A study of Gandhijee’s Thoughts on Co-education

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Abstract

This research was carried out to understand Gandhijee’s thoughts on co-education. It was qualitative research and content analysis method was used. The data regarding Gandhijee’s thoughts on co-education were collected by reading the books which were published by Navjivan Publication, Ahmadabad. Collected data was properly studied and descriptively analyzed. The result was interesting. Gandhijee believed that men and women are different creation of God so there education must be different and separate syllabus is required for that. Co-education is useful at primary level but it is not useful for higher level. Gandhijee’s thoughts on women education were against the modern education system. Present scenario is different. Higher education is given to the women but the syllabus is equal for men and women. Not only is this but co-education also there. Gandhijee didn’t believe in it. Who is right Gandhijee or Modern Education system? This study arise this big question.

KEYWORD: Co-education, Descriptive Research, Content analysis

Introduction

To understand the higher education in context of 21st century one should know the ideas of former educationist. As far as the matter consult with India we can’t ignore Gandhijee who said my greatest contribution is in education. Gandhijee (1938) stated, “I have given so many things to India but Education system is the best among them. I can not believe that I can give better than education system to India.” Gandhijee’s thoughts on co-education are useful to understand education system. That is the reason why researcher decided to study the Gandhijee’s thoughts on co-education.

The main objective of study:
To study the Gandhijee’s thoughts on co-education.

The main question of the study:
What are the Gandhijee’s thoughts on co-education?

Research Methodology:
The present study was one kind of qualitative research and content analysis method was used for it. This study was purely based on Gandhijee’s authentic written material so content analysis method was applied. The field of this study was educational philosophy because Gandhijee’s basic philosophy of co-education was discussed here.

Population:
All the available literature related to the problem was included in population in the content analysis method. So all the books which were written by Gandhijee and the books in which his written thoughts took place were the population of this study.
Sample:
To find the Gandhijee’s thoughts on co-education 85 books were selected as a sample. All books were in Gujarati and published by Navjivan Publication, Ahmadabad. It was purposive sample. List of the sample was given below.
1. Gandhijee No Akshardeh Vol. 1 to 81 (1st Edition)
2. Satyana Prayogo (1994)
4. Khari Kelavani (1955)
5. Kelavani No Koyado (1956)

Data Collection:
The process of data collection was very important. Researcher purchased the books which were mention in the sample. The information sheet was developed to note down the data. Researcher read all the sample books one by one and whenever the information regarding co-education found it was noted in the information sheet which was created by researcher. This way the data was collected. The time duration of data collection was one years (March-2012 to March-2013). Gandhijee didn’t write separately on co-education. His thoughts on co-education scattered. Researcher tried to collect the thoughts and analyzed it according to the objective of the study.

Data Analysis
Collected data was in descriptive form so statistical analysis was not possible. For the data analysis Bogdan (1998) content analysis method was applied. Following steps were applied for content analysis.
1. First Step
   All the collected content was read peacefully and carefully.
2. Second Step
   Thought patterns were found out.
3. Third Step
   Folders were developed according to the thoughts.
4. Forth Step
   One by one folder content was read and center thoughts were found out.
5. Fifth step
   Again read and understand the center thoughts and find out the answer of the answer of the question of the study.

Results:
Gandhijee believed that…..
1. Co-education is useful at primary level but it is not useful at higher level.
2. Men and women are different creation of God so there education must be different.
3. Nature of men and women is different so higher education must be separate according to their nature.
4. Different syllabus according to their nature is essential. Equal syllabus is not proper for women. It is not psychological.
Discussion:

Gandhijee’s thoughts on co-education are debatable. Co-education is everywhere in the world. It is difficult to accept them blindly. Contemporary education system denies the thought of separate education for men and women as well as co-education. Bhatt (1973) studied Vinoba Bhave’s Educational thinking, Babu (1978) studied Aurovindo’s educational thinking, Gohil (2004) studied educational thoughts of Pandurang Athavale, Shastri (2009) studied educational thoughts of Pramukh Swami and Godbole (2010) studied the educational thoughts of Rangavdhoot. All these thinkers believed that separate higher education should be given to the women. So when we think about higher education for 21st century, one should not ignore their opinion. To find the proper solution the question of co-education must be discussed properly.

References


