



DR. BHUPEN HAZARIKA'S HUMANISTIC APPROACH AS AN EDUCATIONIST AND RESEARCHER: A CRITICAL STUDY

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Abstract:

Dr. Bhupen Hazarika is one of the remarkable humanists of Assam as well as India. Apart from various cultural and social activities he has also played an important role in the field of education. His activities as an educationist were deeply infused with humanism. As a lecturer he has focused on all round development of the students apart from their syllabus. Through his research work, he has contributed many new concepts in education system of India by which many educators and adults are benefited. In this paper an attempt has been made to introduce Bhupen Hazarika as an educationist and find out humanistic ideals of Bhupen Hazarika in his research work.

Keywords: Humanism, Bhupen Hazarika, Researcher, Educationist etc.

INTRODUCTION:

Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, who is popularly known as Bhupen Hazarika, has furnished enormous contributions to almost all the fields of society. Generally, people know him as a musician, film-maker, politician, social worker etc. but apart from this identification he is also an educationist. Although he has served as a lecturer in B. Borooah college and Gauhati University for a short time, he has focused on all round development of the students. He has lived in advance of time. He has realized that education can transmit the truth from one generation to another generation. After independence of India, he has concerned about the education system of that time and has wanted to doing something for changing that system. Through his research work he has explored the preparedness of basic education system of newly independent India. Bhupen Hazarika, as a researcher has tried to uplift himself to become a complete human being. He has also contributed many new concepts in education system of India. Main focus of his research work was educator, audio- visual technique and adult education. In his entire study he has discussed about the education system of that time, what is audio visual system and how it is used properly in teaching method of India like other part of the world and how the adults of India are benefited with such type of education. As an educationist as well as researcher Entire his research work finds out his humanistic ideals.

OBJECTIVES:

Following are the objectives of the study: -

- To introduce Dr. Bhupen Hazarika as an educationist.
- To find out Dr. Bhupen Hazarika's humanistic approach as an educationist.
- To analysis the humanistic ideals in the research work of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika.

METHODOLOGY:

The methodology uses in this paper are descriptive and analytical. The data have been collected from different secondary sources i.e., books, articles, research paper, internet etc.

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Bhupen Hazarika as an educationist has played an important role but somewhere his role and contribution in the field of education have been ignored. After completed his master degree he has joined as a lecturer in B. Borooah College, Guwahati in 1947. In that position he has worked only for six months. He has joined in Gauhati University as a lecturer in 1954 after returning from America. Although his service period was very short in that position, his activity was significant. In a true sense, he is not a teacher, he is an educator. He has focused on all round development of the students and took responsibility of them apart from focused on the syllabus of the course. A cultural group of Gauhati University went to New Delhi to participate a cultural programme under his leadership. That group has presented variety of programmes. In that programme, students have performed very all their programmes very beautifully. The level of those programmes were very high. The entire team has been openly appreciated and praised by all the audiences for their cultural programmes that carry on Assamese culture. The team has been invited in Allahabad University to perform a cultural programme for the flood relief fund of Prime Minister after that programme.

As an educator Dr. Bhupen Hazarika has explored his love, care and responsibility for his students and encouraged them to go forward with their capability. He has also tried to create a friendly relationship in India through exchange of our culture. He has realized that we all Indian are the passenger of the same boat of Indian culture. He has believed in providing equal opportunities for education to every individual, regardless of social or economic status, thus promoting the idea of equality and inclusivity. Bhupen Hazarika is not an educationist only in academic sense, he also has emphasized on cultural education, focus on holistic development, encouragement of critical thinking and emphasized the importance of community involvement. He has believed that education is a collaborative effort between educators, students, parents and the wider community. He has emphasized the importance of nurturing emotional, social and ethical dimensions of growth and reflecting a humanistic concern for the overall well-being of individuals. He has believed that education should empower individuals to think for themselves, challenge existing norms and contribute positively to society, aligning with humanistic ideals of intellectual freedom and autonomy.

As a researcher Bhupen Hazarika has tried to uplift himself to become a complete human being and with this purpose in view, he has done his PhD. In 1949 after getting a foreign scholarship he went to USA to study in Columbia University where from he has earned PhD degree. Before going to USA when he applied for scholarship to the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, he has given his humble opinion and has tried to make aware the Government how would Modern scientific achievement help the people of Assam like the other civilized nation. The title of his thesis, "India's Basic Educators to use Audio-Visual Techniques in Adult Education". In the introductory chapter Bhupen Hazarika has written how education should take advantage of the rational inquisitiveness of human beings. All the members of a community can work for their common development with the help of education. Like other parts of the world, India also had need for adult education at that time. For making the adults literate and enlarge their mind, education was the only way.

In his research work Dr. Bhupen Hazarika mainly has focused on three things. These are educator, audio-visual technique and adult education. He has clearly discussed about the education system of that time, what is audio visual system and how it is used properly in teaching method of India like other part of the world and how the adults of India are benefited with such type of education. Bhupen Hazarika has realised that India's adult illiteracy was a big problem at that time. As a humanistic thinker he has also realised that the out-dated education system of that time needed to be drastically cleaned and reoriented because that out-dated system of education never literate the people to become useful member of society. He has observed that the education system of India has enormous problems. At that time in Western country, audio-visual technique become a part of mass-communication. Bhupen Hazarika has realised that like the United States of America, the problems of India's education system also solved by implementation of audio-visual technique. In the task of implementing audio-visual technique, Bhupen Hazarika has constantly kept in his mind some practical difficulties, such as financial, lack of trained teacher, insufficient supply of electricity etc. With the help of the Government of India he has tried to overcome these difficulties and recommended few objectives. There are some psychological significances behind the audio-visual technique. The teachers should be aware about these significances before going to give knowledge to adults through this technique. To make the curriculum more fruitful teachers must improve the method of teaching and in such a way they improved their professional efficiency.

Dr. Bhupen Hazarika has realized that, the development of a society is impossible without the adult education. The adult learners do not prefer the formal verbalization. They prefer to learn through informal and stimulating experiences by which they might enjoy the learning process. With the help of audio-visual materials like radio, stage, popular print, motion picture etc. can be make the learning inspiring, motivating, purposeful and everlasting for adult. Bhupen Hazarika has also focused on the educator who use audio-visual materials and methods effectively. To enrich the curriculum of the adult programmes the educator must be trained in utilizing audio-visual materials.

The activity of Bhupen Hazarika as a researcher is not only for his own benefit. He has tried to do something for the benefit of educators and adults of his own country. His research work has proved it very clearly. After independence of India, he thought about the responsibilities of people, their rights and duties. He has known that the natural outcome of the need of the people is basic education. In India the majority of the adults live in village who has no time for formal education. But they wish to learn in their leisure time by which they could improve their knowledge and their occupation. Bhupen Hazarika has realized the mental status of that adults and tried to solve their problems. Many educators and adults are benefited through his research work along with his PhD degree.

CONCLUSION:

As a highly educated person, Dr. Bhupen Hazarika's thought always significant and his contributions as an educationist and researcher reflecting humanistic values. As an educationist he has aimed to create a more compassionate, enlightened and empowered society in which one can find humanistic values of equality, inclusivity, holistic development, critical enquiry and community engagement. By his research work he has not only earned PhD degree, but also has contributed many new concepts in education system of India by which many educators and adults are benefited. Through his research work he has made himself responsive to the changing trend of the World as well as established himself as a humanist.

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