

# Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's Vision about Education

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## **Abstract:**

**Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the legendary Missile Man, had a vision for India. Vision 2020 was a document prepared under the leadership of Dr. Abdul Kalam to become a developed nation. During his presidency period, he talked about two main points: Education and Information Technology. Dr Abdul Kalam writes that education is the most important element for growth and prosperity of a nation. He writes that we should mobilize necessary resources for providing education to the under privileged people. Dr. kalam claimed to be a teacher right from the beginning of his career. He writes about qualities of teacher. He believes that students should ask questions to teachers. He advocates skill based education and also technology enhanced education. He believes that there is need to create a virtual university and virtual classrooms in India. He is of the view that education system has to be designed in a way that produce large number of employment generators and just not employment seekers.**

## **1. Introduction**

An exceptional personality with whom none can be compared ( Upaddhyay,S.R.,2013), decent person as a president (Garch, Jasvinder,2013), great scientist and inspiration for millions of Indians (Obama, Barack,2012), outstanding scientist and a wise states man ( Putin, Bladimir, 2012) , these are thoughts about Dr. Avul Pakir Jinaalbdeen Abdul Kalam usually referred as Dr. Abdul Kalam, known as the missile man of India for his contributions to ISRO ( Indian Scientific Research Organization), was also one of the favourite presidents of Indian kids. Just like Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Kalam adored kids and inspired in them a streak to achieve excellence. He spent a lot of his presidential tenure (2002-2007) visiting educational institutions and interacting with the youth of India.

In an interview Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam said that “ When I took over as president, I studied the constitution, and the more I studied it, the more I realized that it does not prevent the president of India from giving the nation a vision in parliament and in legislative assemblies; everyone welcomed it, irrespective of party affiliations.”

## **2. Mission of Education**

Dr. Abdul Kalam writes that 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. Yet we have 350 million people who need literacy and many more that have to acquire employable skills to suit the emerging modern India and the globe.

## **3. Inequality of Access to Educational Resources**

It is essential that we enlighten and create widespread awareness of education among all sections of society particularly in rural areas and among the urban poor. We should use technology for this important social purpose. It is possible for NGOs, other social and philanthropic institutions and the media to focus on this area

of creating awareness. We should also mobilize necessary resources for providing education to the underprivileged people

#### 4. Thoughts About Teachers

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was a huge advocate of education as the primary force of personal growth. He believed that it was knowledge that made a person great. Despite the range of titles he had earned in his lifetime, the visionary preferred to call himself a teacher. In an event at the Delhi Secretariat, in the presence of Delhi's Chief Minister, Dr Kalam claimed to be a teacher right from the beginning of his career.

Mishra, Ajay writes that Dr. Abdul Klam is one of the Greatest Teacher India has ever seen. According to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam , a teacher must have following four qualities:

1. Teacher should love teaching . A teacher must have passion about give his/her knowledge.
2. Teacher should encourage question from students. Teacher should let them think beyond their thinking.
3. Teacher puts the student ahead.
4. Teacher create pressure on the student to explore own capabilities

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam writes that” 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. These are great qualities that they must work towards. This is my message to the young people.”

Dr. Abdul Kalam believes that students should ask questions to teachers because it is one of the very important characteristics of a student. Dr. Abdul Kalam stresses on thinking by students. He says that 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. He further writes that thinking should become student's capital asset, no matter whatever ups and downs student's come across in their life. Dr. Abdul Kalam believes that everyone should have Dreams. He writes-

“Dream, Dream Dream

Dream transform into thoughts

And thoughts result in action.”

He conveys the message that dream, thoughts and action are inter related. He writes that dream is not that which you see while sleeping it is something that does not let you sleep.

#### 5. Technology Enhanced Education

Constraints of time and space together with the rapid obsolescence of knowledge in some areas of science and technology have created a huge demand for different courses from different institutions in the distance mode. There is a need for a working digital library system that alone can, in the long run, provide the kind of access required for a knowledge Society. Dr. Abdul Kalam (2005), writes that libraries need to be digitized and the books should be available seamlessly across the universities and distance learning programmes for universal access. He further writes “ When 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.

#### 6. Virtual classrooms

Dr. Abdul Kalam (2005) writes that with 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. The best teachers can be taken to the students, irrespective of physical distance.

## 7. Virtual University

Dr. Abdul Kalam (2005), writes that there is need to create a virtual university in India. This 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. Dr. Abdul Kalam suggests following tasks for virtual university:

- Virtual university will act as a central hub of all universities which are networked.
- Identify experts of national/international eminence in specialized areas.
- Coordinate, organize, schedule and broadcast the lecture of specialists at a time convenient to all participants.
- Record the live transmission of the lecture with interaction details in a databank for easy access by participants for review learning.
- Digitize all the university libraries and make it available for seamless access by all the universities.
- Provide for lectures, laboratory, learning, and the library, all through the Internet

It is reported that 39 percent of children drop out from school after studying 5th class and 55 percent drop out after studying up to 8th Class. This situation needs remedial action, especially since assent has been accorded to the 86th Constitution Amendment Act. The Right to Education Bill for children between the age group of 5 and 14 years. But, an Act alone cannot achieve the goal, unless education is delivered in a manner, which will take into account the socio-economic reality and perception of the people to who it is addressed. Dr. Abdul Kalam believes that apart from attracting children to schools, the education system should be able to provide nourishment and inject creativity among them. The aim of the education system should also be to build character, human values, enhance learning capacity through technology and build confidence among children to face the future.

## 8. Unemployment

Dr. Abdul Kalam believed in different approach towards the issue of unemployment. He emphasized on a holistic view of the current employment scenario. On the 54th foundation day of IIT Bombay, Dr. Kalam stated, "In present context, the education system has to be designed in a way that produces large number of employment generators and not just employment seekers. According to him, the particular skill set at a younger age will promote entrepreneurship in the country. This kind of education system will generate job creators instead of job seekers.

## 9. Conclusion

Mishra, Ajay (2015), writes that "Wonderful thoughts of Dr. Abdul Kalam are a great insight for everyone. It is applicable and to be followed by teachers, entrepreneur, trainers, corporate mentors and leaders, by anyone who is mentoring and teaching someone or a team to go beyond limits and create greatness."

## References

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