

# Meaning of Education

**Presented by**

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# Meaning of Education

- Education makes man self-reliant and provides him right inspiration for work. Education does not mean merely knowing alphabet. What is learnt has to be practiced and shown in our daily lives there by sanctifying our lives and trying to understand the inner purpose of life.
- Bhagavat Gīta says- there is really nothing in this world as sacred as knowledge. ‘Na hi jñānēna sadrśam pavitrāmiha vidyatē’. (Bhagavat Gita, 4-38)

- Dr. S.Radhakrishnan in his work, “The Principle Upanisads” in the course of his treatise on Taittirīyōpanisad, quotes what Patañjali said about education. “There are four steps or stages through which knowledge becomes fruitful. The first is when we acquire it from the teacher, the second when we study it. The third when we teach it to others and the fourth when we apply it”.
- We can observe this conception in the Naisadhiyacarita of Srīharsa also. ‘Adhītibōdhācaranaṅ pracāranaih.’ (Naishadhiyacaritam, 1/4)

आचार्यात् पादमादत्ते पादं शिष्यः स्वमेधया ।  
सब्रह्मचारिभ्यः पादं पादं कालक्रमेण च ॥

One fourth from the teacher, one fourth from own intelligence,  
One fourth from classmates, and one fourth only with time.

*Mahābhārata Udyoga Parva 44:16,*

शुश्रूषा श्रवणं चैव ग्रहणं धारणां तथा ।

ऊहापोहोऽर्थ विज्ञानं तत्त्वज्ञानं च धीगुणाः ॥

Shushrusha shravanam chaiva grahanam dharanam तथा ।

Uhapohortha vijnanam tatvajnanam cha dhigunah ॥

Caring, willingness to listen, grasping power and concentration, awareness

And knowledge of philosophy are the qualities of an intellectual.

# Definitions of Education

- It is hard to define the term 'education' as it holds a wide meaning. The philosophers, thinkers and educationists have defined education in accordance with their philosophy of life. The concept of education is like a diamond which appears to be of different color when seen from a different angle.

- In RigVeda, education has been understood as ‘something which makes a man self-reliant and selfless’. In Upanisads education has been understood as something the end product of which is salvation. ‘Sā vidyā yā vimuktayē’.  
(Upaniṣad Vākya Mahakośa, 1990)
- Yājñavalkya opines, “Education is that which makes a man of good character and useful to the world”.

# Modern Thinkers on Education

- Swami Vivekananda thinks, “Education is the manifestation of divine perfection already existing in man”.
- According to Swami Dayananda, “Education is a means for character formation and righteous living”.
- Gandhiji says, “By education I mean an all-round drawing out of the best in the child and man- body mind and spirit”.
- According to Tagore, “Education is that it makes one’s life in harmony with all existence and thus enables the mind to find the ultimate truth which gives us the wealth of inner light and love and gives significance to life”.



