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*Mahatma Phule, Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj and Dr.
B. R. Ambedkar – Thoughts and works*

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Educational Thoughts & Contribution of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj & Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar

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Introduction:

Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar were given contributions as well as thoughts on education for the society. Education is the process of facilitating learning, the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, morals, beliefs, habits, and personal development. Educational methods include teaching, training, discussion and directed research. Education helps a person to get knowledge and improve their confidence level all through their life. It plays a great role in our career growth as well as in our personal growth. It has no limitation people of any age group can get education anytime. It helps us to determine good and bad things. Education is so expanded that to state its meaning in short is very difficult. Education has got broader meaning as whatever we learn throughout life either in formal or informal ways, either in the house or outside the house, either in the society or in the school is called education. Education means change in behavior. The change which is desirable is called education. Education provides stability in life. Taking a college degree, you increase your chances for better career opportunities and open up new doors for yourself. Lack of education creates problems like superstition, domestic violence, poor health, and poor living standards. Role of education is a means of socializing individuals and to keep society smoothing and remain stable.

Objectives:

1. To study educational thoughts & contribution of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule.
2. To study educational thoughts & contribution of Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj.
3. To study educational thoughts & contribution of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

Educational Thoughts & Contribution of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule

Jyotirao Govindrao Phule (April 11, 1827 November 28, 1890), also known as Mahatma Jyotiba Phule was an activist, thinker, teacher, educationist and social revolutionary from Poona. He lived and worked in Maharashtra. Jyotirao Phule is remembered as the champion of women's education in India. He, along with his wife Savitribai Phule, opened the first school for girls in 1848. He dedicated his entire life for the upliftment of down-trodden, eradication of untouchability and strived for equal rights for all. Mahatma Phule was fully conscious about the importance of education as a tool of social justice and equality. The essence of the educational philosophy of Mahatma Phule was that 'education is a human right'. Jyotiba related education with access to justice, equity and growth for lower castes and women. Mahatma Phule's thoughts on education can be that lack of education leads to lack of wisdom, which in turn leads to lack of justice. This leads to lack of progress, which leads to lack of money and results in oppression of the lower castes. He fought all his life for women and educating them, his aim was that all lives should be treated equally. Jyotiba Phule was a visionary who was also interested in educational policies. Therefore, in a statement presented to the Hunter Commission, he argued The present number of educated men is very small in relation to the country at large and we trust that the day may not be far distant when we shall have the present number multiplied a hundred fold all taking themselves to useful and remunerative occupation not looking after service (Hunter Commission 1882). He was, in fact, thinking of the future of education for an independent India. His goal was to give Indian society an education that would not only have a permanent value, but also cultivate in the people a free mind and liberty of action. Jyotiba Phule concentrated on the fact that the two important needs of an effective system of primary education were quality teachers and a good curriculum.

Educational Thoughts & Contribution of Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj

Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj was the great king (1894-1922) of the princely state of Kolhapur of Maharashtra. Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj thought on education is a weapon that is very useful in the war of life. He also mentioned that in this age the struggle to survive was increasing and only the educated will

survive. In his opinion without proper nutrition man becomes weak and without knowledge man becomes backward. Shahu Maharaj wanted to promote the depressed classes in the education sector and the administrative process of his state. Shahu Maharaj instituted scholarship programs for students from the backward sections of society in 1911. He identified the importance of education to the masses and the need to make it free and compulsory. Therefore to compel parents to send their children to school. Chh. Shahu Maharaj issued a declaration that it is the responsibility of all parents to send their children to school. Chh. Shahu Maharaj made significant endeavors for providing education to women especially to those from backward communities. Chh. Shahu Maharaj also made efforts to provide English language education to girl students. The Maharaja was also aware of the various types of education and training. He focused his efforts on not only conventional education but also undertook efforts for skill oriented education in the service sectors, technical education, trade education, industrial education, medical education, agricultural education. Most importantly he realized the concept of free and compulsory education for all in that era & also worked on a comprehensive program of promoting free and compulsory education for social change. If we adopt the spirit of the Rajarshi Shahu Maharaja vision it will definitely lead to change in Indian society through inclusive education.

Educational Thoughts & Contribution of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar

Dr Ambedkar said, "Education is what makes a person fearless, teaches the lesson of unity, makes aware of his rights and inspires to struggle for his rights." His slogan was Educate, Unite, and Agitate. Education literally means the things a person learns by being taught. So the definition of a good education would be the things a person learns by being taught well. If the person is well educated in history, they should know major events that have happened in the US as well as other parts of the world. Dr. Ambedkar identified two purposes of knowledge first to acquire it for betterment of others and secondly to use it for one's own betterment. He emphasized secular education for social emancipation and freedom. Dr. Ambedkar says that it is important to have the strong attitude of accepting the changes in the society for giving speed to the process of change.

Education is that which transforms a person to live a better life and even in a social well-being. Education plays a vital role in success in personal growth. Dr. Ambedkar believed in liberal education and based on religious inspiration of non theistic nature. Education according to Dr. Ambedkar was a blend of pragmatism of Dewey and dharma of Buddha. He thought that education would enlighten his people and bridge the gap between the higher classes and untouchables. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar wanted the people to cultivate the values of freedom and equality among themselves through education. He regarded education as a means to reach the doors of light and perception to remove the regions of darkness. Education helps to build character as you learn about different cultures, languages and how other people think as well as live. When you have an education you are able to fulfill the basic needs in life. You are taught to get dressed, learn self-care and practical life skills. It improves your emotional intelligence. You become a better person, more understanding, kind, self-sufficient, and love yourself before anyone else. So this is how education makes life better.

Conclusion: Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar were given contributions as well as thoughts on education for the society. At present the Government of India gives all types of scholarships & facilities regarding education. The main purpose of education is to educate individuals within society, to prepare and qualify them for economic development as well as to integrate people into society.

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