

# Concept of Teacher as conceived by Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

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## Abstract:

*This qualitative study is concerned to explore the concept of teacher as conceived by Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam based on qualitative data. Content analysis and Exegetical analysis method are used here. The study highlighted the duties and responsibilities of teachers. The findings of the study are: the teacher must have the passion to teach and ability - to convert adversity to an opportunity, to teach theoretical knowledge with practical examples and to develop leadership quality of a student.*

**Keywords:** Guru, Teacher, Responsibility, Role Model

Abbreviations-MIT- Madras Institute of Technology

## 1. Introduction:

Teacher is one of the major stake holders of education in all ages. In India the place of a teacher is next to biological parents. The core concepts are: Maatri devo bhava, Pitri devo bhava, and Aacharya devo bhava (*Taittiriya-Upanishad*)<sup>1</sup>. 'Guru' from the Gurukul system of education to 'Teacher' in present day education is a long journey and till relevant in today's education. Swami Vivekananda, Rishi Aurobinda, Rabindra Nath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi has given importance to role of a Teacher in education.

Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam, the 11th President of India and Scientist-Philosopher has laid emphasis on role of teacher in education. The researcher analyzes Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam's speeches to understand his concept of teacher. According to Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam- "Teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the character, calibre, and future of an individual. If people remember me as a good teacher it will be the biggest honour for me" (*Trivedi,-2017,-p.263*)<sup>2</sup>.

### 1.1. Title of the Problem:

The title of the problem is: Concept of Teacher as conceived by Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

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<sup>1</sup> Tattiriya Upanishad. Retrieved from [www.lalithapeetham.org](http://www.lalithapeetham.org) on dated 20.11.2020

<sup>2</sup> Trivedi, A. (2017). *The Educational Thoughts of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam*, International Education & Research Journal ( IERJ), Vol.3, Issue.5, p.263.

## 1.2 Objective of the Study:

To study the concept of Teacher of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.

## 1.3 Delimitations of the Study:

- i) The present study is delimited to the selected books of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.
- ii) The present study is delimited to the concept of teacher as conceived by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- iii) The present study is delimited to qualitative study based on written data.

## 1.4 Significance of the Study:

- i) The outcome of the present study will be useful to the educationist, principal, teachers, parents, policy maker and specially the researcher to carry out the qualitative research.
- ii) Up to now, the qualitative researches are conducted mostly on educational thoughts, but here the researcher tried to study the concept of teacher of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam in spite of his being scientist.

## 2. Review of Related Literature:

The researcher has reviewed pertinent studies to meet the objective of the study. [Pareek,-H.P.\(2018\)<sup>3</sup>](#) has conducted a study on Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam to consider the objectives-educational thoughts of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. The major findings of the study are: Education is made to build up character and inculcate human values among student. Method of teaching is 'imparting learning through doing method'. Teaching is very noble profession that shapes-character, calibre and future of individual. [Chauhan,-K.R.\(2017\)<sup>4</sup>](#) has done a qualitative research work on Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam's thinking on educational system. Major finding of the study are: Awakening of the feeling of honour, self respect of the youngsters, enlightened citizen are the motto of education. [Trivedi,-A.\(2017\)<sup>5</sup>](#) in his descriptive research considered the objective to study the educational thoughts of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. The major findings of the study are: The aims of education are generating enlightened citizen, transform the child to a leader with creativity, righteousness and courage. The role of teacher is to motivate students to build up the capacities of spirit of inquiry, creativity, morality to fulfill their dream. [Rupainwar,-A.\(2016\)<sup>6</sup>](#) has conducted a qualitative research work on Educational Thoughts and Idea of APJ Abdul Kalam. The major findings of the study are: Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam is a great teacher, visionary, social

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<sup>3</sup> Pareek, H. P. (2018). *Educational Thoughts of A. P. J. Abdul Kalam*, International Journal of Academic's Research and Development. Vol. 3, Issue.1, pp. 126-128

<sup>4</sup> Chauhan, K. R. (2017). *A Study of Thinking on Education System of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam*, International Journal of Research in all Subject in Multi Languages, Vol.5, Issue. 8, pp .17-22

<sup>5</sup> Trivedi, A. (2017). *The Educational Thought of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam*, International Education & Research Journal (IERJ), Vol.3, issue.5, pp. 262-264

<sup>6</sup> Rupainwar, A. (2016). *Educational Thoughts and Ideas of APJ Abdul Kalam an analytical study*, Ph.D. thesis of Integral University. Retrieved from <http://hdl.handle.net/10603/114131> on May 25, 2018

reformers and democratic educationist. He introduced the concept of home library, creative class room and creative leadership. [Asha,-T.S.\(2013\)<sup>7</sup>](#) has done a study on Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to consider the objective Educational thoughts of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam and its social relevance. The major findings of the study are: Education is an endless journey to transform a child to a leader and inculcating the spirit 'we can do it' among child and youth that enhance the dignity of human being, self respect, universal brotherhood with the drawing out of creativity of students.

### 3. Methodology:

The study is purely Qualitative- Descriptive in nature based on non-quantifiable data (written documents).

#### 3.1 Research Design:

Philosophical research is used here as a critical analysis for the fundamental concept elucidations to answer the question "what should be". It is normative in nature.

#### 3.2 Sources of Data:

Books, Lectures, and Articles of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam (Primary data) and Books, Lectures, Research papers, Articles on Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam (Secondary data).

#### 3.3 Collection of Data:

Data (words, sentences) are collected from the books of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam particularly 'Wings of Fire' and 'Ignited Minds' and secondary data (words, sentences) collected from web sites and news paper based on research objective. After coding and categorization of coded data the researcher selected 27 idea units by purposive sampling method that represents the concept of teacher. The data are checked through corroboration with other to assure that the selected data can provide the same conclusion.

#### 3.4 Data Validation:

Data are validated through external criticism - the authenticity of the sources of data by the determination of date and place of publication of concerned data and internal criticism- by the checking of validity and reliability of the content.

#### 3.5 Method of Data Analysis:

Content Analysis –particularly conceptual analysis (concept elucidation of a word(s) or sentence(s) and Exegetical method of philosophical Analysis (adopted version of [Swami-Tattaswarananda-&-Biswas,2016\)<sup>8</sup>](#) – deep reading of word(s) or sentence(s) are used here.

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<sup>7</sup> Asha, T. S. (2013). Thoughts of A P J Abdul Kalam in Education and its Social Relevance. Retrieved from <http://neethuts90.blogspot.com/2013/06/thoughts-of-p-j-abdul-kalam-in.html> on 10.08.2018

<sup>8</sup> Swami Tattwasarananda & N.B. Biswas. (Ed.). (2016). *A Critique of the Researches in Philosophy of Education*. Belur Math: Ramakrishna Mission Sikshanamandira. pp. 238-253.

#### 4. Analysis and Interpretation of Data:

##### 4.1 Passion to Teach:

The researcher pointed out "Bread baked without love is bitter bread that feeds but half a man's hunger," — those who cannot work with their hearts achieve but a hollow, half-hearted success that breeds bitterness all around" (*Kalam-&Tiwari,1999,p.-45*)<sup>9</sup>. According to Dr. A.P.J.Abdul Kalam in his childhood- when he was reading in a Panchayat primary school of Rameswaram; his teacher Mathu Iyer was too much interested on him. One day Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam was absent from his school and the same day in the evening his teacher Mathu Iyer came to his house to ask his father about his absence in school. Actually the teacher Mathu Iyer loved teaching and took personal interest on pupils. So teacher must have the passion to teach (*Mishra,-2015*)<sup>10</sup>.

##### 4.2 Teaching Theoretical Knowledge with Practical Examples:

The researcher pointed out according to Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, his teacher Shri Subramania Iyer was a great teacher of his school who used to teach theoretical knowledge with practical example. Once the teacher Shri Subramania Iyer had taken all the students at the sea shore of Rameswaram to explain birds flying. He showed how sea birds were flying with marvellous formation of body position, flapping their wings with different position of tail, body and head. All the students found that birds can fly as per their desire and powered by its own life and the motivation as they want. It was the turning point of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam's life and at that moment Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam finalized his future course of study as flight science. At that moment Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam asked his teacher about the further progress of flight study. His teacher answered him to complete school exam and to go to college to study flight sciences. Asking questions to his teacher and visual example given by the teacher shaped his life and vision. So the teacher must have the quality of igniting youth by allowing them to think (*Mishra, 2015*)<sup>11</sup>. The researcher infers that teacher must teach theoretical knowledge with practical examples.

##### 4.3 Conversion of Adversity as Opportunity:

The researcher pointed out that Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam's view for conceptual analysis. Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam's said about Dr. Vikram Sarabhai- "He never gave directions; rather, through a free exchange of views, he led us forward into new terrain which often revealed an unforeseen

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<sup>9</sup> Kalam, A. P. J. Abdul., & Tiwari, A. K. (1999). *Wings of Fire: An Autobiography of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam*. Hyderabad: India. University press (India) Private Limited. p. 45.

<sup>10</sup> Mishra, A. (2015, September 4<sup>th</sup>) *4 Great Qualities of Teacher Must Have by APJ Abdul Kalam*. Retrieved from <http://www.linkedin.com> on 25.12.2019

<sup>11</sup> Ibid (ref-10)

solution” (Klam-&-Tiwari,1999,-p.-44)<sup>12</sup>. Dr. Sarabhi consoled Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam in his father’s death and said – “When troubles come, try to understand the relevance of your sufferings. Adversity always presents opportunities for introspections” (Klam-&-Tiwari,-1999,-p.-45)<sup>13</sup>. The researcher infers that the teacher should have the ability to convert adversity as an opportunity.

#### 4.4 Development of Leadership Quality:

The researcher pointed out that Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam was inspired by Dr. Brahma Prakash. According to Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam “Dr Brahm Prakash was a very wise counsellor who gave me valuable guidance whenever I deviated from my mission objectives.”(Klam-&-Tiwari,-1999,-p.-97)<sup>14</sup>. Dr. Brahma was a wise counsellor to Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam in shaping his leadership skills. Through the conceptual analysis the researcher infers that the teacher must have the capacity to develop leadership quality of a student.

#### 4.5 Creating Pressure on Student to Explore Capabilities:

The researcher pointed out that, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam in MIT, Chennai that during his third year of his course was assigned to a project to design- a low level attack aircraft with six other students under the supervision of Professor Srinivason, Director of MIT. When Professor Srinivason reviewed the progress of the project he was disappointed with the progress of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam and said “Look, young man today is Friday afternoon. I give you three days time. If by Monday morning I don’t get the configuration design your scholarship will be stopped” (Klam-&-Tiwari,-1999,p.-20)<sup>15</sup>. Without scholarship Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam could not continue his studies. Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam with his team mate started working together around the clock. After two days (Sunday) suddenly Professor Srinivason came to supervise the project and said with appreciation- “I knew I was putting you under stress and asking you to meet a difficult deadline you have done great job in system design” (Klam-&-Tiwari,1999,p.20)<sup>16</sup>. So the teacher must create pressure on student to explore capabilities.

#### 4.6 Teachers as Role Model:

According to Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam -“I said, 'When you are growing up, say till the age of fifteen, the best role model I can think of would be your father, your mother and your school teachers” (Kalam,-2002,p.-22)<sup>17</sup>. According to Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam there is no other profession

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<sup>12</sup> Kalam, A .P. J. Abdul., & Tiwari, A. K. (1999). Wings of Fire: An Autobiography of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. Hyderabad: India. University press (India) Private Limited. p.44

<sup>13</sup> Ibid (Ref-12, p-45)

<sup>14</sup> Ibid (Ref-12; p-97)

<sup>15</sup> Ibid (Ref-12; p-20)

<sup>16</sup> Ibid (Ref-12; p-20)

<sup>17</sup> Kalam, A. P. J. Abdul. (2002). Ignited Minds: Unleashing the Power within India India. Penguin Books. p.-22

in the world that is more important to society than that of a teacher. Teachers are the backbone of any country, the pillar upon which the aspirations are converted into realities. The responsibilities of the teacher are to nurture his own life as a noble person that can be followed by the students. Their duty is to create atmosphere among students so that they can understand the lesson for life-long (Chauhan-2017)<sup>18</sup>. So the teacher must play the role of Guru to build moral character of students and to use technology. Students see dream and teacher make them confident to fulfill it. Teacher has great responsibility in shaping the character of a student, promoting creativity and development of student's interest in learning. For any deviation among students in academic performance noticed by the teachers should be brought to the notice of the parents (Asha.T.S.-2013)<sup>19</sup>.

### 5. Findings of the Study:

- i) Teacher must have the passion to teach.
- ii) Teacher must teach theoretical knowledge with practical examples.
- iii) The teacher should have the ability to convert adversity as an opportunity.
- iv) Teacher must have the capacity to develop leadership quality of a student.
- v) Teacher must create pressure on students to explore their capabilities.
- vi) Teacher is a role model for the students.

### 6. Conclusion of the Study:

Education is the prime need next to food, cloth and shelter. Teacher is the important stakeholder of educational process. The study entails that; the teacher must have the vision to develop all-round capabilities among students to make them creative and to be a good citizen to retaliate the vision of National Education Policy 2020 - "India a global knowledge superpower"

### 7. Implications of the Study:

- i) Government issued different order by stating duties and responsibilities of teacher.
- ii) Duties and responsibilities of teacher are also reflected in RTE-Act, 2009 and National Educational Policy 2020.

### 8. Suggestions for Further Studies:

- i. A comparative study on concept of teacher of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam and other prominent personality.
- ii. A study on role of teacher, parents and student in education.

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<sup>18</sup> Chauhan, k. R. (2017). *A Study of Thinking on Education System of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam*, International Journal of Research in all Subjects in Multi Langes. (IJRML), Vol.5, Issue.8, pp.17-21

<sup>19</sup> Asha, T.S. (2013, June 14<sup>th</sup> ). *Thoughts of APJ Abdul Kalam in Education and its social relevance*. Retrieved from <http://neethuts90.blogspot.com/2013/06/thoughts-of-p-j-abdul-kalam-in.html> on 10.08.2018

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