

Friedrich Wilhelm August Froebel and His Idea of Kindergarten Education: A Historical Appraisal

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ABSTRACT

Philosophy is the essence of the world; animals, objects, and all thoughts are composed of a single, indivisible formula. The goal of education is to realize the unity of joyous self-activity and self-development. The present education system could give proper direction to the youth. It may provide all-round development to the youth; rather, they grow themselves self-reliant. At the present time, the examiners have had tremendous success in different examinations and have earned names and fame simultaneously. Most of them failed to establish self-development in kindergarten, and life faces challenges against it even though they obtained the highest marks in primary education or higher education at universities and colleges. It is urgent for everyone to rise from this critical situation. Froebel initiated kindergarten education, a pre-school education approach through which the features of education for children would be predicted. Kindergarten education is an indispensable part for children. Structural and social balance are badly affected. It is the widest range of medical therapy for children in the world, but in India, its results are severely hampered. The idea of kindergarten education may have been changed in the so-called Indian education system, but it has to lead to a revolutionary change in social background. To think, focus, and understand Froebel kindergarten education, so many books have been evaluated and written depending on the principles. There are so many silent-characterized Froebel's in kindergarten education. The present education system has been discussed and compared with Froebel's kindergarten education. Finally, it can be said that Froebel truly identifies human society and helps to develop personality in the environment, and the paper is trying to explore it in a qualitative way.

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KEYWORDS: Friedrich Wilhelm August Froebel, Kindergarten Education, Play-way in education, Gifts and Occupations, Social Change

INTRODUCTION

'Come, let live for our children'.

Kindergartens are educational institutions suitable for preschools. Usually a program is for 5-year-olds, but sometimes there are four- to six-year-olds. Provides appropriate learning opportunities for children to build social and academic skills and prepare them for the transition to first grade and to school in general. The word kindergarten comes from the German language, which means children's garden. In 1837, he established a school called Kindergarten in the pleasant surroundings of Blankenburg. In this school, trained teachers of children's education are developed. Under the influence of Pistoletsi and Rousseau, he devoted his whole life to the education of children. Froebel has implemented some of Rousseau's negative and theoretical principles in practical cases.

In the name of his famous kindergarten, schools and educational principles made children suitable for real education through joyful, creative, spontaneous activities such as dancing, handwork, etc. Kindergarten's method is still equally important as a life-oriented process of developing and gaining the child's personality and sociality.

Froebel wanted to make the child's education according to the child's nature and free environment (like a garden). He believed that the child had an indomitable tendency to play, so he emphasized play. Play is the spontaneous development of the child through play.

Through the process of the child's education, the game has established that it remains active, spontaneous, and creative. Children will learn with joy through spontaneous, independent play. Visual development through play has gained importance. This temporary development is done through various games and fun activities such as dancing, singing, drawing, etc. Froebel gives more importance to education through play to break the boredom of the child. Game education started a revolutionary revolution. Froebel Education Thought Centres Human Society. Children will learn about their own nature, the nature of the world, and the nature of society through spontaneous and joyful activities. A creative and diverse work process will be given complete independence, i.e., independent development. In this school, the lessons of nature will be accompanied by education, language learning, dance, singing, rhymes, story telling, various games, shapes, painting, and handwork. Special emphasis is given to gifts and work, paper cutting, clay cutting, wooden balls, and body building. Joyful learning was included in the curriculum. There was regular play for all children so that they could interact with everyone. The curriculum at the Kinda Garden Teacher Training School was based on the curriculum at the Chicago Fowl Association Training School. Focusing on students' in-depth study of gifts and vocations, the Kinder Garden Teacher Training Course is conducted for 38 hours per week. School hours and home guards are arranged. He wrote some songs for children and English books in German. Froebel later wrote seven mother songs and 50 nursery rhymes. By the turn of the 20th century, translations of The Murder Play and Nursery Rhymes were widely used in teacher training courses by Christian foundation missionaries. Those who disputed or agitated against his system of education gladly accepted it later. Froebel's educational thought was at the forefront of thought on child education. No one like him could organize the child education center so well.

Objectives:

The objectives of the study are to:

1. Understand and review Froebel's principle of Kindergarten Education.
2. Highlight some important features of Froebel's Kindergarten education and its relevance with present world.
3. Children attending Kindergarten will interact with each other, play with each other and participate in appropriate activities comfortably with others.

Methodology:

The paper is trying to explore it in a qualitative way. Some journals and e-contents relating to Froebel's

kindergarten education are studied. Several books on education are reviewed, and some of Froebel's own writings are referred to to find the significance of his ideas on kindergarten education.

Kindergarten Education according to Friedrich Wilhelm August Froebel:

Froebel is known to the world for his kindergarten, the garden of children established at Blankenburg in 1837. It has brought great name and fame to him in the field of education. According to Froebel, kindergarten is a miniature state for young children" The third-best learning method of child education, known as the Kinder Garden method, is world-famous. Which is called Shishu Udyan. It has earned many names and fame in the field of education. Just as a free environment favors the growth of a plant, so a school for children will be a free environment of joyous activity, i.e., the spontaneous freedom of the human child. Children are the plants in the school garden. The teacher is the poor gardener. Just as the owner of the garden protects or cares for the saplings from insects, the teacher will do the same duty to the child as the owner of the garden. Froebel says that he discovered that a young tree has all the qualities of a large tree, just as a child has a great similarity. Feibel incorporated educational utility through manual labor into her kindergarten curriculum. Its kindergarten curriculum presents students with a comprehensive picture of the entire world. Children learn through adaptation to the environment. They will learn through play and through gifts and crafts. Children's attention, hand movements, creative work, self-expression, new discoveries, imagination development, language learning, mind formation, and self-education center are some of the materials presented to the world through this kindergarten education. So the government banned the establishment of this school. He was so hurt by this rejection that he could not free himself from the pain until the end of his life. The lover of child education and the father of kindergartens died on June 1, 1852, through poverty and suffering. Even though he is dead, he lives on for education and children all over the world. This great goal and purpose of his life is his famous quote, 'Let us live for our children'.

Some important feature of Froebel's Kindergarten education :

Froebel realized the needs and the paramount importance of childhood and opened the first kindergarten as an institution for children from age 4 to 6 at Blankenburg in 1837 to protect them from the destructive influences of Napoleonic wars, capitalism, and a series of social revolutions. According to Froebel and his philosophy, the important features of kindergarten education may be listed as follows:

Free self-activity :

Froebel believed that using a child's own initiative to teach is the best type of educational method. The child's innate activeness is emphasized; that is, the child's own work emerges as they willingly learn new things and adjust to their surroundings.

Motor expression:

The child has interests and opportunities for physical activity and muscle movement.

Froebel's Play Theory:

According to Froebel, children's basic education and physical education should take into account their intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual growth. He believed that a kid learns best via spontaneous, enthusiastic enthusiasm and activity. Children learn and grow the greatest through play when they are given this opportunity. Children here use games to convey their feelings. The main components of Froebel's method include finger plays, music, dance, and the movement of objects. The learning environment is thoughtfully planned with the right resources that are best for each child's developmental stage, according to Froebel's play theory. As the guardians of knowledge, teachers advise using a more guiding style to help a youngster gain a deeper understanding. The child to learn how things work through active, hands-on, and engaging activities that are relevant to them personally.

Froebel Gifts and Occupations:

A child learns easily through a variety of materials, gifts, and tasks brought to the child's constructive creation. Self-view Seasonal view Self-centred Action-centered Some materials help the child form the rules of the unity of the world's diversity. Froebel drew on his mathematical and scientific knowledge to develop a set of six gifts, wooden blocks of different shapes, for children to explore.

Gift 1 (infant)

The first gift was one or two soft balls or balls of different coloured woollen yarn that fit the child's hand or were small. Children's most favourite toys in all countries of the world are like this. The toy teaches the child to trust and will begin to understand the movement speed book analogy of holding, dropping, squeezing, bowling, and moving through.

Gift 2 (1-2 years)

The second gift was that he discovered the difference between two wooden objects and observed the joy of each child.

Concepts or differences were discovered through the materials of spheres made of wood of different sizes, cubes, and cylinders.

Gift 3 (2-3 years)

A wooden cube is divided into eight equal, smaller cubes. Which was designed to be pulled apart and made together in different ways. For example, chairs, thrones, doors, stairs, etc.

Gift 4 (2-3 years)

A cube is cut into many small pieces. Those pieces are separated and recombined. This version, however, was made up of rectangular planks, twice as long and half the width of the cubes in the previous gift. This allows for many new construction possibilities.

Gift 5 (3-4 years)

Children are encouraged to form geometrical trigonometry and shapes through three gifts, or cubes. Mathematical gifts are intended to create slightly more complex structures.

Gift 6 (4-5 years)

This set included more complex wooden blocks, including prisms. Froebel also used "occupations" with children to support their play, including sand, shells, stones, sticks, clay, and paper folding. These materials were designed to allow children uninterrupted periods of play where they can explore concepts, express creativity, and learn about how things work. Giving children a range of materials to choose from allowed them to explore different concepts and choose activities that were appropriate for their own stage of learning. We often see this reflected in early childhood settings today, where a range of child-led activities are made available to children, with enhancement ideas also available to help support children's development and deepen their understanding of various concepts.

Occupation:

In Froebel's introduction to the ideas that will be formed in the child's mind through the gifts, he has some ideas for their realization and implementation.

1. Through sand, stone, sticks, clay, and, paper, children's toys can make different designs, ideas can express creativity, choosing objects, etc. can help them learn clearly.
2. Work includes paper cutting, paper folding, clay model making, carving, painting, waxwork, etc.
3. Increasing body strength through work, muscle circulation, and, learning the concept of bearing
4. The weight of objects is decreasing. Froebel emphasized the creation of ideas through work and the manual labor involved in creating and realizing them.
5. Froebel's suggests implementing the basic idea of learning things through hands-on discovery.

Paperwork, mat weaving, gardening, small houses, clay models, drawing, etc. are included in the curriculum for three reasons.

Play:

As the guardians of knowledge, teachers advise using a more guiding style to help a youngster gain a deeper understanding. the child to learn how things work through active, hands-on, and engaging activities that are relevant to them personally.

Finger rhymes and action songs, song, dance and literacy:

For the kids in Kato's lessons, Froebel's Kindergarten performed seven (7) songs about girl mothers and fifty (50) play songs or rhymes. By dancing, telling stories that are based on songs and rhymes, and introducing the youngster to books, we can help the child become literate. Make the lyrics of the songs simple to understand. According to Froebel, painting is a lovely illustration of a child's sense of belonging. The heart of language and music is rhythm. It fosters the development of moral characteristics including harmony, restraint, and aesthetic appreciation. Rhythmic dance and music go hand in hand.

Freedom with guidance:

Children should get all of their education voluntarily and independently. Parents will learn through social discipline how to set up learning together from young to old so that they learn by watching and learning how adults are learning, how they respect the teacher, how the teacher instructs, through imitation, and through the surroundings.

Wooden blocks and workshop experiences:

To gauge a child's level of conceptual understanding, experience, and growth in the area of independent thought, observe how they employ various wooden designs. Now let's discuss the independence of learning. This refers to a child getting the self-assurance to "give it a go" at learning and participating alone, while additionally understanding when it's appropriate to look for the right kind of assistance from other kids, adults, or books.

Story telling:

optimum learning for children Also, storytelling has a tremendously positive impact on learning. Similar to the manner in which play develops physical circulation, listening to or telling stories fosters the development of attention, memory, cognitive skills, and imagination. Kids use narratives to test their knowledge.

Analysis and Interpretation:

Froebel was the person who dedicated his entire life to the teaching of children. In the earlier manner, the child cannot be taught anything. The child will be

educated in a manner similar to how garden saplings expand naturally in the joy of their own growth and how flowers open their petals at their own pace. One of the advocates and proponents of child-centered education is Froebel. Trained teachers for kindergarten schools, high-quality materials, an emphasis on creativity, talent, and work, a diverse curriculum made up of play activities, independent learning opportunities, and social and emotional development for children are all advantages. Some of the materials are based on constructive work One of the forerunners of the child-centered education movement, Froebel's trained teacher for kindergarten schools valued the philosophy's resources, emphasis on creativity, gifts, and tasks, varied curriculum, spontaneous interest, free discipline, and socialization of children through play, as well as its emphasis on independent learning and creative work. Some materials have a basis for construction work foundation. The school will be a pleasant, busy, and easy atmosphere, which is an optimal setting for a human child's developing oneself. In the garden, a natural and simple free environment is good for the self-development of seedlings. With many contemporary elements of educational theory, Froebel's kindergarten curriculum continues to be a priceless historical source. In the present educational environment, Froebel's child-centered educational plan, 2020 NEP, has given more priority to independent child education development, an interest-free setting, and joyful learning. Consequently, Froebel's childhood was spent in kindergarten This design has a lot of importance in the area of contemporary education.

Findings and Conclusions:

- 1. Practical application:** In his educational setting, which might not be applicable in today's everyday circumstances. Depending on the schools' economic circumstances, kindergarten schools also require experienced educators and high-quality materials. Froebel's kindergarten curriculum has a number of contemporary elements of educational thought and practice that will remain a priceless resource in history, notwithstanding some minor drawbacks.
- 2. Self Development:** This strategy is pioneering, particularly in the creation of gifts. He thinks too thoroughly in the abstract. Friedrich Froebel's kindergarten philosophy gained popularity in the second half of the nineteenth century, and many of his followers exported his concepts to numerous other nations..
- 3. Translation and transformation:** The host nation's social, cultural, political, and educational

requirements and forces had an impact on the translation and transformation of Froebelian theory and pedagogies. This study discovered that the Froebelians had a significant influence on the translation and modification of the pedagogy and practice of the Froebelians as well. Individual self-development is feasible in a social setting. Thus, he gave the school the name "Shishu-Udyan." The flower petals open up at your own pace, so innocently, just like the plant in the garden grows spontaneously at its own pleasure.

4. **social environment** : The school will be a happy, energetic, outdoor, and sociable setting. Child Self-activity will help us reach our maximum human potential. The world is full of things that can be criticized, and education policy is no exception. First, in the creation of gifts in particular The complexity of his abstract thought is beyond the comprehension of young children. The child is ready to render the idea of universal unity impossible by seeing a ball or by moving.
5. **Play and work more than intellectual pursuit overpriced**: Furthermore, it is becoming more crucial for young children to acquire spirituality. The child is on the verge of understanding the impossibility of universal oneness by seeing a ball or by running. Second, he elevates labor and enjoyment over academic pursuits. Overpriced. Additionally, spirituality has been more valued in his educational environment despite the fact that it may not be useful in today's practical life. extras for kindergartens Depending on the schools' financial circumstances, competent educators and high-quality resources are required. Nevertheless, there are a few minor issues,
6. **Kindergarten curriculum**: Froebel's kindergarten curriculum has several modern features of educational philosophy and practice. Will remain a priceless treasure in history. This plan in the field of modern education Relevance is significant. The education system in kindergarten started a revolutionary revolution for the people of the world.

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