becomes an instrument of realising that aims. Aurobindo wanted a system of education which sought immensely to enlarge the field of knowledge of the student and activated his memory, judgement and creative power. He was an idealistic to the core. His idealistic Philosophy of Life was based on Vedantic philosophy of Upanishad. Sri Aurobindo's concept of education is not only acquiring information, but the acquiring of various kinds of information.

## Conclusion

Above study clearly indicates that Sri Aurobindo Ghosh was a great philosopher and educationist to the core. He mainly emphasizes on the practical aspects of the work or task assign to the learner. According to him the learner should be provided with proper Guidance and counselling for their upliftment towards their career. Integral education places holistic learner development at the forefront while assisting in self-Definitions of personal purpose in accordance with values and ethics enveloped in a sacred, yet inclusive, worldview. Children should be provided with free environment and they should be treated with love, sympathy and consideration. According to him education should be imparted as per the interest, ability, motivation, attitude and aptitude of the child. According to him the best method of learning is learning by doing. He laid stress on the cooperative activities of teacher and children in the educational process. The potentials in holistic wisdom, drawn from a wider wealth of competencies, will prove essential in cultivating students' responses to dynamic and evolving global crises.

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