CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION
CHAPTER-1

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1.1 THE BACKGROUND:

India is one of the oldest civilizations of the world. The uniqueness of the Indian society is its ‘Unity in Diversity’, present in its religions, languages and cultures. Today we are all influenced by the achievements of modern science and technology in order to compete with the world and to achieve a sustained economic growth and standing at International level.

In the contemporary India education has emerged as one of the most important part of modern civilization. The prevailing status of education influenced the development of the country and society to a large extent. Today system of education has number of subdivisions that we have hundreds of specialists, who may not be quite aware of other specializations and disciplines and their existence. This is a characteristic of the present time to which everyone has the profession of their own choices. The variety present in our families, societies and indeed at national level regarding profession is just because of various streams and branches of various discipline in education. And to reach this goal education with value system equipped with updated technology is needed.

The modern concept of education means to develop the innate capacities of a child in the social environment. Education, if understood in philosophical perspective generates knowledge which is modern tool of growth and development. It plays significant role in the contemporary age. Primarily, it prepares an individual to achieve the desired destinations of empowering intellectual capacities and on the other hand
molds individual’s innate worthy qualities of personality into utility skill, accepted and
needed by our societies. These acquired skills empower the particular individual to
attain a sustained survival and spend a purposeful and satisfying life.

Education is a dynamic and innovative experience of the life. It is a continuous process
and teaching-learning process is going on till our last breath. Education gives direction
to efforts of a person to transform his/her dreams into realities. It also enriches the
particular personality with multiple dimensions at cognitive level, affective level as
well as Psycho-Motor levels to make a person more competent physically,
emotionally, mentally as well as skillfully.

Education empowers an individual to move out from the complex social system to
express himself/herself freely. Thus, the role of education is comprehensive and
significant. As we know that individual is the core element of our society and if
individuals become empowered; our society and indeed our nation will become
empowered. And it will be possible only through education. Hence, we can say that
education has social value. It plays a very important role in uplifting the individuals,
masses, and making the country more strong and prosperous. It helps in removing
narrow thinking and developing empowered thoughts for welfare of all at national
level. It also enhances comprehensive approach of growth and development of the
nation to accomplish Dr. Kalam’s vision 2020.

Education is meant for the human being and is a human right. It is expected to impart
skills suitable for living and making one’s livelihood, promoting general powers of the
mind and advancing learning. It is also expected to make an individual more civilized
and cultured, promote rational thinking and civic sense. Education expands one’s
horizons. Areas of concerns of an educated person increase from national and international level. Educated individuals are expected to be better equipped to meet the challenges of life. Increased efficiency, constructive participation in social events and processes, harmony in social and personal relationships, sustaining development and equitable social order are some of the other expected benefits of education. Dimensions of education are as follows-

- Education as an Investment for Economic Growth of the nation
- Education for social development
- Education for making knowledge society
- Education for producing empowered citizens
- Education for preserving moral and spiritual values
- Education for competing with technological world
- Education for holding the position at international level.
- Education to fight against corruption
- Education for peaceful co-existence
- Education for initiation in every field of life.

Dr. Kalam, a former president of India, is a scientist, an engineer as well as a teacher. As a teacher he has given various educational ideas to improve the standard of education in India and abroad through their motivational speeches, lectures and writings. He, who stands for integrating ancient and modern educational ideals for the
development of a balanced Indian society, is a great educational thinker and visionary. He also stressed on inclusive education as he is a kindhearted person and has concern for every countryman whether he/she is able or disable. He wants to provide equal opportunity to everyone to explore and live with full of dignity. Being a top scientist of international reputation, his direct contribution to the advancement of science and technology is unique and commendable. He wants to bring the revolution in the field of education and technology by understanding the local needs, availability of local resources of both the types: human resources and non-human resources. And to provide the practical solutions to the problems of a democratic country like India, Kalam went with a democratic approach of philosophy.

1.2 NEED AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY:

The peace and happiness is threatened not only in the outside world, but also inside the man, that too with a greater intensity. The modern scientific cum technological civilization has added, in a great measure, to the material gains of man but has deprived him of his inner peace, has robbed him of his moral and spiritual values- that alone would have sustained him in moments of mental despair and value-crisis. Admittedly, something is terribly wrong with present society that needs to be restructured and for it education is the most potent tool. But tremendous explosion of knowledge without commensurate wisdom, immense power not tempered with discrimination, have made education today a potential source of danger. This is a serious problem looming large on humanity’s horizon. No doubt, education must address the issue of character formation along with developing the full potential of human beings besides revealing the great and hidden
values of life which lie beyond the obvious, phenomenal phase of existence, a broader vision of life and insight into the unfathomable ocean of wisdom and to meet this objective it is essential to find out advanced educational inputs, in the light of a versatile genius like Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

His inspiring and motivating words always work as a catalyst for both teachers and the students. He is always known as a great scientist instead a great educationist, and his thoughts and contributions in the field of education are still unexplored.

Hence, the researcher felt the need for this study because there is little awareness of the educational ideas and thoughts of Dr. A. P.J. Abdul Kalam. Modern education is confronted with so many questions related to the education, values of life, discipline and character. All these problems need a sound philosophical basis on which they would be analyzed and resolved. Hence this study assumes great importance in our times, so that we can find answers to the basic issues of education in the country, regarding the very meaning of education, goal of education, types of curriculum, teaching methodology, examination system, role of the teacher, role of the student, concept of vocational education, guidance and counseling techniques etc.

Another reason for selection of this topic for the present research work is that although adequate research has been done on the educational thoughts of various social reformers and educationists like Madan Mohan Malviya, Rabindra Nath Tagore, Aurobido Ghosh, Mahatama Gandhi etc. There is a paucity of work done on Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, whatever work available is generally related to his contributions in the field of science and technology, as a scientist and related to his political career, and does not make analysis of educational thoughts and ideas. The present study is a
humble effort by the researcher to fill this gap.

To justify the need of the present study further, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam considered lack of education or defective education, lack of motivation towards educational goals, lack of proper guidance and inspirations and the defective role of the teacher as the most prominent cause of the problems of illiteracy, ignorance, unemployment, indiscipline and other social evils. He therefore, is continuously working hard for the cause of education.

The journey from a village boy to ‘Missile Man’, itself is a great reason to inspire the investigator to select this topic. Since illiteracy, ignorance is still prevailing unemployment and indiscipline have become the order of the day and education is posing to be a challenging issue for the policy makers and the educated class.

It would be worthwhile considering the significance of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam’s educational thoughts in the present day context. The present study is a humble and modest step in this direction. This research will uncover many useful thoughts, values, guidelines, suggestions and solutions of many educational problems by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. Since Dr. Kalam is the master of an integrated personality, he has set logical and practical aims and objectives of education in his various books, speeches and lectures.

This study will throw light on the improvement regarding curriculum construction, content structure, which must be included in the curriculum at various levels of education, suggested directly and indirectly by Dr. Kalam. This study is also useful in teaching methodology, role of teacher, role of student, role of parents, role of books, teacher-pupil relationship, discipline and evaluation system of modern times. This
study will reveal various other unique features of the educational thoughts and ideas of Dr. Kalam, which are not getting attention, must be highlighted. Since Dr. Kalam interacted with a number of students, he studied and observed them and tried out to find out the various causes of student inactiveness and also suggested remedial solutions of the educational problems.

1.3  STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

This study is centered on the thoughts and ideas of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam with regards to meaning of education, aims and objectives of education, different levels of education, discipline, teaching methodology and role of teacher and students etc, therefore, the problem of the present study can be specifically stated as under-

“EDUCATIONAL THOUGHTS AND IDEAS OF DR. APJ ABDUL KALAM- AN ANALYTICAL STUDY”

As the above statement suggests, this study deals primarily with the educational thoughts and ideas of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and proceed with the analysis of these thoughts.

1.3.1  CONCEPTUAL MEANING OF THE TERMS:

- **THOUGHT**: Thought can refer to the ideas or arrangements of ideas that result from thinking, the act of producing thoughts, or the process of producing thoughts. Although thought is a fundamental human activity familiar to everyone, there is no generally accepted agreement as to what thought is or how it is created. Thoughts are the result or product of either spontaneous or willed act of thinking.
• **IDEA:** ‘Idea’ is a category of philosophical emphasis, under which idealists and phenomenologists have been grouped because both share somewhat similar kind of thinking.

• **IDEA VS THOUGHT:**

   Idea and thought are two words that are often confused when it comes to their meanings and connotations. Idea refers to a plan or a process that occurs in the mind in relation to the completion of work or duty. Thought on the other hand is a mental process that keeps on going in the mind unabated. This is the main difference between the two words idea and thought.

1.4 **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

   In this study we have attempted to see how far the basic teaching of Dr. Kalam can help us in wiping off the malaise that exists in our present system of education. It may be said that the study of educational philosophy and thoughts of Dr. Kalam will illuminate the path and enlarge the scope of free thinking along new and unexplored lines. It is with the object of bringing out clearly to see how Dr. Kalam is trying to awaken mankind towards the practical education especially in science and technology and has drawn attention to inculcate higher spiritual values, in the very education system of education, so as to lead the would be generation on the path of permanent peace and progress. So, it may be said that this study is of a philosophical nature-

   Attempts to consolidate his views on education and as well as in philosophy have also been made. The present work is a modest attempt to study Dr. Kalam’s thoughts on education with a view to finding its relevance in the present scenario.
To be more exact and specific, the objectives of this study may be enumerated as below-

1. To study and analyze the autobiography of Dr. Kalam as it was influenced by the trends of his times and his outlook of life.

2. To study the educational philosophy of Dr. Kalam as inherent in existing primary and secondary sources.

3. To explore and highlight the educational ideas implicit in the philosophy of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

4. To analyze the educational ideas/inputs of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in terms of the following-
   - Ideas on true meaning of education
   - Ideas on aims and objectives in education
   - Ideas on curriculum
   - Ideas on teaching methodology
   - Ideas on discipline
   - Ideas on different levels of schooling
   - Ideas on role of teacher
   - Ideas on role of student
   - Ideas on role of school
 Ideas on teacher-student relationship

 Ideas on teacher education

 Ideas on science & technology education

 Ideas on value education

 Ideas on moral education

 Ideas on women education

 Ideas for Inclusive education

 Ideas on education for deprived ones

 Ideas on peace education

5. To draw findings and significance of educational thoughts and ideas of Dr. Kalam for the reform of present educational system in India.

Thus, it is with the object of bringing out clearly the magnitude of this impact made by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in the sphere of education, in general and particular in India.

1.5 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Methodology is a style of conducting a research work, which is determined by the nature of problem. Methodology refers to more than a simple set of methods; rather it refers to the rationale and the philosophical assumptions that underlie a particular study. Method is a regulated and speculative procedure that guide towards certain points. It is used for studying, approaching, investigating a reality.
Methodologically, the present study is a combination of two different methods with regards to the objectives of the research:

1) Historical

2) Philosophical

Historical and Philosophical methods of enquiry form the basic foundations of knowledge in education. In such methods major emphasis is laid on the researcher’s analytical bent of mind and insight into various concepts, issues and practices of the education system.

1) **HISTORICAL RESEARCH METHOD:**

History has utilitarian significance. An understanding of the past, help us to develop better perceptions of the dynamics of the present times. Historical method of research or ‘Historiography’ has some unique features and is generally counted as one of the method of scientific inquiry.

**First,** historical research aims at developing knowledge of past events with in a particular framework of time and a social-political-economic-cultural context. A historical researcher attaches importance to the meaning of specific events which have already occurred and explains casual relationships on the basis of the analysis of the existing data.

**Second,** the researcher digs into the significant data and tells about the past events.

**Third,** historical research is conducted on the basis of the analysis of all the known information related to the research problem.

**Fourth,** data concerning the past events are available through different sources. One of the approaches to the classification of historical sources is treat them as-
Primary source

Secondary source

**PRIMARY SOURCES** provide firsthand information about the past events. Direct observation and reporting or recording of experience can be treated as primary data.

**SECONDARY SOURCES** of data include second hand data information about past events. For instance, the person who supplies information about the past is neither a participant nor an eye witness of events. Items of this type can be written material, newspaper articles, interview referred to in the articles, magazines, books, research reports etc.

In this study the researcher had collected various educational thoughts and ideas of Dr. Kalam from books, articles and interviews conducted by various persons at different occasions; and all these data are easily accessed through internet by surfing different related websites. The process of judging validity, reliability and relevance of data is carried through two devices viz. External criticism and Internal criticism.

**EXTERNAL CRITICISM**: It is also called as lower criticism. It is concerned with the authenticity and genuineness of sources of data. It helps to determine whether it is what appears or claims to be and whether it reads true to the original so as to save the researcher from being the victim of a fraud.

**INTERNAL CRITICISM**: once the sources are verified for their authenticity and genuineness, the content of the data is subjected to verification which is known as internal criticism of the data. It is also called higher criticism and is concerned with the validity, credibility, or worth of the content of document.
2) PHILOSOPHICAL RESEARCH METHOD:

Philosophy is the study of questions that arise from existence, specifically those questions pertaining to knowledge, values, reason, mind, and language. The philosophical approach to addressing these queries is both humanistic and technical. Its technical aspects are rooted in the systematic study of subfields like logic and philosophy of science, whereas its more humanistic facets are found in the fields of ethics, aesthetics, and philosophy of the mind.

Since the present study is qualitative, analytical and interpretative in nature, and to meet the objectives of the present research study, philosophical approach is used, which falls in the domain of Descriptive research. Descriptive research studies are those studies which are concerned with describing the characteristics of a particular individual or of a group. Philosophical analysis is an understanding of fundamental concepts, other related concepts and interrelationship between these concepts.

Philosophy is born out of experiences and circumstances with which it is closely related. But it has an intimate relation with science as well.

Dr. Kalam is a great scientist as well as a constant scholar. He has an educational background based on science and technology. His thoughts and ideas are based on science and he always suggested logical and practical solutions to the problem created by cultural lag, which is a difference in pace of technological development and our competencies to adopt. These ideas make him a great philosopher with practical approach.
1.5.1 SOURCES OF DATA USED:

The data for the historical and philosophical research can be classified into two broad categories-the data gathered from primary sources and the data gathered from secondary sources. In the present study the sources used are both-primary &secondary type.

❖ PRIMARY SOURCES: The primary sources were the writings and correspondence of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, autobiographies, original draft of speeches, articles, newspaper accounts, addresses, etc.

❖ SECONDARY SOURCES: The secondary sources include articles published in journals and newspapers, books, magazines, editorials, biographies, the data compiled by other sources, reports of various committees, government policies, and research reports on APJ Abdul Kalam etc.

1.5.2 METHOD USED FOR COLLECTING DATA:

In the present study, the focus was on the identification of pertinent sources in the form of documents, books, speeches, letters, address, lectures, writings, poems, diaries, research reports and interviews with Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam and his contemporaries etc. Data collection is the first and foremost job of any researcher. The main purpose of the study was to understand the past and to attempt to understand the present in the light of past as well as present events and the development done by Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.

Here, the researcher used analysis to interpret the various contentions and synthesis for arriving conclusions. This method can be called as Analytical synoptic method.
For understanding of ideology, the researcher consulted various libraries, examined various records from different sources and gathering information available on websites. Researcher scanned the available literature related to the research problem. Researcher had read standard books on ideology and tried to grasps the approach towards understanding the philosophical analysis.

The next step of the present study was to have a relevant discussion with her supervisor, educational experts and colleagues, to draw conclusions.

1.5.3 TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES USED:

The tools and techniques used for the collection of data in this study were briefly described below:

- Analysis of books and other documents written by Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam.
- Analysis of documents related to speeches and lectures delivered by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, as the educational administrator of various universities.
- Analysis of articles and review on Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam, published by experts and other authors.
- Analysis of reports related to the contributions of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

1.5.4 ANALYSIS OF DATA:

Analysis involves concept identification, conceptual diversions into further simple concepts or definition of these concepts and their functionality. After collecting the data and subjecting them to analysis, a synthesis is done objectively using resourcefulness and careful method of logical thinking. The synthesis is done theme or topic wise. The problem being studied in the present study is analytical in nature, and
the method used here is ‘Analysis’. Research method was to be followed in this investigation would be that of construction through analysis, which was the characteristic method of philosophy. The researcher was strictly followed by the Content Analysis Method. A thorough studying, scanning and scrutinizing of available primary and secondary data sources were done, to conclude the solution of the problem. Some of those were being subjected to careful Internal and External Criticism as well.

Primarily, the method of investigation involves discovering, describing and making original interpretations of the facts. After honestly taking down the ideas of Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam and his known interpreters from the primary and the secondary sources of data, the researcher has examined the same analytically and logically for arriving at definite conclusions.

It was a mental process to analyze the whole available literature from various sources to draw out the findings by involving the following three steps- Thinking, contemplating and writing. Finally, putting down the ideas, thoughts and educational importance was the last step of the study.

The researcher tried to highlight the educational thoughts and ideas of Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam and his precious contribution to Education. Further, the investigator also tried to find out how is ideology helpful for present educational problems.

Through present research study, the researcher also tried to explore the dynamic personality of Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam and his amazing creations by his pen on paper.
1.6 THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

In the present study, it has been discussed about Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam’s life. He is a great scientist, educationist, writer, poet, teacher as well as a great philosopher. Beside these, he is also a great politician.

Dr.Kalam has visualized a new age and new social order, in fact a new vision for Develop India, through his wonderful creation i.e. “VISION 2020”. He has expressed himself on matters like political, social, religious and especially in science and technology and all together in education. The study highlighted the ideas and thoughts which is undoubtedly unique in his approach. His fundamental aim of education is the harmonious development of all human faculties, by igniting the young minds to make them autonomous learners. He recognized the prime necessity for the perfect fusion of quality education and proper guidance to youth for social progress.

The present study dealt with curriculum, methods of teaching, role of teacher, role of student, student-teacher relationship, role of motivation, role of proper guidance, role of discipline, moral values etc.

Dr.Kalam is conversant with the modern development as he is a great scientist and has always been in touch with advancement and new technologies, and his own approach to present educational problems, is mainly advocated by his enlightened educational thoughts and ideas.

In this study, the researcher classified the messages that Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam wants to convey to us. Dr.Kalam’s educational thoughts are not found formulated in any one or in any systematic way like other philosopher did. They are scattered in a large number of writings and numerous speeches and letters.
Therefore, it was only an attempt to bring out the ideals of education for existing or futuristic generation of students, teachers, parents as well as educationists of east and west.

The scope of present study is in the following areas:

- Biography of Dr. Kalam
- Educational contribution of Dr. Kalam
- Educational thoughts and ideas implicit in the philosophy of Dr. Kalam

1.7 SOME ASSUMPTIONS:

This study is based on following assumptions:

- The present education system suffers from drawbacks, which could be removed by right type of philosophy of education and right practices.
- The educational philosophy of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has some positive features which could help to reshape Indian education on application.
- The educational philosophy of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam will assist in improving teacher-pupil relationship, curriculum, teaching methods and strategies, maintain discipline and promoting value based education.
- There is a need for reform in education in India as suggested by many philosophers and experts of the country from time to time.
- The educational philosophy of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam assists in minimizing cultural lag and provides guidelines to make International standing for the country.
1.8 DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

Although Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam’s life has many phases, the researcher studied only his educational, philosophical, social and religious side. His political aspect will be out of present study. It was also delimited to collect the data regarding the above factors only from letters, speeches, addresses, books, journals, articles, project studies and research studies done in this area so far.

1.9 ORGANIZATION OF CHAPTERS:

The whole thesis has divided into 6 chapters as follows-

CHAPTER – 1 is introductory and gives the background, need and justification of the study. The objectives are outlined and procedure of research is explained. The scope and limitations are given according to the focus of research.

CHAPTER – 2 reviews briefly the related literature on different aspects of his philosophy and his works. It is taken from the published volumes, articles and magazines and some research studies on his life and work.


It also incorporate his social life, education, and different aspects of his career as a scientist, as a politician, as a teacher, educator and overall as philosopher. It brings out his philosophy of life, ideals and values, contributions in the field of education, contributions in the field of science and technology, which are cherished.

CHAPTER – 4 It also gives details about his attributed quotes (thoughts and ideas), collected from various sources on different aspects as social, religious and educational
areas. It also describes his educational ideas implicit in the various aspects of educational philosophy, such as meaning of education, aims & objectives of education, curriculum, teaching methodology, role of teacher, role of student, etc. It also highlights the uniqueness of thoughts and ideas of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

CHAPTER – 5 It gives the details of interpretation of the qualitative data and the base for analyzing the data to conclude the result.

CHAPTER – 6 This chapter outlines the findings and educational implications of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam’s educational philosophy, so that Indian education could be revitalized and reoriented in present times of turmoil. It also gives the suggestions of further studies.

❖ A TRIBUTE TO LATE DR. APJ ABDUL KALAM