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It is universally acknowledged that the phenomenal advancement of knowledge in modern times is almost entirely due to research work carried out from day to day in the various academic disciplines throughout the world. It is so in the field of education where patient and persistent scholarly research in areas such as educational content, methods and aims has brought about such rapid and radical changes in theory and practice that the whole concept of education has undergone a sea change. When we consider this it seems somewhat surprising that not much serious critical attention has been directed to philosophy of education which is the very basis of educational activity everywhere. Since all our educational efforts emanate from, and are sustained by, a basic philosophy of education it is of vital importance to submit it to critical examination and evaluation from time to time.

The basic tenants of the Gandhian educational ideology have not changed much over the years, but their mode of application has been greatly modified in practice by various workers in the field. Darshak in his own way has
given to this seminal educational philosophy a new dimension and drive, and his ideas and experiments have had considerable influence over the activities of numerous village-based educational centres throughout the State of Gujarat. The present researcher has sought to study the exact nature of Darshak's educational thought by a close and systematic scrutiny of his educational writings and other works, and he has also sought to study the mode of operation of Darshak's ideas by personally observing the actual working of some educational institutions.

In this onerous task the researcher would certainly have failed but for the advice and encouragement so freely and graciously given by his Guide, Dr. C.B. Patel. The passing away of Darshak just when this study of his lifework was nearing completion has robbed the researcher of the opportunity to thank him for the personal interview he granted him. The present researcher is also beholden to the administrators and workers of Lok Bharati for the assistance they rendered him in the course of his work. Thanks are also due to Gujarat University Library, Gujarat Vidyapeeth Library, and the library of Lok Bharati who supplied him with relevant material in the
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Hanubhai Patel