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Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Democratization of India



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**Contibution Of Nehru In Advancement Of Education**

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**Abstract**

*Jawaharlal Nehru was passionate advocate of education to all. He was highly impressed by the scientific progress of the west and the value of English education. He supported the educational means as prevalent in the west and plan to established western type of education in India. This makes him the architect of modern educational system in India. Considered education as the most important means to social change. It is only through right education a better order of society could be built up believed Nehru. Nehru stressed two basic qualities which education should aim at building strength of character. He emphasized that the advancement of a nation dependent on its women being educated and train to raise the young generation on the right social values. Education did not mean just the cultivation of social grace but an overall training to create a balance personality capable of making a positive contribution to society. In this paper researcher have focus light on the contribution of Pandit Nehru in Higher Education, Library, Culture, science and technology etc.*

**Keywords:** Library, science and technology, women Education, Higher Education

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Education has been of central significance to the development of mankind. Objective of education in the beginning not only of individual knowledge information and awareness but also of a holistic strategy for development and change. India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru rightly remarked 'some people seem to think that education is not as important as putting up a factory. According to Nehru's opinion, 'I will not sacrifice human beings and their education because it is the human beings who set up factories and produce the things we can helps a visual to develop his potential to the full to increase his productivity and to become a useful and productivity member of the society. Education is holistic in concept and is multi-dimensional.

**1.1 Objectives:**

- To find out the Nehru's Contribution in Educational Advancement
- To Find out the Contribution in Primary to Higher Education
- To Find out the Role in Library Art and Culture

**1. Education and Social System:**

Jawaharlal Nehru believed education as the most important instrument of social change. Any political thinkers and educational philosophers emphasized that it is not possible to establish a democratic society without and adequate and suitable system of education. Believe that education is an important instrument for establishing a sound base for democracy. Political democracy requires a politically conscious electorate for its successful functioning. Right type of education forms backbone of a successful democracy. Nehru remarked that only through right education can a bitter order of society be built up. Nehru things that the problems of a country cannot be solved merely through economic and political reform and mental development is possible only through education.

**2. Education and Social welfare:**

The architect of modern India Nehru viewed as an imperative mechanism to fight ignorance degeneration, superstition and dogmatism that was posing as a big obstacle in the path of India's progress. For this man of dynamic vision education is a vital for the individual development as well as for national development and progress. Nehru was much impressed by the Soviet system of education when he visited Russia in 1927. He said "I have the greatest admiration for many of the achievements of Soviet Union. Among these the great achievements is the value attached to the child and common man. Their systems of education and health are probably the best in the world..." Nehru liked the Russian approach and aims of education and its social concerns. He says, "The object aimed at is to produce a desire to serve the community as hole and to apply the knowledge gain not only for personal but for public welfare."



### 3. Types of Education

#### 3.1 Primary and Secondary Education: -

Nehru conceived of a goal oriented educational system in various stages. Stages of Pre basic training begin when a child is one or two years old. This is where the role of family especially mother becomes important in educational planning. Nehru regards this education of the highest importance because it lays the foundation of character of the child which affects his future education. The second stage he calls the stage of basic education for every boy and girl in the age group of seven and fourteen. Nehru proposed a course of basic training which would aim at shaping their character and building a physically fit body. This would involve several steps like awareness about culture past developing strong character capacity to work with hand and to coordinate manual labor with mental and intellectual ability.

Nehru's education was meant for everybody for people of every class. His plan of basic education willingness to do manual work. It was a program to produce people who would have minimum basic training and could take up any vocation or profession later in life. Nehru remarked "the whole concept of basic education is as I understand it that for a period of 7 years everybody in India boy and girl between the ages of say, seven and fourteen years, must go through this course of basic training, which must provide an adequate background for following a profession or trade." Nehru regarded this education to be essential for everyone so he advocated importing of such education free of cost and compulsory for every child.

#### 4.2 Higher Education;

In the final stage comes higher education and technical Education. In this context Nehru outline the rule and function of University. Nehru declared that "the universities how much to teach in the modern world and their scope of activities ever enlarges. New University stands for humanism for tolerance for a reason for progress for the adventure of ideas and for the search for truth. It stands for the on world March of the human race towards even higher objectives. Suggested the way of full standards up in university is to encourage this teamwork by having centers of advanced studies in as many universities as possible. That is to say each center will be for a particular subject and it should function on an all India basis. In regard to centipede and technology subjects such centers should work in close cooperation with the national laboratories and institutes.

#### 4.3 Teaching and Research:

To improve the quality of education Nehru suggested a close coordination between research and teaching. He wanted to encourage research in every field. He remarked " it seems to me essential that there should be the closest coordination between research institutes and universities. We should carry on research work in universities. All our major research institutes must be fed from the universities and if the universities drive then the research institute cannot survive for long.

#### 4.4 Scientific and technical Education

Nehru believed that it was science only that could solve the problem of hunger and poverty, insanitation and illiteracy of superstitions and orthodoxy. Immediately after becoming the prime minister of India he started working out programs and plans for the development of research in Science and technology. This result in the sitting up of the five Indian institute of technology at Kharagpur (1950), Bombay (1958), Kanpur (1959), Madras (1960), Delhi (1961). AICTE was set up in 1945, all technical education in the country. His government also saw the establishment of many other institutions of higher learning. Including the all India institute of medical sciences, Indian institute of Management, ICAR and in 1956, parliament established University grants commission as a national regulator of standards and a provider of finance. so establishment of many regional professional unitary institutions like NIT and unitary Agricultural Cultural Universities. The five-year plan had the objectives of guarantying of free and compulsory education to all of Indian children's. Achieve the goal mass village enrollment programs were created. Thousands of schools were constructed. Several adult education centers were established, vocational and training schools for adults were started in rural areas.

#### 4.5 Language promotion:

Nehru was aware of existence of different cultures and languages. He tried to find a solution to the problem of language heterogeneity of India. On the medium of education, he said basic Hinduism should be developed as an aid to mass education. Technical, and commercial wishing of foreign and Indian languages in the secondary schools. Nehru was in fact, not in favor of regional language as a media of education as regional language and training would encourage separatist tendencies and narrow national loyalties.



## 5. Education for different sections of society

### 5.1 Adult Education:

In order to achieve progressive economy and to establish a social order based on social justice and remove poverty and unemployment it is necessary to impart education to each and every individual of the society. Nehru viewed, in India the largest section of schedule caste and schedule tribes and backward community and women have a high level of illiteracy. Nehru's opinion the purpose of any educational policy should be to eradicate illiteracy and to bring the backward schedule cast schedule tribes and women on par with others. So Nehru remarked ", it should be the duty of the state to provide adult education to all this to everybody whenever group or religion one might belong to education is essential."

### 5.2 Women's Education:

The backwardness and plight of Indian women made him realized the importance of education he further stated, my part I have always been strongly of the opinion that while it may be possible to neglect women's education. The reasons are obvious if you educate the women probably men will be affected there by, and in any event children will be affected. The mother who has been well trained in various ways becomes essential to education. Nehru believed that education is milestone of women empowerment because it would enable them to respond to the challenges to confront their traditional role and change their life. He believed both men and women possess identical intellectual capacities and those he declared that the content of women's education should not be different from the content of men's education. He emphasized that the advancement of a country depends on its women being educated and trained to raise the young generation on right social values.

He also felt that the need to educate the rural women for rapid social change. He also felt that education of rural women makes family planning and other rural development schemes successful. To make educational programs successful along with English, regional languages must be given primary importance as medium of instruction.

## 6. Contribution of Nehru in Library and other Educational Streams

Pandit Nehru's contribution to Indian libraries is significant, as he recognized the importance of libraries in promoting education and literacy in the country. He believed that libraries are key institution that could help inculcate reading culture and contribute to the intellectual development of individuals. Here are some of the ways in which Pandit Nehru contributed to Indian libraries

- **Creation of national libraries:**

In 1948 Nehru established the National Library of India in Kolkata which is in the largest library in the country. The library has a vast collection of books, manuscripts, and other materials and is vital resources for scholar's researchers and students.

- **Emphasis on public libraries**

Nehru recognize importance of public libraries in promoting literacy and education. He urged the government to establish public libraries in rural areas and encouraged the use of mobile libraries to reach people in remote areas.

- **Support for library education:**

Nehru was supportive of creating opportunities for library education in India he was instrumental in establishing the University of Delhi department of library and information science which is one of the oldest and most prestigious institution for library education in the country.

- **Encouragement for book publishing:**

Nehru encouraged book publishing in the country and supported the establishments of Indian publishing houses including the National Book trust and the Indian council for cultural relations. This organization played crucial role in the preserving Indian literature and creating

- **Opportunities for Indian writers and translators:**

Pandit Nehru's contributions to Indian libraries has had a significant impact on the development of India's education and cultural sector. Emphasis on libraries as critical institutions for promoting education and literacy has helped ship the growth of the Indian library system; which remains and essential resources for the development of the countries intellectual capital.

- **Focus on primary education: -**

Nehru emphasized the importance of providing basic education to everyone irrespective of their background of social status he introduced various policies to promote primary education in the country



including the establishment of the 'Sera Shiksha Abhiyan' which aimed at achieving useful elementary education.

•**Development of University:**

In the post-independence period a major concern of the Government of India and of the states has been to give increasing attention to education as a factor vital to National progress and security. Problems of educational reconstruction were reviewed by several commissions and committees, notably the university Education commission (1948-49) and the secondary education commission (1952-53) some steps to implement the recommendations of these Commissions were taken and with the passing of the resolution of scientific policy under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, the development of science, technology and scientific research received special emphasis.

Nehru believe that, university's played crucial role in the development of a nation. He encouraged the establishment of new University and the development of existing once. He helped established institutes like Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) All India institute of medical sciences (AIIMS) & Indian institute of management(IIM), etc.

•**Promotion of arts and culture: -**

Nehru was a strong supporter of promoting arts and culture in India. He established several institutions e.g. National school of drama and the Sangeet Natak Academy to promote cultural activities in the country.

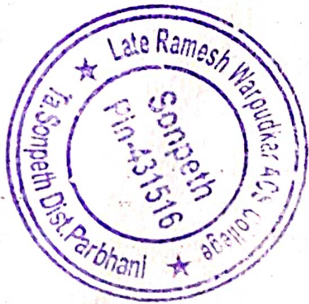
•**International educational partnerships:**

Nehru recognized importance of international partnerships for developing India's education system. He initiated student exchange program with other countries and invited experts from around the world to help improve the quality of education in India.

Vision and initiatives have had a lasting impact on Indian education system. He is emphasis on science and technology primary education and cultural development have contributed to the growth of the systems and has had a significant impact on India's who all social and economic progress.

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