

Jiddu Krishnamurti: A Great Teacher of Humanistic Education

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ABSTRACT

Jiddu Krishnamurti, an intellectual thinker, a great philosopher, writer and popular speaker on philosophical, spiritual and educational subjects. He was born on May 11, 1895 in an orthodox Brahmin family of Madhanapalli town in Andhra Pradesh. J. Krishnamurti declared himself as a teacher of humanity and decided to act for setting man free from ignorance, illusion, fear and blind belief. I have mentioned here various aspects of Krishnamurti's philosophy of life which are related to humanity. Krishnamurti has made a several comments about traditional Indian education, which are highlighted here. He pointed out the shortcomings of this traditional education system and mentioned various principles regarding education as its solution. These principles of Krishnamurti, on the one hand, play an important role in current education and on the other hand, they also have a huge impact on humanistic education. By clarifying these issues here, I have shown that Krishnamurti plays a significant role as a teacher of humanistic education.

KEYWORDS: Jiddu Krishnamurti, Great Teacher, World Teacher, Humanism, Humanity, Humanistic Education

INTRODUCTION

Krishnamurti is known all over the world as a great thinker and religious teacher. In addition, he was a great philosopher, famous writer, and was known as a speaker on philosophical, spiritual, and educational subjects. He was one of those who were against the traditional system of education at that time. Mrs. Annie Besant made an important comment about Krishnamurti and that is "Krishnamurti would be the vehicle of the world teacher". At the present time there is an extreme value crisis. To address this, a humanitarian approach to education has become necessary. And this is the birth of humanistic education. Here we will try to show the principles that are influencing the aspects of humanistic education in Krishnamurti's philosophy of education. Krishnamurti declared himself as a teacher of humanity so we will try to see here whether he can be considered as a great teacher of humanistic education or not.

Objectives:

- To know about Krishnamurti's humanistic views.
- To know about the role of Krishnamurti as a teacher of humanitarian education.
- To find out Krishnamurti's recommendation to all human beings.

Methodology:

The study was conducted based on the method of document review in accordance with the qualitative approach of research. The information presented in this paper was collected from primary and secondary sources like various books, Research Article, Magazines, Research Journal, and from E-journal. The methods utilized for gathering information were document review, archival investigation, Representative themes that were found across materials gathered were coded and analysed for presentation. In this

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study, Krishnamurti's life, character and opinions on various subject matters have been analysed to the perspective of making modern India. For that, some documents which are related to Krishnamurti's life used by researchers. Each document contents are examined in detail by researchers.

Humanity or Humanism:

Humanity meant the development of human virtue, in all its forms, to its fullest extent. The word humanity does not only mean understanding, compassion, mercy, benevolence, but also fortitude, prudence, judgment, eloquence, love and many more. Humanism means identifying humanity as a sovereign person and they will all be responsible for their destiny. It identifies all people as self value and unconditional and does not discriminate between them in any way. It is a humane society that will enable all people to live freely and maintain equality among all. Humanism always puts man and his existence at the centre of everything. It puts human development, freedom, good nature, dignity, etc. above all else. In humanism, freely thinking, moral sensitivity, aesthetic sense, free will, creativity, etc., are given more prominence. Humanism does not deny religious, ethnic, national or other organizations, but human existence and freedom are considered paramount here. In other words, humanity is for all people, in which case there will be no discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion, caste or place.

Philosophical Basis of Humanism:

A humanistic teacher will have the help of four philosophical pillars while teaching. These pillars will boost the confidence of teachers and students and guide teachers on how to teach. These four pillars are shown below:

- **Free Will:** All the people of the world have free will, what they will like, what they will think, what they will give opinion etc;
- **Emotions impact Learning:** We need to be in a positive emotional state so that we can make the most of our achievements;
- **Intrinsic Motivation:** In order to achieve something, one has to use his eternal desire. He cannot be tempted outwardly. He will achieve it on his own;
- **Innate Goodness:** Human position above all else and all people are good.

According to humanism, all students are free willed, basically good and if the learning environment is ideal, they will be able to achieve their maximum. Students need to focus on their emotional, cognitive and social needs in order to build this ideal learning environment.

Meaning of Humanistic Education:

Humanistic education builds the individual as an educated personality, intellectual freedom and respect for human dignity. This education leads them to the best and highest life. And they do it with three basic domains of life. These are – A) People who can realize their potential. B) Engaged as a responsible citizen towards democracy. C) People who enrich and perfect human culture and themselves through interaction with everyone. According to humanistic education, practice should always be general and multi-faceted. This characteristic of humanistic education clearly shows the difference between qua education and teaching and occupational training. The term humanistic education usually refers to various educational theories and practices that are committed to the ethics of humanism. Human development, dignity, well-being these are the main actions and thoughts of human beings; religion, nationalism, ideology, values, these will be secondary. The three fundamental tenets of humanism are based on long philosophical discussions and moral traditions and the UN's declaration of human rights and the right of the child. These are: –

Philosophical: Here all individuals are autonomous and rational being and dignity is shown to all. Everyone has the freedom of will, everyone can do rational thinking, everyone will be empathetic, above all everyone can do freely imagination and creative activities.

Socio-Political: From this point of view, the person has universal moral qualities. All will remain steadfast towards human democracy. All individuals will be free to express their own opinions. There will be no discrimination on the basis of race, religion, caste, place etc.

Pedagogical: This tenet will help the person to realize his potential and enjoy life as independently as possible.

Humanistic educators, it is commonly agreed, should further seek to all-round development and integral persons whose culture is manifested not only in their broad-learning but also in demonstrating critical consciousness, sense of morality, sympathetic-empathetic, imagination powers, socialization, and responsibility, cultivation of knowledge — so that the “tree of knowledge” would also treat as a nourishing “tree of life.” Finally, to achieve this and truly facilitate nourishing lives for their students, humanistic teachers take the responsibility to set personal example in the art of living as well as to build at their schools a

pedagogical environment of care, trust, empathy, help and support, dignity, respect, fairness, tolerance, inquiry, freedom, commitment, free-will, responsibility, moral sensitivity, multiculturalism and mutuality.

Principles of Humanistic Education:

Most educators talk about the following three aspects of humanistic education:

1. Humanistic education helps a person to acquire different types of current skills. Notable among these are- reading, writing, arithmetic, communicating, decision making, thinking, problem solving etc.
2. Humanistic education places more importance on the human approach to education. It will help one to enjoy life by developing one's inner quality, showing respect to others.
3. Humanistic education deals with the basics of human beings. How people have improved life from ancient times to the present, how they have acquired knowledge, how to show love, respect; in the broadest sense, it discusses all aspects of the individual's existence.

Also, the main principles of humanistic education are given below –

- Humanistic educators will create a learning environment for the students so that the students do not face any fear and suffer from inferiority complex. They will feel secure and the learning environment will be meaningful and collaborative.
- Students will choose for themselves what kind of knowledge they will acquire. Students will be motivated to learn the subject of their choice.
- Humanistic educators consider both feeling and knowledge important in the learning process. They do not separate cognitive and effective domains like traditional educators.
- Humanistic educators believe that the grade system is irrelevant in education. Self-evaluation is considered more important than the grade system in education.
- Humanistic educators consider the objective test to be irrelevant, as it tests students' memory power and does not provide adequate feedback between teachers and students.
- Students will be self-motivated in this education. They will foster whatever they desire to learn.

Humanistic education consists in the general and multifaceted cultivation of humans — in a social atmosphere that manifests human dignity and intellectual freedom — towards the best and highest life of which they are capable in three fundamental domains of life: as individuals who autonomously and authentically realize their potential, as involved and responsible citizens in a democracy, and as human beings who enrich and perfect themselves through meaningful and constructive engagement with the collective achievements of human culture.

J. Krishnamurti's philosophical principles towards humanity:

J. Krishnamurti was one of the thinkers who enrich the Philosophical and Cultural Traditions of India. J. Krishnamurti was one of the thinkers who enrich the Philosophical and Cultural Traditions of India. He has great courage in rejecting all the rubbish in the name of religion and advice man to investigate the truth without meeting their mind two conditions. He speaks on life and problems

associated with it in an orthodox manner. When we study J. Krishnamurti's life philosophy well, we notice some principles. These principles are related to the principles of humanistic education. These principles of J. Krishnamurti's life-philosophy are given below –

- According to him, one must realise that there is no security in the past, present or future. In the case of humanistic education, we see that the child is not educated by any predetermination. Moreover, there will be no fixed rules that he will have to reach that goal in the future.
- Krishnamurti insisted on the free will of the student. So that the student always tries to find the truth. And not to think that everything has to be taken from an authority. The student will have to give full freedom to his free will while acquiring knowledge. These are important principles of humanistic education.
- According to him, man should not waste his energy in controlling, suppressing, resisting and in trying to escape, but all that energy would be used in living with the existing conditions. This view of Krishnamurti is an expression of humanity.
- He does not prescribe any doctrine or pattern of life to live happily but suggests that we should live with the mind completely free from the blind idea of past or future. This is the undeniable fact that most of human energy and resources are being spent in preparation for war and in terrorizing others, which is the main enemy of humanity.
- He considers fear as one of the greatest problems in the world. It is mainly caused by the thought of tomorrow. In fact, people talk of what will happen in future and get it into their trap and get frightened.
- According to him, when there is dependence, there is inner desire of freedom. In his own words, "Freedom means freedom from fear" (Beginnings of Learning, 2003). Freedom means freedom from any form of resistance. It means payment without isolation. Freedom means having no resistance at all.

J. Krishnamurti was the most unconventional thinker; Krishnamurti freely expressed his views on a variety of issues and problems. In fact, all the problems of daily life require serious consideration that attracted his attention. It is a fact that every human being is engaged in seeking pleasures in life. These views of Krishnamurti are the manifestation of humanity. By these principles it is understood that a child will be able to enjoy his whole life independently. He will not fall prey to any kind of blind faith. They will not be affected by any bad ideology. They will come forward for the benefit of all and stand by the side of the poor and helpless. The various principles of Krishnamurti are thus associated with humanistic education. We will try to know this more broadly.

J. Krishnamurti's views on traditional Indian education:

Krishnamurti is an important figure who unhesitatingly identifies various aspects of Indian education, especially those that use children as machines. We see his important contribution towards education and philosophy. He has identified all the aspects of Indian education that need to be remarkably changed in the principles of education. All these aspects of Indian education are highlighted below –

- The traditional education is unable to make a person think independently.

- It takes the student into darkness from the point of view of mind and heart.
- It creates fear in one's heart and mind.
- This education is unable to convey the significance of life.
- This is not helping the learner to develop creativity.
- This education is turning students into machines and students are just trying to find jobs.
- It denies the aesthetic, cultural and social development of the child.
- It teaches students how to earn money and gives them a good job. It does not affect other aspects of life very well.
- Only examinations and degrees are given importance as criteria, ignoring the concept of lifelong and comprehensive education.
- This education tends to sharpen the students intellectually without focusing on vital human issues.
- Technical education emphasizes technical knowledge which is necessary but without understanding the total process of life that becomes a means of destroying man.
- In this education the freedom of the students is awaited. As a result, all round development of the child will fail.

A reflection of J. Krishnamurti's humanistic approach to education:

Krishnamurti was one of the great educators of Western and Eastern educators. We have seen different aspects of humanity in J. Krishnamurti's philosophy of life. Now we will see what J. Krishnamurti has commented on various aspects of education. And I will try to see if they are really indicating humanitarian education.

1. **Meaning of Education:** Education will help students become mature and be free to learning, to flower greatly in love and goodness. It is not to transmit the existing values in the minds of children, but enable them to think rationally and critically. It will help them break down social and national barriers. Education is something that helps them to learn intellectually, not from a book but from the observation of the world and learns what exactly is happening without theories and prejudices. J. Krishnamurti says as an advice to the young student that to be really educated means not to conform, not to imitate, not to do what millions are doing. J. Krishnamurti's world view can be called the central core of education. Krishnamurti has declared his entire life education as a tool for inner renewal as well as social change. According to him, education can build a better society and restore peace in human life.

Krishnamurti says every person has a social responsibility; every person is part of the world. So, one person's behaviour will affect others. So there is no such thing as individual consciousness in society. He speaks of Collective Human Consciousness which will not separate the person from others. In a real sense, education will help the person to mature and the learning environment will be loving and benevolent. So that students can learn freely. Education will enable the student to think critically and rationally. Krishnamurti says education will be such that students can discover long-term values so that they do not just lean to become famous. Education will help the person to feel free instead of slavery and will feel proud to help others. In a real sense, education will give a person complete

freedom to use their mind at a higher capacity level. Education will give everyone the opportunity to express themselves to others completely and independently. So what we see here is that what Krishnamurti says about the meaning of education is completely in line with the principles of humanistic education.

2. **Aims of Education:** The aim of education will not be limited to developing students as scholars, not as technicians or job hunters; Education will make the person integrated in which there will be no fear. The student will enjoy life and create an atmosphere of peace in the environment. From beginning to end, education will help a person to realize himself and his life. Here we also see the reflection of humanistic education. Education will help to develop goodness. And goodness is never possible in an environment of fear. So there is no place for fear in the learning environment. As we have seen in Humanistic Education, the student is given complete freedom. That is what Krishnamurti has said here. Krishnamurti says reading books, passing exams, getting grades, reading for jobs, etc. cannot be the main goal of education. Humanistic education opposes these. Krishnamurti says education will help a person to be free from all his problems. Education will help to understand the whole life of a person. These are the main goals of humanistic education.
3. **Curriculum:** J. Krishnamurti founded eight schools in different parts of the world. He said that teaching should include a wide range of activities like art and craft, music and dance, dramatic and debates, sports, yoga, swimming, gardening, athletics and work experiences in order to provide an all-around development of the child. All the aspects that Krishnamurti has said about the curriculum are consistent with humanistic education. He did not mention any curriculum that would turn a person's life into a machine. Krishnamurti says about different types of curriculum of education. Students can participate in such curriculum completely and independently. Such curriculum can be observed in the case of humanistic education.
4. **Method of Teaching:** Krishnamurti talks about different types of learning methods and gives various suggestions to improve these learning methods. He says there are certain things in which the goal of education fails if special teaching methods are not applied. Since the student is influenced by the teacher's behavior, the teacher must be entitled to good behavior. Do not put any pressure on students to learn. Motivate students more and more to acquire self-knowledge. These learning methods are based on the principles of humanistic education. Krishnamurti said that students should not be made to practice like religious rituals because in it students acquire knowledge without understanding. The learning method helps the student in 'how to think' instead of 'what to think'. The learning method will give the student complete freedom so that he can think independently and make the right decision about himself. According to Krishnamurti, the learning method will help the student to acquire knowledge in a meaningful way. The learning method will adequately help the student in critical thinking. The learning method will always keep the student internally motivated. All these teaching methods are in line with

the principles of humanistic education. So there is no doubt that Krishnamurti can be considered as the inventor of humanistic education.

5. **Concept of School:** Teachers should not discriminate between students. He will give importance to the heritage, temperament and ambition of all the students. The teacher will guide the students to acquire accurate knowledge without giving them direct knowledge. Teachers will always be integrated. The traits or qualities we find here about teachers are completely in line with the principles of humanistic education. Krishnamurti also referred to himself as the Teacher of Humanity. I think his claim is completely successful. So the school will be small, but the students will be able to express their weaknesses to the teachers. The school environment will be independent, open, so that students can acquire knowledge in school independently. School teachers will be cooperating and empathetic with each other. The school environment will be such that each student can be given attention separately and guidance can be given separately. So from Krishnamurti's point of view, we can see that the school environment is small, open and independent, which is suitable for a student to grow up, Who gives priority to all aspects of humanistic education.
6. **Role of Teacher:** According to Krishnamurti, the teacher will be the one who has been able to deeply understand the purpose of human life. This view of Krishnamurti is reminiscent of humanity, because an important principle of humanism is to know human life well. The teacher will help the students to realize their weaknesses and always be self-motivated. We have learned about intrinsic motivation on the philosophical basis of humanism. So Krishnamurti's concept of teacher is completely consistent with the humanistic view. Krishnamurti believes that a problematic teacher turns a good student into a problematic student. The teacher will always help the students to do creative activities. Teachers should not use the teaching method as a technique. Use it as a way of life for the student. The teacher will be a great artist without being a technician; only then the student will be able to freely express his weaknesses to the teacher. Teachers should not discriminate between students. He will give importance to the heritage, temperament and ambition of all the students. The teacher will guide the students to acquire accurate knowledge without giving them direct knowledge. Teachers will always be integrated. The characteristics or qualities we find here about teachers are completely in line with the principles of humanistic education. Krishnamurti also referred to himself as the Teacher of Humanity. I think his claim is completely successful.

Findings:

- There is a clear similarity between the meaning of education and humanistic education.
- Krishnamurti says about the goal of education, humanistic education is clearly reflected in these goals.
- A real teacher will be able to develop different aspects of humanity in students.
- Krishnamurti's views on the school are entirely humanistic.

Conclusion:

The consequences of Krishnamurti's view of humanity for education Contrary to the perspective that has shaped much in conventional education, Jiddu Krishnamurti left that all people need to explore themselves. Modern education is making us into thoughtless entities it does very little towards helping up to find our individual vocation. Right education is to help you to find out for yourself what you really, with all you heart, love to do. It does not matter what is, whether it is to cook, or to be a gardener, but is something in which you have put your mind, your heart. In the end, we can say that humanistic views are observed in all aspects of Krishnamurti's life. So, without a doubt we can say that Krishnamurti is a great teacher of humanistic education. So from Krishnamurti's point of view, the idea of learning method helps the person to acquire knowledge. This is one of the important principles of humanism. Also his school, the meaning of education, his ideas about teachers are based on the core principles of humanistic education. If we think deeply about all aspects of Krishnamurti, we can clearly see that he is the bearer and carrier of humanism. So we can consider Krishnamurti as the Great Teacher of Humanistic Education.

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