

# **Educational and management thoughts of Giju Bhai and their relevance in the context of primary education and discipline**

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## **Abstract**

Country's foremost child educationist Girjashankar Bhagwanji Badheka, fondly and respectfully called Giju Bhai. He established many interesting activities of teaching according to the needs, level, interest and age group of children by establishing the principles of Montessori method in child education in the Indian context. By providing pressure and fear free environment to the children, the school has been transformed into a joyous one. Gijubhai regards education as a life-long process. According to him- "Education is the hunger of the soul. The origin of this trend is within us. No man can teach anyone.

Education is development, and experience is the cornerstone of development. Experience lies in independent action, so provide an independent environment to the child. Free environment means fear free environment which is inherent in Montessori method. Gijubhai was far-sighted. He had closely and minutely observed the development of the child. Many experiments were done keeping in mind the needs, interests and strengths of the children. Gijubhai presented these ideas in the form of new teaching in the twentieth century itself, which are equally relevant today in the twenty-first century.

**Keywords :** Primary education, Discipline

## **Introduction**

Education creates a conscience of good and evil in human beings. It creates tolerance in us and the ability to give something to the world. Education enables us to successfully perform our personal and social responsibilities. In the context of education, Epictetus has said that - "The highest service to the nation is to elevate the character of the citizens instead of building tall buildings." It is better for enslaved citizens to live in lofty

lofts than for poor citizens inspired by lofty ideals to live in thatched huts. A beneficial education system for children is one in which the teacher patiently listens to the problems of the children and answers them with patience and tenderness. Ask questions according to the level of the children and present their solutions again. Only then education will emerge as a powerful medium and the anomalies prevailing in the society will end. Continuous new innovations in education have given

challenges. Therefore, accepting these challenges, the teacher has to play such a role that the child himself gets pulled towards the school.

India's leading child educationist Gijubhai Badheka was born on 15 November 1885 in Chittal, Saurashtra, Gujarat. His father Bhagwan Das Ji Badheka and mother Kashiba were very religious. The religious views of the parents had a clear impact on Giju Bhai as well. At the age of five, he was sent to Batalathipur's primary school to study. Here the school environment was not child friendly. This had an impact on Gijubhai, when he grew up, he tied the scenes of primary school in his own words. He loved the affection of children so much that leaving his profession like advocacy; he became active in the field of child education.

Gijubhai was a strong supporter of the freedom of children. He believed that only by giving complete freedom to the children, they too can be educated properly. The child has his own independent personality. Imposing your desires, instincts and decisions of right and wrong on children can lead to dire consequences.

### **Giju Bhai's Educational Thoughts**

The Montessori method had the greatest impact on Gijubhai's life. Montessori method is not just a teaching method but a philosophy of life. It is a new vision and a new type which initiates a new method and new ideals in the teacher. Increases the prestige of the teacher, creates a new role of social construction, gives a new vision to psychology, connects new links of relations between person-person, society-society and

nation-nation and human power and Makes a new evaluation of the success of his character. 'Diwaswapna' is the essence of Gijubhai's life and true experiences through which his imagination has been embodied and the concept of renewal of elementary education has been meaningful.

Today it is universally accepted that a child who is mentally sound has the ability to do everything. That is, he should be considered fully developed who would be both skilled and clever. He will have firmness of resolve, stability in thoughts and his personality will also be huge. He will have abundance of curiosity and tendency to acquire knowledge and if both these tendencies run in a favorable condition, then he will certainly prove to be successful in his life. It is necessary that the development of the child should be done in the right environment. Then it can be made in whatever way it wants and it will reach the top position in its same direction. It is not really necessary for the child that you should collect all the resources for him or that you should solve his every work, every knot. He doesn't like it. He is eager to see any work done by himself and therefore he does not like any kind of interference in it. He only wants such an environment, in which his imagination can develop freely, in which his thoughts can freely appear and in which he can fearlessly try everything on the basis of his analytical tendency.

According to Gijubhai, education should be such that it makes the child self-reliant, fearless, creative or skillful and expressive. He had a firm belief that in trying to observe and manage child development, the

educational management of children would also become independent. Thus Gijubhai's entire philosophy of education revolves around the child.

- The main aim of education is to develop their natural instincts properly.
- The basis of Gijubhai's teaching was conversation, not lecture.
- He used to impart knowledge to the children by teaching them through sports method, doing work while singing songs, making them dance by playing musical instruments, writing stories, dramas, gardening, observing nature and taking them on independent tours.
- He believed that the knowledge obtained in this way is permanent and the child has a complete all-round and emotional development.
- Even in the present times, such research is being done continuously, under which the relevance of conversation is being established in teaching.

If seen completely, the following characteristics of Gijubhai's educational system are reflected –

- Importance has been given to the personal development of the children.
- Importance has been given to the development of creative potential in children.
- Gijubhai's teaching method is based on naturalness and not artificiality.

- Self-action and self-motivation are necessary for discipline, not fear and punishment.
- Development of unique method of reading and writing and importance has been given to self-education.
- Emphasis has been laid on the development of sociality and practicality.
- The role of the teacher has been established as a friend, helper and guide.

### **Elementary Education and Teaching Methods**

From the time of independence till today, many efforts are being made by the government for the development of primary education but still not getting success. The main reason for failure here is the current classroom teaching process. Today's student spends most of the time in the classroom listening to what the teacher says. From this he acquires intellectual knowledge but fails to express and apply that knowledge in practice. On the basis of psychological research, it can be said that students become disinterested by doing the same activity for a long time, due to which they cannot concentrate and the child's learning is temporary rather than permanent.

Therefore, there is a need today that the teachers should be oriented towards those new processes and awareness should be generated in them so that the students can gain knowledge with full enthusiasm while being active in the class and make practical use of the knowledge gained. Famous child educationist Gijubhai has initiated many

such interesting teaching methods, by adopting which the defects of the present educational process can be removed.

**Major teaching methods** - question-answer method, pair method, drama experiment method, self-learning method, listening method, film method, direct method, classroom method, game method, principled and exemplified methods etc.

Keeping in mind the nature of the subject and the grade level, supporting the method of teaching, Gijubhai believes that the question and answer method can be successful especially in the beginning classes of primary schools. In primary schools, the path of knowledge should be opened only with the help of experience, experiment and observation. Drama-experimental method can be put to good use in teaching languages, mathematics, history and geography. It is such a beautiful tool with the help of which the work of giving a vision to history, to arouse interest in the subject and to remember the facts easily can be done. In the self-education method, the child himself keeps on gaining knowledge.

Teaching does not teach the child directly, but creates such an enlightening environment by which the student himself is motivated to come in this environment and by choosing the work of his choice, he develops the powers that come by gaining self-knowledge. Mother tongue is taught to small children only through listening method. Many things can be remembered orally without rote learning by listening to children repeatedly through stories. Along with this, the power of literary creation can also be developed. Children learn quickly

what they have to learn if they are taught through direct experience. In his educational experiments, Gijubhai gave information about various subjects in an elegant way through the story.

Gijubhai believed that the child has some natural habits of acquiring knowledge, such as going from the known to the unknown, going from the gross to the subtle, acquiring knowledge through the senses developed according to his age. If teaching is done keeping in mind these innate tendencies of the child, then it will be more effective.

Gijubhai was a strong supporter of teaching through the game method. He believed that if the teacher imparts knowledge through various games by mixing with the children, then he will become the most beloved teacher of the children and in this way, when the child acquires knowledge according to his interest, ability and ability, he will become a good teacher in future and will become an able, intelligent, dutiful and creative citizen.

The development of scientific vision is very important in today's education system. Therefore, from the child class onwards, the students should be taught by the example based method.

In the right context, primary education is the laboratory of life, but there are many problems in primary education, which are as follows -

- Excessive educational burden on the children.
- Lack of curiosity among children towards education.

- Curriculum should be psychological.
- Hyper-artificiality in the educational environment.
- Child attitude should not be taken care of.
- Instead of being child-centred, the curriculum should be teacher-centred and subject-centred.
- Not emphasizing on the development of creative qualities in children.
- Indifference and insensitivity towards primary education among teachers.
- Lack of proper use of co-curricular activities
- Lack of parenting awareness among teachers.
- School education should not be inclined towards questioning but towards ready-made answers.
- The only aim of education is to score maximum marks in the examination.
- Instead of indifference towards education in children, qualities like curiosity, enthusiasm, fearlessness and friendship will be nurtured.
- The one-sided role of teachers will end and children will get an opportunity to test and test themselves.
- Reasoning, thinking, analyzing and classifying and creative ability will develop in children.
- Instead of punitive discipline, discipline will be established in children through self-action and self-motivation.
- The activities of theatrical song, dance, music, presentation of essay style etc. will make the educational environment interesting.
- Teacher will play an important role in making children active, imaginative and experimental.
- Children can be motivated towards enjoyable education.

Gijubhai is the only great Indian educationist whose field of study has been related to child-centred education, child teaching method and child psychology. Therefore, if Gijubhai's ideas are proposed in the light of the above problems, then the anomalies of primary education can be removed and primary education can be established as a laboratory of life in real sense. as a result-

- The educational environment will be congenial and students will be provided opportunities for self-motivation.
- There will be full development of internal abilities in children.

### **Discipline Ideas -**

Gijubhai was a strong supporter of the freedom of children. Instead of hesitating to go to school, children should go there with enthusiasm and enthusiasm and get life-useful education, for this he did many revolutionary experiments, because of these experiments, he is also known as 'Gandhi of children'. Gijubhai Badheka is also given the epithet of 'Munjho Wali Maa' because she had affection towards children like a mother, she used to consider children as deities. He made education child-centered and said that 'education is for the child and not for the education of the child'. He emphasized on

teaching the children through stories, poems while playing in the natural environment, by beating and scolding the children. He did not like teaching at all, he was in favor of loving treatment with children and wanted them to be taught with love and affection. Gijubhai was in favor of discipline but gave importance to self-discipline and was against oppressive discipline. He could not see the childhood of children being snatched in the name of discipline, Gijubhai believed in natural discipline. According to them, the main reason for indiscipline is - today's education system, opposition to activity, not letting the child do action but doing it himself, not letting the child read but teaching himself, not letting the child think but filling his thoughts. Gijubhai studied child psychology very deeply and came to the conclusion that every child naturally has a creative tendency to do activity. Self-action and self-motivation are necessary for discipline, not fear and punishment. Gijubhai Badheka used to emphasize on self-discipline by making the children learn by doing themselves independently in the natural environment. Gijubhai is the only great Indian educationist whose field of study has been related to child centered education and child psychology.

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