



SHIVNATH SASTRI AND HIS CHILDCENTRIC EDUCATION JOURNAL 'MUKUL'

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Abstract

Pandit Shivrath Sastri was preacher, poet, thinker, religious, social reformer and an eminent educationist also. He was a man of real distinction. His saintly character, simplicity, child centric thinking on education marked him a genius. He has been done a lot of work on women education. Mukul, a child centric educational journal, edited by him, was outstanding journal that is very relevant in to-days education. Unfortunately we do not follow him. It is very essential for our child even to-day.

Aim and object

1. To show his life work.
2. To up hold his thinking.
3. To unfold his writings in 'Mukul'.
4. To uphold his educational work.
5. To conceptualize his through.
6. To understand his child centric education as a way of life and not as a particular religion.

Introduction

Shivrath Sastri abandoned a career in the educational service in which he gave every promise of rising to the very rung of the ladder. He remained true to the inspiration of his youth and guidance of his conscience. Such a man is our model especially in field of education. His idol was his mother, Golakmonidevi. Golakmonidevi was a strong personality woman. At that time that was very exceptional in Bengal. Shivrath was guided his mother. Shivrath was born on 31st January, 1847. He learned his lesson from the nature of village. He has many pet dogs, birds, cats' even ants also. They were his friends. He was grownup freely. When he studied at Sanskrit college in Kolkata he was very much inspired by his teacher Vidyasagar, an eminent educationist and social worker of Bengal. Shivrath wrote, ' Vidyasagar repeated visites (to our residence)made our lodging a hot bed of widow-remarriage agitation, and what I swallowed at home, I disgorged at the college and this gave rise to heated discussions amongst my class mates'¹. Shivrath was grateful to Vidyasagar and said, ' His memory is a precious legacy, and I shall cherish it till death closes upon me, and a part only , a small part of that legacy I have behind for those who one coming after us.'² Sivanath was free from all narrowness. After his returned from England Shivrath was lead down 'Bharatasram'. He works as a teacher with minimum remuneration. From his boyhood he teaches his friends and others. In 1995 Shivrath was started to edit a journal named 'Mukul'. This is milestone on child education in Bengal as well as India also. Now we are going to discuss about it.

Elaboration

Shivrath pulished a journal for children named 'Mukul'. The first issue published on Asar, 1302(Bengali era). In that year Tagore took charge as an editor of 'Sadhana', famous Bengali literature journal. From 1302 to 1307, total six years, Shivrath Sastri was the editor of 'Mukul'. His writings were most appropriate for the children. Volume increased day by day. Before ten years a journal, named 'Balak' was published from Tagore- House. But it was running only one year. In this point of view 'Mukul' is a very significance journal in Bengal about child literature and child education. As he himself was a teacher he tried to teach children through his Journal. In 1988 he was in England and he visited there Kindergarten school, Board school, Middle class school to enriched his knowledge.³ He was very much attracted on Kindergarten school. He follows this. So when he edited his journal he entered this process in journal. Picture was also printed with writings. Like as:



Shivnath Sastri always tries to write and edit that is joyful for the children. Joyful learning and play way method, he likes very much. Froebel was his idol on education.⁴ He gave moral education through joyful story. Various interesting picture also printed with these stories.

All these copies are not available in Books or other form. These manuscripts are in Rabindra Bhabana Library at Santiniketan now. Scientist Jagadish Chanra Bose wrote about Tree in the first issue of Mukul. Shivnath emphasizes on science also. In second issue Sivnath clarifies the name Mukul. Mukul means Bud. This journal is for Blossoms of man.⁵ Ramananda Chattyopadhyaya's article, Rhymes of Jogindranath sarkar, poems of Tagore, stories of Kusumkumari devi, Dinendrakumar Roy, Hemendra Prasad Gosh, Upendrakisore Roychoudhury was very attractive. Mythological stories of Ramayana were written by Upendrakisore Roychoudhury on Sravana issue, 1303.

Conclusion

Shivnath Sastri wanted to uphold this journal as joyful teaching for children. So it was printed with appropriate representation. Children love picture and story. They also love rhyme also. This journal followed children's psychology. Shivnath was able to understand child psychology to a great extent. This thinking was instigate the great child-literatures Upendrakisore and Sukumar Roy also. We are very gratifying to Shivnath Sastri. Modern education should be following Him. If we able to follow him our child will be save.

Reference

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