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Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's thinking on education system

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Abstract

The main objective of the study is to study Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam thinking on education system. The data for the present study is qualitative in nature and the data have been collected from various research journals, articles, books, speeches and lectures delivered by APJ as well as research theses and websites. The analytical approach was employed for data analysis and interpretation.

Keywords: Education system, skill based education, value education, leadership, technology

Introduction

Education in its real sense is the pursuit of truth. It is an endless journey through knowledge and enlightenment. Such a journey opens up new vistas of development of humanism where there is no scope nor room for pettiness, disharmony, jealousy, hatred or enmity. It transforms a human into a wholesome being, a noble soul and an asset to the universe. Universal brotherhood in its true sense forms the core of such education. Real education enhances the dignity of a human being and increases his or her self-respect. If only the real sense of education could be realized by each individual, and carried forward in every field of human activity, the world would be a much better place to live in.

According to APJ Abdul Kalam a good education system should be that: People with a much higher ability of thinking and taking action should be given enough opportunities to take creative risks. What they need is more freedom and a system that supports bold ideas and does not punish them.

The mission of education in India is to provide a foundation to ensure the creation of enlightened citizens who will make India a prosperous, happy and strong nation in the future.

Objectives of the Study

- To study APJ Abdul Kalam's thinking on Education System
- To study APJ Abdul Kalam's thinking on value education
- To study APJ Abdul Kalam's thinking on leadership
- To study APJ Abdul Kalam's thinking on skill based education
- To study APJ Abdul Kalam's thinking on technology enhanced education.

Methodology

The nature of the present study required the qualitative approach of research. Under the qualitative research approach, the present study is of Philosophical research type.

Sample

In the present study the researcher make use of purposive sampling method that represents APJ Abdul Kalam's thinking on Education System.

Tools and Techniques

The tools and techniques used for collection of data for the study are;

- a. Book length surveys
- b. Content analysis

Collection of Data

The data have been collected from various research journals, articles, books written by APJ Abdul Kalam and books on APJ Abdul Kalam, speeches and lectures delivered by APJ Abdul Kalam, media reports, research thesis and websites.

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Analysis and Interpretation

1. Education is the most important element for growth and prosperity of a nation. India is in this process of transforming itself into a developed nation by 2020.
2. We enlighten and create widespread awareness of education among all section of society particularly in rural areas and among the urban poor.
3. According to APJ Abdul Kalam a teacher must have following four qualities; i) Teacher should love teaching; ii) Teacher should encourage questions from students and let the m think beyond their thinking; iii)Teacher puts the student ahead; iv) Teacher create pressure on the student to explore own capabilities.
4. APJ Abdul Kalam writes: My message especially to young people is to have courage to think differently, courage to invent, to travel the unexpected path, courage to discover the impossible and to conquer the problems and succeed.
5. Thinking is progress. Non thinking is stagnation of the individual, organization and the country. Thinking leads to action, knowledge without action is useless and irrelevant. Knowledge with action converts adversity into prosperity. Thinking should become students capital asset, no matter whatever ups and downs student's come across in their life.
6. The education system should instill in the minds of students capacities of inquiry, creativity, technology, entrepreneurial and moral leadership. If we develop in all our student these five capacities, we will produce "Autonomous Learner" 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.
7. APJ Abdul Kalam emphasized on the inclusion of skill base education at the school level i.e., "when the students passed out of senior secondary schools, they should have two certificates- of passing 10+2 examination and a specific skill acquired by him during schooling."
8. Library need to be digitized and the books should be available seamlessly across the universities and distance learning programmes for universal access.
9. If a student desires to read a certain book, he or she could be given online access. Tele-education software can be an important tool for the digital library.
10. The growth in information technology, distance education programmes can now have virtual classrooms. The students would not merely be passively listening, there would also be scope for interaction and asking question by having two-way connectivity between the teacher and the taught. Technology Enhanced Learning is a solution.
11. Virtual university in India can be done through networking of all the universities of India. This would make it possible for all the networked universities to pool their resources and provide students with a better education than they could manage on their own.
12. If any society wants to do progress, there are two important needs – prosperity through wealth generation and cherishing the value system in the people. The combination of two will make the nation truly strong and prosperous.
13. If parents and teachers show the required dedication to shape the lives of the young, India would get a new life.
14. Empowering women is a prerequisite for creating a good nation whom women are empowered, society with stability is assured.
15. Empowerment of women is essential as their value system leads to the development of a good family, society and ultimately a good nation.
16. APJ Abdul Kalam has deep trust and firmness in secularism. He considers secularism as the base of the nation and it is special characteristics of civilization.
17. Understanding of religion through education as the only way to prevent intolerance, agitation conflicts etc. and these occurs due to religious beliefs, racial or lingual differences and harsh attitude of any cult
18. APJ Abdul Kalam emphasized five areas to transform India from developing to developed country i.e., Education and health care, Agriculture, Information and Communication, Infrastructure and critical Technology
19. APJ Abdul Kalam Advocates that imaginative and creative leadership of youngsters and leaders should have characters like fearlessness, courage, ethical living, non-violence, forgiveness, compassion vision and co-operation.
20. Development and competences of technology is very important and is the basis of the developed and powerful nation. APJ Abdul Kalam believes that India can be a developed country only when we become self-dependent in technology and economic development happens with the country.
21. Education system has to be designed in a way that produces large number of employment generators and not just employment seekers.

Discussion and Conclusion

APJ Abdul Kalam is the first president of Republic India who has established a healthy practice of formally interacting with school children at the end of his every public function and started enviable practice of inviting questions from children's and answered them personally. Probably no president of any country in the world has created such a healthy practice.

APJ Abdul Kalam as enlightened individual and ennobled president of India has always given due significance to education in his addresses to the nation as well as addresses on public platforms. He addressed his thoughts on every aspects of education. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam must be placed among great educational thinkers.

Educational Implications

1. Teacher and Parents should make children active participant in awareness programmes, science exhibitions, science festivals and various programmes for the social development.
2. Creativity should be enhanced among the students by organizing various activities at the school level.
3. Education and health services, agriculture, information and communication, structural facilities and important technology be-emphasized to form India into the developed country.
4. Schools enable the students to participate and become member of the committees like school Panchayat, discipline, prayer, cleanliness, cultural, excursion and campaign etc.,

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