

International Journal of Scientific Research and Reviews

A Qualitative Outline On How Allama Iqbal's Educational Philosophy Emphasizes Life Skill Based Education

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ABSTRACT

Rooted as old as human race, education is considered as a search for knowledge, a great quest for learning from cradle to grave, transforming man into human, an ethical being and to make life progressive and significant. Life is a beautiful gift taking nourishment from education to become selfless and meaningful. A true education for preparing children for purposeful life consists of teaching that will sustain them to create better living that has utility, contribution for self and for others as well. It is only education which can bestow towards this paradigm where students can use their talents and potential they never dreamt possible. Through this article the authors intends to reflect on educational philosophy and how it helps in shaping life skills producing a healthy and wholesome generation and life in general. So far as this paper is concerned no relevant studies were found on documentation between educational philosophy and life skill education although the authors found a hand and glove relation in between them. Therefore, the need for writing this article was felt. In the present paper the effort has been made to put some fruitful suggestions forefront after reviewing related literature qualitatively and to tackle educational problems and simultaneously prepare learner for greater life ahead.

KEY WORDS: Adolescents, Educational Philosophy, Life skill based education, Meaningful Education.

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INTRODUCTION

Although, man being wise and intelligent. He is considered as the roof and the crown of the creation bestowed with the capacity to think about him and everything surrounding him. He needs a tool equipping learners with everything they need. This tool is called education. It is this education that acquaints a learner with new skills that has a long lasting impact on his healthy development in life. It equips the children with all the required aid and awareness to raise ones standard of living. The problems faced in life are same as the problems faced in education. All the facets of education are greatly affected and determined by philosophy providing proper way to education and trying to create meaningful coherence within the whole conceptual thought. Let's take a look on life skills that calls for adaptive and positive behavior allowing children to cope up with the challenges in life right from early years which is considered as the years of creativity, buoyancy, spirit of adventure, stage of high potential but also a time of considerable vulnerability. The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character is the goal of true education. (Martin Luther King Jr). Youngsters acquire life skills from parents, teachers who act as their role models. The authors stand point in this article is that educational philosophy of great philosophers like Allama Mohammad Iqbal if taught to children can act as a beacon light in inculcating such skills to children.

The targeted age group 10-18 years old adolescents in schools are at risk to behavior related health problems. The life skill program of education gives a way-out to tackle it by imparting life skills in a supportive environment applicable for all age groups of children and adolescents for maintaining health and well-being of young people which they learn by observing others, behave while noticing what consequences arise from one's behavior. Personal identity of adolescents is developed by self-awareness that often acts as a prerequisite for effective communication and interpersonal relation and for developing empathy. Adolescents need to explore their talents and abilities creating new ways of choosing their career. Adolescents are characterized by intense outbursts of emotions. They need to know about themselves. To make life better every child needs to train in some skills including all the aspects like psychological, social, and interpersonal and other related aspects to create successful relationship with others in the social circle.¹

Life skill acquisition is an important part of making a child resilient. In our country we find the children are facing failure to thrive both as 'organic failure to thrive' (due to illness or malnutrition) and 'nonorganic failure to thrive'. (As in trauma, adversity, abuse or abandonment)² And this failure thriving in the dynamic world brings along with it a package of varieties of problems

that includes cognitive impairment, emotion and behavior regulation difficulties. And to worsen the situation the improvised environment and different social norms develop in young generation attitudes, beliefs that prevent them to have a global outlook and to participate in achievement oriented world. As per World Health Organization life skills have been defined as “the abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life.”³ It is described as promoting psychosocial competence.

So far as the problems of education are concerned they are more or less similar. Educational philosophy comes to the rescue of tackling the ultimate problems of life. Any aspect of education may it be aims, goals, purposes, ideals and objectives, methods of teaching, selection of curriculum all are influenced by philosophy. Dewey (1966) believed that “an ounce of experience is better than a ton of theory” (p, 144) because only through experience do theories gain their meaning. As such he argued that education should be interactive, incorporating real life experience that students find interesting and can apply to the world outside the classroom.⁴

Contemporary education at its large is being designed by the philosophies of great philosophers. A doctoral student Brain Collins from the university of Iowa while expressing admiration for a philosopher Descartes’ seminal work acclaims that the relevance of philosophy to modern times is as similar as it was in the long past. Collins accepts that the key role of philosophy is to inculcate analytical skills and critical thinking skills in young students. He is of the opinion that philosophy must be imparted to all the school children due to its power to create thinking in children which is necessary to judge rationally on some important matters.⁵ The best teaching is not merely about exchange of knowledge rather to furnish a meaningful context for that knowledge examining the gigantic role of great personalities and thinkers and answering the question how and why their ideology has shaped the distant past and civilization of an individual and society as a whole. Philosophy of education deals mainly with one of the most important query concerning aims of education. Many great philosophers and educationists have put forward different aims of education. Some of the key characteristic proposed, include becoming curious, understanding, creative, and rational. It aims for self-realization, critical thinking, and purification of ideology and creates submissiveness in children. It also includes following key elements:⁶

- Fostering of inventiveness
- Production of information

- Disposition to ask
- Enhancement of understanding
- Advancement of good reasoning, feeling and activity
- Enlargement of creative energy
- Fostering of Development
- Development of self-acknowledgment
- The development of generously instructed people.
- The defeating of provincialism and close mindedness
- The improvement of sound judgment
- The development of quietness, accommodation and submission to expert
- The encouraging of self-sufficiency
- The augmentation of opportunity, joy or self-esteem
- The improvement of consideration, concern and related mentalities and dispositions.
- The encouraging of sentiments of communities, social solidarity citizenship and community mindedness
- The generation of good citizens
- The socializing of students.
- The protection of children from the awful impact of human advancement.
- The advancement of devotion, religious confidence, profound satisfaction.
- The encouraging of ideological immaculateness
- The development of political mindfulness and activity
- The encouraging of aptitudes and manners like reasonability and basic reasoning.

The philosophy has an enduring role of clarification of concepts regarding knowledge, truth, beauty, mind, meaning and existence. It's important task also includes explaining the educational concepts and the relevant concept like teaching, learning, schooling, child rearing and indoctrination. All educational activities depend upon philosophical assumptions. Almost all the life skills are found in the educational philosophy of Allama Iqbal. The widespread message of Allama Iqbal shows individuals the exercises of sympathy, social sensitivity and being concern for every single person. Allama Iqbal considered a child like eaglet who is characterized by lofty flight, strong vision, preference for seclusion, doesn't settle itself in a single dwelling, doesn't feed on someone else's prey.⁷ For Allama Iqbal the learner looks like the Eaglet and it is the obligation of the instructors and

the enlightening structure to give them strong wings to take off high. The accompanying refrain is the sharp delineation of Iqbal's anguish at the common instructive framework.

In this manner, he says:

Shikayat Hai Mujay Ya Rab Khudawand-E-Maktab Sai

Sabaq Shaheen Bachoon Ko De Rahai Hain Khaak Bazi Ka.

"O lord I have a grumbling against instructors, for they are showing the eaglets to cower in the residue"

Allama Iqbal wanted that education which inculcates inevitable skills in children through education. Iqbal used his pen like a sword to pierce the darkness that was embedded in the hearts and the minds of people. The idea of his poetry inspires almost everyone especially the youth. In one of the seminar where the verses of Allama Iqbal were used the speakers were exceedingly activated with emotional feelings where the perspectives of Allama Iqbal were presented that came up with the imaginative remedies. The children in this august gathering promised to remember Allama's messages always and endeavor to shape the nation into a genuine picture of his dream.⁸ As indicated by Allama Iqbal self has dynamic power other than adoration as a fundamental element for the improvement of self. Man is the guardian of all conceivable outcomes of life. Discretion in people, manufactures families, in nations it assembles realm. Self isn't a phantom in you, however it is you in genuine. It is your exceptionally presence of which you are unconscious. Your mindfulness around one self is simply the disclosure in you. Self awareness is the route to high potential of adolescence for self growth and their future development. As the adolescence period is the transition between childhood and adulthood, they must develop awareness about one's own self to enhance their performance in academic or any productive work in the future. It will boost their ability to manage their own self to set appropriate goals and choose option careers. This will also help them to understand the difference between oneself and others and why others react to you the way they do. As a result they will be skilled enough to adapt their communication to others needs. During adolescence, where self- representations becomes more integrated, cognitive ability enables youth to report on self related processes. Aspects of the self and identity have meaningful implications for well being and adjustment. Thus understanding the valence (self esteem) and structure (self concept) of the self⁹ (Campbell, 2003) in this age group may prove beneficial to frame life skill education for adolescents. Hence self awareness is useful to develop the interpersonal skills and is a pertinent life skill to develop.

For that reason, you need to experience a long battle against outside powers. These outer powers decide your activity. When you are free of the grasp of outer powers you are the ace of your fate. There are diverse techniques for accomplishing this including supplication and contemplation. Dr. Iqbal upheld arrangement of instruction wealthy in its suggestions with expansive based educational programs in order to uphold national – confidence and global comprehension. So far as our instructive framework is concerned, it neglects to arouse the confidence and energy for information in students. In his perspective of instruction there is the wrong spot for the uninvolved training. On the off chance that learning is inactive and dormant, with no feeling of energy, no excite of self-satisfaction, it is the information which the bibliophile obtains by consuming the composed pages. Iqbal recognizes two sorts of learning, one consuming with enthusiasm and the other simply covered in books.¹⁰

In his words:

IlmAzSamaan-E-HifzZindagee As

IlmAzAsbbab-E-TaqveemiKhuddi As

“Knowledge is an instrument for the safeguarding of life; Knowledge is a means of building upself”

1. Life Skill in the light of Allama Iqbal’s philosophy

Life skill is described as promoting a psychological competence. It is the reflection of affective skill of an individual. The term adaptive in the definition indicates the flexibility and versatility in the attitude of an individual rather than a person who is adjustable in different situations. Whereas the term positive behavior means that an individual even in difficult situations can find a silver lining and can have a streak of luck to find solution to the problems. World Health Organization has laid down ten key life skills as under:

1. **Self- Awareness:** It often forms the basic requirement for effective communication, interpersonal relations and for developing empathy with others. As the name indicates self awareness means to know one’s own self which constitutes knowing one’s characters, strengths, desires, needs, likes and dislikes. According to Mohammad Iqbal purification of heart is the first and foremost step to acquire self awareness.
2. **Empathy:** Nature has made us bound in relations. We are social animals growing up with our kith and kin and other social members at large. A prosperous relation is possible only by understanding and caring for others. A healthy relationship is built by two way traffic. One needs to take care of others feelings and needs as well. If we try to comprehend ours and others feelings, we can better prepare to catch the attention of others towards our needs and

desires as well. It helps us to communicate our problems and issues with each other easily. It inculcates the quality of acceptance in us. We readily learn to accept the people even in the situations of ethnic and cultural diversity. The widespread message of Allama Iqbal shows individuals the exercises of compassion, social affectability and worry for every single person in the society.

- 3. Critical thinking:** This thinking allows a person to evaluate and analyze information objectively to form a judgment. Critical thinking is among the first causes of change. According to Allama Iqbal the objective of intellectual education emphasized by him should be the awakening of critical and questioning attitude. "They don't serve who just stand and pause". This was his conviction. His graceful images were Hawk and Eagle speaking to the life of aspiration, battle and activity framing the cornerstone of the entire structure of life. A man must have close contact with his surroundings and he ought to steadily reshape it to suit his motivation. The great man must make sense of how to apply his knowledge. Through intelligence he can take course over nature. He is of the view that training ought to develop strength, resistance and 'Faqr'. Man learns through firsthand experience. Making of mistakes turns into a piece of man's developing background, on the off chance that it is combined with an intelligent desire to learn. In this way the error which may be depicted as a kind of insightful extreme aversion (evil) is an essential factor in the working up of experience.
- 4. Creative Thinking:** Thinking characterized by fluency, flexibility, originality and elaboration calls for new ways of viewing and acting. As per Allama educational system should inculcate a spirit of creativity in children so that students learn to dive in the vast horizon of scientific knowledge including the knowledge of the arts. Iqbal sought to discover instruction as a ceaseless practice to achieve the elevated amounts of Khudi. As shown by Iqbal's enlightening thinking the immense life must be the life of dynamic effort and fight. The activity must be creative and novel since creative ability is the most imperative and most undeniable gift. He upbraided self-invalidation and renunciation which were the immediate consequence of defeatism.¹¹
- 5. Decision Making:** It is a mental process dealing constructively with choosing of an action among many options. Allama Iqbal always emphasized moral way where a person can judge between right and wrong.
- 6. Problem Solving:** It is the cognitive process where one tries to find solutions to the difficult situations. Allama Iqbal always emphasized creativity in children. Creativity is always

helpful in problem solving. Moreover when adolescence would concentrate and are aware of human values like value of the right action, value of love, value of peace, value of truth, value of non violence.¹² In their daily life they would strive to become valuable person and can have meaning to their life. When they are know how to live with right human values and moral qualities they will be able to set targets and goals for their life. This problem solving ability is yet another skill that comes in the package of life skills education.

7. **Effective communication:** Clear expression both verbally and nonverbally as per culture and circumstance calls for effective communication. It is an important interpersonal skill. Allama Iqbal communicates through his poetry and inspires. He considers educators to be skilled workers whose job is to make the best out of crude material given to them. Along these lines, he says

Sheik-I-Maktab Hai Ik Imarat Ghar

Jis Ki San'at Hai Rooh-E-Insaani

An instructor resembles a developer,

Whose industry is to manufacture and build up the spirit of people.

8. **Interpersonal relationship:** This relationship is characterized by close coordination between two or more members. It implies having a sound relationship between family members which is a great source of social support. Allama in *Rumuz-e-Bekhudi* emphasized that a person must keep his individual character intact. Man cannot realize the self outside of society. The main theme of some of his poems was ideal community, Islamic ethical and social principles and relationship between the individuals.¹³ As per Allama confidence and love assumes a noteworthy job toward this path. Love is the establishment of life. Love is the glimmering sword of death. The hardest rocks are shuddered by cherishes glace. Straightforwardness and virtue of heart is one of the subjects generally managed by Iqbal. It is love that refines the heart, tidies it up, and clears it from tediously trash. He considered heart seat of sentiments and feelings focal point of human interiority, the most significant seat of mindfulness. In this way its decontamination is simply the premier advance mindfulness. The method for moving toward oneself is correspondence with one self. A man is simply the best judge and by addressing himself, he knows his shortcomings. This is a piece of the way toward tidying up the heart, which includes the hard battle against contradicting outside which hauls the person towards wrong way. In this way one can keep himself inside the standards of profound quality and religious points of confinement.

- 9. Coping with stress:** It means to be aware of the source that causes stress in one's life. To learn to control the levels of stress by adjustment or by changing our ways of spending life. Allama Iqbal always advised the youngsters to have courage. Courage is the instrument that saves a person in hard time when a person feels stress and strain in life.
- 10. Coping with emotions:** To know emotions within us is an inevitable concern for humans. One should recognize as well as learn to control emotions. Intense emotions like anger and sadness if not responded properly can have a negative impact on health of a person. Mohammad Iqbal considered heart seat of feelings and emotions focus of human interiority, the most profound seat of awareness. Allama Iqbal always guided the children to learn tolerance. Tolerance power in an individual saves from indulging in extreme out bursts of emotions like anger etc. To Iqbal life is a steady streaming waterway, it has no start and no end, its start and also ends lie in time everlasting. The rest isn't in its tendency. The rest implies passing and demise is no place in the life of oneself. Iqbal was in fact an incredible reformer who offered changing thoughts as well as observed his life as a mission to manage the general population of his nation towards the right way. His last objective was to make an acknowledgment of the significance of the aggregate self at a more elevated amount in the general public of humankind in general. He made himself a genuine power of progress in the general public and touched off the intensity of aggregate self inside his comrades.¹⁴
- Allama Iqbal emphatically trusts that instruction without preparing is pointless, so he says

*Who Ilm Kam Basree Jis Hum Kinaar Nahi
Tajallat-E-Kaleem-O-Murshidat-E-Hakeem*

"Such learning is shallow/limited which does not illuminate the searcher and nature like
Musa (alyhisaalam) and prohibit significant philosophical recognition."

CONCLUSION

The Life Skills program is a school based program where Life Skills are given in a solid learning condition. They are appropriate to all adolescents and young people. The mental push factors, for example, the powerlessness to handle enthusiastic agony, clashes, dissatisfaction are the main thrust for high hazard conduct. Life skill training is a viable device for engaging the young to act dependably, step up and take control. Humans are diverse he is the most dependent being of all the living creatures. His family and social surroundings instructs him formally and informally to make him independent being. His wisdom and intelligence is well beyond different creatures assist

him with receiving instruction. The training encourages him to adjust to the environment. The entire existence of a man is focused on his cognitive power and knowledge, making him better than all other living creatures. So as to make instruction an orderly and solid process the information of philosophical considerations and social mindfulness becomes necessary.¹⁵ In his educational philosophy Allama Mohammad Iqbal reflects on all the life skills cultivated by child. Most of his works belong to young generation. Children should be made aware of Iqbal's personality through the curriculum. By knowing him children will learn all life skills needed for a better life and for bringing meaningfulness in education and hence a fruitful prospective life. His vibrant verses stirred the dead into life and implanted a reestablishing and restoring feeling of character and self-manifestation in his readers.¹⁶

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