



Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune



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SWARAJ

IS MY BIRTHRIGHT AND I SHALL HAVE IT

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It's A Contemporary Relevance

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National Education through Lokmanya Tilak's Vision

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Abstract:

Mahatma Gandhi had entitled Tilak as "Father of Modern India". Tilak have contributed in the formation of Maharashtra as well as in the formation of India. Even today all the Indians are influenced by his views. Lokmanya Tilak has always verbalized about the education and in that also he had laid stress on National Education. Tilak says that if the nation has to be formed and its resurrection is achievable by National Education. Every independent nation provides or tries to provide education to its subject. The youth generation provides guard and increase national education can be said prosperity can be by the youth generation.

Keywords: Education, national education, religion, industrial education, political education

Tilak's national education is based on four points and mentioned below:-

- 1. Religion Education:** - Our Indian culture is an ideal culture. Every Indian should be aware of our religion culture tradition. He firmly believed that our religion can produce good, character youth.
- 2. Education through Mother Tongue:** - The youth generation should seek the education through Marathi medium so as to reduce the attraction of foreign language.
- 3. Industrial Education:** - The young generation should acquire industrial



education so that Indian industries will not rely on the foreign countries. They can produce Indian goods. This was Tilak's belief.

4. Political Education: - Tilak had firm opinion that the youth should be aware of the incidents, happenings in the Indian politics. As well as they should be attentive to the politics of their country.

To view the ideas of Tilak's view on national education, we should be aware of his personalities as a teacher, his principles. Frankness, bluntness in speech, firmness, spiritedness, sharp intelligence, curious mind, and hard working nature such qualities are inbuilt in one of the thousand children. Tilak as a child used to learn one shloka everyday, practice mathematics, Sanskrit, oral calculations gives us the ideas of his regularity, punctuality. Tilak had a practice of studying any subject in detail he used to read the books along with all the related reference books. He was highly influenced by his teachers like Keru Nana, Pr. William Word Smith Hegel, Kant, Spencer, Neal, Vallet; Rosean of western thinkers had also influenced Tilak. Tilak never believed in rote learning, he always believed in practical based learning and it receiving it boldly.

Tilak placed much more emphasis on national education. He had completed on national education. He had complete faith that nation can progress only due to education. He had understood that if the Indian acquire the education through English language than our nationality will be hampered. Tilak has started his professional social life as a teacher. Tilak had realized that Britishers were offering the education only to produce only the clerks who can earn only their bread and can serve the British government. If the youth gain such education than the country will progress and develop. The youth should achieve the education through our traditional way. Along with the education, patriotism, own language self dependence, self respect should be included such were the expectations of Tilak from the education system. Western education was equally important and should be acquired along with our traditional way of education. Tilak laid stress on the inclusive education system like Sanskrit, Vedas astronomy ayurved, along with vocational industrial, technical, western, knowledge, research science physical education, agricultural knowledge. Tilak had been a staunch supporter of



traditional way of education system he laid stress on ancient Vedas and own language. He had a scientific approach for Panchang research. He had the opinion that the rishi of ancient time had researched their work in depth and Tilak regret that till today nobody had done it in that way. Lokmanya Tilak believed that industrial education should be included in the education system. Tilak had studied the industrial revolution of England. The Britishers were not providing the appropriate and required knowledge, Industries; science agriculture education should be encouraged. Tilak had realized that education is must for the development of the nation. For this boycott the western education, spread of swadeshi and establishment of Indian industries was necessary and which can be gained only by industrial education.

Indians were not even aware of the making technique of the match box. Indians can't get the education for the improvement of the quality of sugar like the Mauritius. Tilak regretted for the lack of the technical knowledge and power required to achieve the same. Tilak persisted that Indians should be self dependent, be swadeshi and should enhance them-

selves and our country for which the vocational and technical education is must. In his letter to his son, he writes that any product should be of superior quality which will have the capability to defeat the foreign goods. This shows his mastery on the technical knowledge.

India is as an argo based country. Agriculture is the main occupation of our country which forms the major part of our income. Agricultural knowledge should be provided along with the technical knowledge. Tilak use to feel that every farmer should be made aware of yielding maximum crop from the small piece of land. Agro education should include yielding maximum crop from small land piece, quality of seed grains, production quality of the land, modern equipments, techniques, etc. The farmer should also be made aware of the secondary occupation along with the farming.

With a comparative study of the national education and today's education system in detail we can conclude that Tilak stressed more on value based education and firmly believed that such education should be provided. Today few schools have started imparting such value based knowl-



edge. India have the capability and qualification to lead this world but the base foundation i.e. education should be very, very strong.

Tilak visualizes that every underdeveloped country can progress, prosper, enhance physically, socially, and religiously only through education. So we should realize the importance of education and national education. Right to education is the best step taken in this direction.

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