

ISBN 978-93-81658-13-0

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
KANNIYAKUMARI ACADEMY OF  
ARTS AND SCIENCES**

*(A Peer-Reviewed Research Papers of  
KAAS National Seminar)*

**Collected Papers:  
Tenth All India  
Conference of KAAS**

**KAAS  
2015**

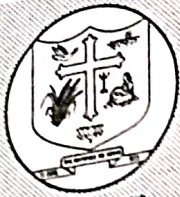


**VOLUME - I  
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Estd. 1996





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ARTS AND SCIENCES (KAAS)**



Estd. 1996

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## DR. ABDUL KALAM'S THOUGHTS AND VISION FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: ITS SOCIAL RELEVANCE

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### ABSTRACT

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, is a remarkable thinker of the highest order who has constantly contributed his thoughts for national development.

If we look into the life of Dr. Abdul Kalam, he truly lived as a Philosopher King who possessed a special level of knowledge and loved his subjects as his own children. He gave much importance to knowledge than to wealth and he truly led a life of Karma Yogi. He was an eternal optimist and problem-solver, who always saw possibilities and opportunities for the nation. He was a scientific philosopher and his philosophy is well reflected in the books authored by him.

According to Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam, the education system has a tremendous responsibility to transform a child is to a leader- the transformation from 'what can you do for me' to 'what can I do for you?' He is of the view that the entire education system has to be based on capacity building comprising five components: research and enquiry, creativity and innovation, capacity to use high-end technology, entrepreneurship and moral leadership.

Interacting with youngsters was perhaps a recreation for Abdul Kalam. He taught youngsters to dream – not while sleeping but while awake. Kalam saw every student as a valuable potential resource for the development of the country, his primary goal. He wanted a developed India by 2020.

It is the need of the hour for every citizen of India to assimilate in mind the dreams of Dr. Kalam to come true to act in accordance with the Vision 2020. This will be the reverence that everyone may give him by translating his words into actions.

### Introduction

Writers and philosophers are the actual teachers who often express their ideas for the benefit of society. People having different outlooks understand life from different angles of vision. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam is one such remarkable thinker of the highest order.

It is to be noted that Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam has many facets to his life. He is the 'Missile Man' for some and 'dreamer' for some others. For children, he is the wings of inspiration to spread the flow of goodness. Keeping this in mind, let us reflect on the thoughts of one of our Great Scientists, India's pride, Bharat Ratna Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam. During his time as president, he was popularly known as "People's President". Dr. Kalam has constantly contributed his thoughts for national development.

### Kalam's Philosophical Ideas

If we look into the life of Dr. Abdul Kalam, he truly

lived as a Philosopher King who possessed a special level of knowledge and loved his subjects as his own children. We hardly find such Raja Rishis or Philosopher Kings in the modern era. But Dr. Abdul Kalam stood an example of such a ruler who was a Philosopher King or Raja Rishi with quantum of knowledge. His life history is a great source of inspiration not only to the present generation but to all alike irrespective of the age group. There is much to learn from his life. He gave much importance to knowledge than to wealth and he truly led a life of *Karma Yogi*. Kalam had much in common with Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan who also resembled a Raja Rishi.

Abdul Kalam was an eternal optimist and problem-solver, who always saw possibilities and opportunities for the nation. He had firm belief in the power of technology and believed that India could join the league of developed nations if we can harness this technology.



Kalam's most impressive quality was his robust, undying optimism. His broader priorities and prescriptions for economic growth and national greatness are practical and attainable. Philosophers are generally looked upon as Pandits with their utopian pipedreams; but in Kalam, idealism could be seen turned into realism as he never lost sight of the ground realities of life.

This 'missile man' and 'people's president' was one of India's most distinguished scientists who believed in marrying the goodness of the human spirit with the power of technology for maximising good for the human race. He was a scientific philosopher and his philosophy is well reflected in the books authored by him, the most notable among them being *Wings of Fire*, *Ignited Minds*, *Forge Your Future* and *Indomitable Spirit*.

Abdul Kalam wrote a '*Song of Youth*' for young citizens of India. The theme of the song is that the aspiration of every young citizen of India should be elevated as they are equipped with technology. They should labour and sweat for a great vision which will transform India into a developed nation with enormous economic potency with value system. According to him, the ignited soul compared to any resource is the most powerful resource on the earth, above the earth and under the earth. He anticipated that every citizen should keep the lamp of knowledge burning to achieve the vision.

### **Kalam's Thoughts On Education**

According to Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam, the education system has a tremendous responsibility to transform a child is to a leader- the transformation from 'what can you do for me' to 'what can I do for you?' Dr. Kalam is of the view that real education enhances the dignity of a human being and increases his or her self-respect and universal brotherhood in its true sense becomes the sheet anchor for such education.

In the views of Dr. Kalam, education system should retain the smiles of children. This can happen if the education system is made creative throughout and full employment is provided to all. Dr. Kalam opines that creativity in the education system can be promoted by reducing the theoretical burden at the primary level, progressively increasing it at the secondary level, and finally leading to higher level teaching and creation of

self-reliance among students to undertake entrepreneurship and be employment generators rather than employment seekers.

Dr. Kalam feels that education which is imparted childhood at the every stage of development of minds more important than the education received in colleges and university. He insists that at the primary stage emphasis should be on exploration, innovativeness and creativity through activities and at the secondary stage emphasis should be on experiments, problem solving and team work.

Kalam also feels that a good system of education should be able to satisfy the insatiable hunger for knowledge of today's young students. He insists that educational institutions have to gear up to evolve curriculum that is sensitive to the social and technological needs of a Developed India. The concept of curriculum according to Dr. Kalam, includes: nano-science, biotechnology, IT, Industries and development of creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship and management skill among students other than the regular subjects of study. Dr. Kalam feels that Universities should become facilitators for creating entrepreneurship and should introduce a 'syllabus of entrepreneurship' co-ordination and spiritualism and education, the lessons of truth, path of righteousness, service towards others and faith in God should be included in the curriculum.

Dr. Kalam is of the view that man's spiritual nature is the very essence of his being. According to the ancient Indian philosophy, the ultimate aim of education is self-realization and this is the state when the ultimate identification of the individual self with the absolute takes place. Kalam feels that Spiritual education enables the individual to explore the area of the self and the means by which the self is readied and how liberation, glory and are attained.

Dr. Kalam gives much importance to value education. According to him, twelve years of value based education in the school campus are essential to establish an open and transparent society. Dr. Kalam is of the opinion that the right kind of education on moral values will upgrade the society and the country. After every child is nurtured during the early years with love and affection and when he reaches a school-going age he



needs a value based education. Hence, according to Kalam, the school hours for children are to be the best environment and mission-oriented learning with value based educational system.

Dr. Kalam insists that a good educational model is the need of the curriculum. He says that the need of the hour is to ensure that students grow to contribute towards the economic growth of the nation. He is of the view that the entire education system has to be based on capacity building comprising five components: research and enquiry, creativity and innovation, capacity to use high-end technology, entrepreneurship and moral leadership.

Dr. Kalam feels that it is essential for schools and colleges to arrange a lecture by a great teacher of the institution once a week for one hour on Indian's civilization heritage. He says that this class can be called a moral science class and that this will elevate the young mind to love the country to love other human beings and also elevate the young to higher planes.

### **Kalam's Thoughts On Children**

According to Dr. Kalam, children are our greatest wealth and that each child born in the nation is to be allowed to blossom. He says that it is particularly important to provide extra care and facilities to the children including those who are not fortunate to have their families to look after them. He feels that this noble service should be promoted by all individuals and government organizations, leading to the development of enlightened citizens who will become an asset for national development.

Interacting with youngsters was perhaps a recreation for Abdul Kalam. He taught youngsters to dream – not while sleeping but while awake. Kalam saw every student as a valuable potential resource for the development of the country, his primary goal. He wanted a developed India by 2020.

Dr. Kalam proposes the following oath that every child needs to undertake for national development.

- I will pursue my education with dedication and I will exceed in it.
- I will plant at least five saplings and shall ensure their growth through constant care.

- I will constantly endeavour to remove the pain of my suffering brethren.
- I will work for becoming an enlightened citizen and make my family righteous.
- I will always be a friend of the mentally and physically challenged and will work hard to make them feel normal like the rest of use.
- I promise that I will work hard with honesty to transform my country into a developed country.

### **Literacy Mission**

Education, according to Dr. Kalam, is a fundamental right of every Indian child. By emphasizing that education is a pillar of a developed and a powerful country, besides the most important element for growth and prosperity of a nation. Dr. Kalam believes that education is the most important area of service sector as it provides the required knowledge and skill to do any work.

The aim of literacy mission, according to Dr. Kalam, should be to bring down the dropout rate at the elementary school, lower secondary and the higher secondary levels. Dr. Kalam predicted that this will enable us to achieve the goal of all the youth of Chhattisgarh to acquire minimum senior secondary qualification. He feels for realizing this mission, we have to start number of tribal schools and also there will be need to mobilize the university students and the students of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> classes to undertake teaching of people who cannot read and write during holidays and vacations.

### **Kalam's Dream And Vision**

Dr Kalam visualized the following distinctive profile of India by the year 2020. He predicted that India would find reduction in the disparity between rural and urban divide, an equitable distribution and adequate access to energy and quality water, a joint functioning of agriculture, industry and service sector, unbiased education with value system to all meritorious candidates, a nest for the best and most talented scholars, scientists, and investors, excellent health care responsive, transparent and corruption free governance, removable of illiteracy crimes against women and children and non-alienated societies, eradication of poverty and devoid of terrorism, and be one of the best places to live in and is proud of its leadership through creative and effective leadership in



Parliament, State Assemblies and other institutions of the State.

According to Dr. Kalam, if a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful mind, the three key societal members who can make a difference are father, mother and teacher. Once they start giving the right direction to the minds of the children, character building emanates within the family. "I will make my home a righteous home" should be the motto of each and every child and every parent, according to Dr. Kalam.

## Conclusion

Abdul Kalam continues to live in the minds and hearts of every Indian, constantly reminding us of the imperative need to dream big and work hard to achieve the objectives he has proposed. It is the need of the hour for every citizen of India to assimilate in mind the dreams of Dr. Kalam to come true to act in accordance with the Vision 2020. This will be the reverence that everyone may give him by translating his words into actions.

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