ABSTRACT

Educational thoughts and practices of Syama Prasad Mookerjee: An Analytical study

This study aims to provide an insight into the educational thoughts of Syama Prasad Mookerjee and how he wanted to implement the National System of Education. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was an erudite scholar, an eminent nationalist and an excellent parliamentarian. He inherited fervent nationalism from his parents. He was an educationist as well as a politician but these two never interfered with each other. He started his career wherein he worked for only 28 years. During 1940, the shaping up of the nation’s educational policy had passed into the hands of the Indian nationalist leaders who were to build free India. Herein lies Syama Prasad’s greatness, when he reacted to this and became a constructive thinker. He was the Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University, Minister in undivided Bengal and the Minister of the Central Cabinet, after Independence. He dreamt of an educational system tuned to the needs of the emerging robust Indian nationalism. He wanted our National Education system to be more practical and make worthy Indian citizens. He nurtured a few things for the enlightenment of students, who would be proud of their national culture, men who will be worthy leaders of a new Bengal. India was ruled by a foreign government where education was not meant for the mass. It was the one and only Syama Prasad who introduced regional languages and Bengali, as the medium of education, and which motivated mass education. Herein lies the relevance of his thoughts in the field of education at large. On the contrary, he dwelled into politics just to safeguard the right to education of every community. He excelled in both the path of education and politics satisfactorily. Highlighting Syama Prasad’s contribution to the growth of Nationalist Education is a pedagogic imperative and educational necessity and a nationalist duty.