

Developing Entrepreneurship Skills in Transgender Through Nai Talim

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Abstract: India has a long history right from prosperity and intellectual excellence to the trenches of illiteracy, poverty and social discrimination. It has also been facing the consequences of the non-Indian imported educational system. From ages people have felt a need of the indigenous system of education that should be based on the local needs and fulfill the social and technological developmental goals without harming the true Indian culture. NaiTalim is such an educational scheme proposed by Mahatma Gandhi, which finds its success in harmonious growth of the education, vocation, character and personality of the student. This article proposes a new dimension to NaiTalim, that to connect it with the inclusion of transgender in the mainstream education through skill training programs under the umbrella of NaiTalim.

Keywords-*Allround development, Dignity of labour, Handicraft, Inclusive Education, NaiTalim ,Skill training program, Transgender, Vocational Education,*

I. INTRODUCTION

Education helps in the all-round development of a person. It widens the capacity of body mind and spirit. Mahatma Gandhi believed that the right to get education is a birth right of every individual and the key to a healthy society. Before independence the education was limited to few people especially to the wealthy class. But the lower part of the Indian society ie. villagers, labours and other skilled people remained illiterate. In such a situation Gandhi ji dreamt of a unique education system. A system where labour was dignified and training of heart and hand was associated with the cognitive growth. According to Gandhiji, education means an all-round drawing out of the best in child and man-body, mind and spirit. Literacy is not the end of education nor even the beginning. It is only one of the means whereby man and women can be educated. Literacy in itself is no education. This new scheme of education was called NaiTalim by Gandhiji.

II. CONCEPT OF NAI TALIM

In 1937, Mahatma Gandhi introduced the concept of NaiTalim in India. He emphasized the role of teacher and learner with equal importance in the process of teaching – learning. According to him, teaching-learning process can become fruitful if teacher and learner are at same understanding level. The objectives of learning can only be

accomplished when both student and teacher share a responsible position, they both learn from each other and respect each other. The scheme of NaiTalim works on training and preparing youth in such a way that they should become self-resilient and possess a capacity to understand the problems correctly and find the solution confidently. Gandhiji thought through NaiTalim, youth will be trained to bring revolutionary change in rural India. Such generation will not dependent on anybody but they will be independent and work for welfare of the society. As per Gandhiji , the other side of NaiTalim was to bring a just society where nobody will be oppressed. Everyone will be equal, truly a democratic society. There won't be rich-poor class, no distance between cities and villages, no discrimination between person doing intellectual work and manual work (labour), no religious caste differences, no differentiation based on language, class, caste, etc. Hence, Gandhiji insisted on local handicraft with education.

Basic principles of NaiTalim:-

1. Education or learning in mother tongue along with handicraft work,
2. Work should be linked with most useful vocational needs of the locality,
3. Learning should be linked with vocational work, and

4. Work should be socially useful and productive needed for living.

In NaiTalim, productive work and knowledge were considered complimentary as knowledge can be gained by conducting any activity and the fruitful knowledge provides the vocational opportunities. So work and education are integrated. This scheme is not only gives useful information about certain field but also teaches how to use it. Thus NaiTalim is a 'need based education'.

III. CONCEPT OF TRANSGENDER

"The future of India lies in her classrooms". Education is the pivotal key for the intellectual and social growth for a nation. India is a democratic nation. Article 21 of Indian constitution reads as :*No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to a procedure established by law.*"

'Life' in Article 21 of the Constitution is not merely the physical act of breathing. It does not connote mere animal existence or continued drudgery through life. It has a much wider meaning which includes right to live with human dignity, right to livelihood, right to health, right to pollution free air, etc. Right to life is fundamental to our very existence without which we cannot live as human being and includes all those aspects of life, which go to make a man's life meaningful, complete, and worth living. Indian constitution ensures equal opportunities to every citizen to develop and attain one's capabilities, irrespective of caste, religion or gender.

Gender is and has been a taken for granted aspect for Indian society. The modern society possesses an expectation as early on the child and their parents. This expectation relates to the gender of the would be child be either boy or a girl. All the later endeavors like their name, dress, toys, colour-choices even the carrier too get confirmed when the baby is born. With these preconceived notions what would happen when the child experiences a problem of gender identity?

In a democratic country like India, where we confirm the constitutional equality and right of freedom to live, a category remains in margin since ages. This category has been experiencing various issues like social exclusion, identity, opportunity of education, health facilities etc. These people call themselves as Transgender.

A transgender person is someone who identifies with the gender that is different from his/her biological sex, but who does not necessarily want a sex change. The transgender people may be identified as heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, pansexual or asexual. The transgender people present themselves to the world in a wide variety of ways. Transgender is an umbrella term used to describe gender variant people who have gender identity expressions or behaviors not traditionally associated with their birth sex. Usually, all transgender persons do not alter their birth sex and their physical anatomy. But some transgender

individuals prefer to alter their bodies through hormones or surgery in order to make their anatomy concurrent with their gender by changing physiological structure, hairstyle and manner of dressing.

IV. NAI TALIM BENEFITTING TRANSGENDER

As per the course module of NaiTalim in E-Pathshala, NaiTalim is a non-violent approach towards socialization. All crafts are considered equal, thus dignity to labour is given. In India transgender community is aspiring for an opportunity of work through they can find a dignified vocation and can live as a part of main stream society. Despite from the partial attitude of the society, the people from transgender community are developing themselves in the field of education. The Government and the stakeholders of the society are also becoming aware and becoming sensitive towards the needs of this community. Recently a special academic orientation program has been introduced by the regional center of the Indira Gandhi National Open University(IGNOU), Kochi to enhance life skills and open the gates of career opportunities for the transgender community in Kerala state. A number of NGOs are working to uplift the transgender people by conducting various programs to train them in different life coping skills and personality development like problem solving, decision making, critical thinking, relationship building and work place etiquette etc. By this training the participants were encouraged to build self confidence and self-esteem required to face the challenges at work place.

It will be a great idea to connect the transgender skill training with the adult education scheme of NaiTalim. This way the most awaited social and vocational inclusion of transgender people can find its way. The inclusive nature of the training will make the program more acceptable. By such innovative intervention the scheme of NaiTalim will become more comprehensive and liberal.

Few of the skills that can be learnt by the transgender are as below:

1. **Apprenticeship Training**-Apprenticeship training in different subject fields can be conducted to give an opportunity to gain the practical knowledge and become employed.

Example-Computer operator programming

- Food and beverages service
- Baker and confectioner
- Retail sales associates
- Fashion designing assistant
- Electrician
- Cutting and sewing machine operator
- Training of house keepin
- Training of hospitality
- Front office management

2. **Nursery and Gardening (Including Composting)-** The training related with gardening and management of nursery can be given as it may become an innovative way to set their earning.
3. **Security practice-** Transgenders can be trained as volunteers in disaster relief organizations and can be practiced through mock drills for Fire, Earthquake, Cyclones, Floods and Pollution.
4. **Recycling of Plastic and glassware** –This can be the most productive and significant work in the future society. The used bottles and glassware can also be molded constructively in usable form.
5. **Art based skill training** –The training of the artistic vocation as tailoring, stitching, embroidery and knitting can be given to transgender as per their inclination.
6. **Making soft toys and heritage crafts (Puppets)** – Local culture contains various colours of craft. Puppet making is among one of them. Transgender community can associate itself with such organizations that would give them vocation as well as an identification in the society.
7. **Performing Arts- Theatre art, dance etc.** –This is the individual inclination and interest of transgender members to opt performing art as their career. But if the person has dedication for theatre, they must be given opportunity.
8. **Basic English and soft skills** – A combination of interpersonal skills, social skills, communication skills, character traits, social and emotional intelligence etc. can be covered under soft skills. The training of soft skills will enable the transgender to navigate their environment, perform well and enjoy a highly professional work atmosphere.

V. CONCLUSION

After a long period of western and borrowed education system, India has stepped into a trial of 'Desi' education system in such a large scale. Every country differs in their goals in terms of society, technology, regional requirements, geographical situations and most importantly about the culture. One cannot grow to its fullest by ignoring its identity. The growth of the national technology, industry and infrastructure should go hand in hand with the societal, financial and moral boost of its people. The above article proposes to connect the deprived transgender community with the main stream education system through NaiTalim.

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