

Integrating Sri Aurobindo's Educational Philosophy Into Research Practices: A Transformative Approach For Researchers

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ABSTRACT

Today in this era of innovations where discoveries are made each day. As a researcher, one tries to do research work in their fields contributing to the existing knowledge vault in those subject areas. Every researcher built on the previous knowledge which is based on the thoughts of some great man or the other. Researchers are influenced by Sri Aurobindo's philosophy and to achieve his goals, he gets influenced by his ideals and thoughts and helps in giving direction to his research, which is reflected somewhere in the researcher's research and his thoughts. Similarly, Sri Aurobindo's Pondicherry Ashram is a laboratory of his educational ideas, he not only influenced the thoughts of the people but also influenced the personality of the researchers due to which he made his valuable contribution to society and the country by reflecting his thoughts in his research work. This research paper aims to investigate the integration of Sri Aurobindo's educational thought's thought experiments into the researcher's ongoing work. The researcher has based his research on an in-depth study of the educational thoughts of Sri Aurobindo. This research paper has discussed how the influence of the thoughts of current researchers plays a role in achieving the aims of their lives.

Key words- Shri Aurobindo's, Educational Philosophy, Integral Education, Philosophy of Education, Philosophy of life.

I. INTRODUCTION

There have been many philosophers in society who from time-to-time act as guides in developing the society and country, rather they are imbued with their philosophical and reflective thoughts and contribute to taking the country and society to greater heights. India which has been the land of yogis and saints has produced many philosophers, including Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Sri Aurobindo's (Aurobindo Ghose), and Jiddu Krishnamurti. In Modern times Sri Aurobindo is one such philosopher whose work contributes heavily to the academic knowledge system. He is a prominent Indian philosopher, yogi, and nationalist leader, was born on August 15, 1872, in Kolkata, British India. Sri Aurobindo played an important role in India's freedom struggle and later became a spiritual leader. After receiving his education in England, he started his career as a teacher and later joined the Indian Civil Service (Agarwal,1985). However, his deep sense of patriotism and desire for India's independence motivated him to

actively participate in the Indian independence movement. He emerged as the leader of the radical faction within the Indian National Congress. Later on, when Sri Aurobindo turned his attention towards spirituality and yoga, there was a profound change in his life. He moved to Pondicherry in 1910 and devoted the rest of his life to spiritual work. There, he developed Integral Yoga, a synthesis of various yoga traditions aimed at developing human consciousness. Sri Aurobindo's philosophical writings, including "The Life Divine" and "The Synthesis of Yoga", have had a profound influence on spiritual thought. His vision emphasized the transformation of individuals and societies who aspire to divine life on earth. The Auroville community, founded on his principles, stands as a living experiment in human unity and spiritual development, and many of its diligent yogis continue to spread his light of knowledge today. Sri Aurobindo died on December 5, 1950, leaving behind a legacy of spiritual teachings. Left behind a rich Yoga legacy, and philosophical insights and has remained a lasting influence on India's quest for freedom and spiritual development. Thus, we can see that even today we need such great men who not only enlighten us with their ideas and philosophical contemplations. They influence us by informing us about various aspects of life and providing guidance to deal with social problems. Today, we need to adopt the ideals of future philosophers in our conduct in today's context and follow the example shown by them. By following this path, we can achieve the right goals in our life. For this purpose, every person who is engaged in research work in any higher education needs to imbibe the life principles of great men with great personalities who enable researchers to think deeply. Be able to develop thinking ability and philosophical inclination. This research article throws light on the fact that if a researcher exchanges dialogues with any great philosopher, thinker, and educationist in his life, and follows the path shown by him, he will develop the capacity for deep thinking in his academic field but will also be able to solve social problems through research in higher education.

II. BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy into research procedures offers great promise. The educational philosophy of Aurobindo Ghosh, an integrated and holistic viewpoint, provides a comprehensive framework that can be used for the attainment of various goals in education and research. Research on Aurobindo's educational philosophy and its applicability in modern educational settings has been done by Chanda (2017) and Debbarma (2017), their works have provided light possible effects on pedagogy and curriculum creation from the point of view of his philosophy. Knowledge about fundamental insights into the sociological and philosophical foundations of education provides a more comprehensive framework for comprehending Aurobindo's concepts (Saxena & Dutt, 2013). Sagal (2016) offers insightful information about how it can be used in real-world classroom situations. Rakibul (2017) explored the relevance of Aurobindo's spiritual philosophy in the twenty-first century, highlighting its capacity to meet contemporary difficulties and promote holistic development. So, by combining these studies on Aurobindo's educational philosophy, academics can create an impact research approach that includes spiritual, philosophical, and practical components. Thus, one needs to investigate and implement Aurobindo's educational philosophy into research initiatives, as it provides a holistic framework with the ability to expand researchers in the field of research.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to understand the educational philosophy of Sri Aurobindo and how it can be integrated into the field of academic research. Researchers will try to study the topic under the following objectives

- To critically study the educational philosophy of Sri Aurobindo's.
- To examine the Potential of Integrating the Aurobindo Educational Philosophy in Research.

IV. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Literature offers a wide spectrum of Sri Aurobindo education philosophy. It offers various concepts into the theoretical foundation and Real-world implications of Aurobindo's Philosophy. Gorian & Gayan (2017) have argued that Aurobindo's teaching should be reevaluated keeping in mind the current context of education and how it can be used to revolutionize the current educational approaches. Digging deep into Aurobindo's theories Mondal & Bag (2023) have explained the educational frameworks and how theory should be connected to practical application. Reddy (2019) has provided insight into the philosophical understanding of his work using his source of Literature. Also, Sankar (2018) has done an in-depth analysis of Aurobindo's Philosophy highlighting different sides of his philosophy thus providing a holistic picture of his ideology. Zaki (2022) has touched upon topics like holistic growth and nourishment of a person's inherent Potential. Sharama (2015) has offered a detailed framework that provides a comprehensive overview of Aurobindo's education philosophy and how it can be integrated into the field of research. All this literature offers a huge potential for his educational philosophy it is important to critically study the ways of integrating it into the field of research and how it would be beneficial for the researchers

V. METHODOLOGY

Case study methodology was selected by the researcher, secondary source data was selected for data collection to know the review-based theoretical aspects of Sri Aurobindo's philosophy.

A. Research Design

The researcher used a qualitative research design. The purpose of this study was to critically examine various educational thoughts of Aurobindo.

B. Sample and sampling

The sample comprises various literatures on Aurobindo's which include various articles and original texts recorded by various researchers.

VI. ANALYSIS

An in-depth study was conducted by the researcher through various literature review articles, journals, and research papers, and it was found that a researcher studied the philosophies of Sri Aurobindo as a guide and implementation of the principles expressed by him in his life. It is very important to pay special attention towards determining the principles of one's life, because in the life of a researcher, there is a possibility of the being influence by some grate personality or thinker. Learning from their life, one will be able to succeed in achieving their objectives and goals. As the objective is this study is to examine the various aspects of Aurobindo's philosophy researchers have discussed it under different themes. All these themes are analysed and discussed below.

Aurobindo's Philosophy of Life

Sri Aurobindo a prominent Indian philosopher, yogi, poet, and spiritual leader, played a pivotal role in the Indian independence movement. His diverse and multifaceted philosophy extends across spiritual,

philosophical, and social dimensions, offering guidance and direction to individuals in their way of living. Beyond personal development, his teachings foster a creative and exploratory vision, particularly impactful in the life of a researcher. The following points highlight key aspects of his life philosophy that can profoundly influence and redirect the path of every researcher:

- 1. Integral Yoga:** Sri Aurobindo is perhaps best known for his concept of Integral Yoga, which seeks to integrate all aspects of an individual's being—physical, mental, vital (emotional), and spiritual—towards a higher and more harmonious state of existence. The goal is not just personal salvation but the transformation of human nature and the establishment of a divine life on Earth.
- 2. Evolution of Consciousness:** Sri Aurobindo proposed that evolution is not limited to the physical plane but extends to the realm of consciousness. He believed that humanity is in a process of evolving towards a higher state of consciousness, ultimately leading to a spiritualized and divinized existence (Sahu & Behera, 2022).
- 3. The Supramental Consciousness:** Sri Aurobindo's philosophy revolves around the idea of supramental consciousness. He envisioned an elevated state of consciousness surpassing the limitations of the mind, referred to as the Supramental, with the potential to catalyse a profound transformation in human nature, ultimately paving the path for a divine existence on Earth.
- 4. Spiritual Realization and Self-Perfection:** Sri Aurobindo emphasized the importance of spiritual realization and self-perfection as essential aspects of the human journey. He advocated a dynamic and integral approach to spirituality, incorporating both inner and outer transformation.
- 5. Synthesis of Yoga:** In "The Synthesis of Yoga," Sri Aurobindo delineated diverse paths of yoga, encompassing the routes of knowledge (Jnana Yoga), devotion (Bhakti Yoga), selfless action (Karma Yoga), and integral yoga. He asserted that individuals could select or amalgamate these paths according to their inclinations and temperament.
- 6. Social and Political Philosophy:** Sri Aurobindo was actively involved in the Indian independence movement, and his political philosophy emphasized the need for a spiritualized society. He envisioned a society where spirituality would be the guiding force in all aspects of life, including politics and governance.
- 7. Divine Life on Earth:** Sri Aurobindo's vision included the idea of a divine life on Earth where individuals live in harmony with each other and with the divine consciousness. This vision extended beyond individual salvation to a collective transformation of society.

Sri Aurobindo's philosophy continues to wield influence today, notably in the realms of spiritual and philosophical discourse. His ashram in Pondicherry, India, attracts seekers and practitioners dedicated to his teachings. From a researcher's perspective, Sri Aurobindo's philosophy of life stands out as one of the most frequently referenced doctrines, emphasizing deep concentration and profound contemplation in the development of one's thoughts and thinking processes.

Aurobindo's philosophy of Education from a researcher's point of view

Sri Aurobindo captivated the hearts of Indians as a profound teacher whose philosophy left an undeniable mark on the nation. His spiritual and philosophical insights permeated the populace, as documented in his weekly paper "Karmayogi" and the magazine "A Method of National Education." In these publications, he emphasized the important role of intelligence as the primary tool for education. The magazine, further expounding on education, delineates not only the process of acquiring knowledge but also provides guidance on how to effectively apply that knowledge in life. Divided into four comprehensive parts, this publication serves as a valuable resource for researchers, offering a nuanced understanding of various facets of knowledge acquisition and its practical application. Sri Aurobindo has talked about four ways to attain knowledge which are as follows-

1. **Memory Cell:** According to Sri Aurobindo memory cell plays a pivotal role in the human body, serving as a central component essential for engaging the senses and triggering the faculty of memory. This activation of memory, in turn, facilitates cognitive processes, fostering the ability to think critically and develop a profound comprehension of knowledge.
2. **Mind:** According to Sri Aurobindo, intelligence preserves learned knowledge and provides a critical approach to logical thinking, which helps in manifesting the powers of the mind through the senses.
3. **Intellect:** Sri Aurobindo's conception of intellect emphasizes its role as a dynamic and transformative faculty within the human psyche. According to Aurobindo, the intellect is not merely a cognitive tool for logical reasoning, but a potential instrument for higher and intuitive understanding. He suggests that the intellect, when properly developed and harmonized with other faculties, can serve as a means to access deeper spiritual insights and a greater understanding of the divine. In his integral yoga philosophy, Aurobindo encourages individuals to go beyond the limitations of the ordinary intellect and explore the possibilities of a more evolved and spiritually attuned intelligence.
4. **Knowledge:** In Aurobindo's conception of knowledge, intelligence is viewed as the preserver of acquired wisdom, offering a critical lens through logical thinking. This critical approach becomes instrumental in actualizing the potential of the mind by translating it into tangible manifestations through the senses.

Impact of Sri Aurobindo's ethics and religious teachings as a Researcher

Sri Aurobindo's ethical and religious teachings have deeply influenced both individuals and communities, providing researchers with abundant avenues for exploration. Aurobindo's focus on the comprehensive development of individuals, integrating the physical, vital, mental, and spiritual dimensions, serves as a guiding principle for researchers investigating holistic approaches to personal growth and well-being.

In the domain of ethics, Aurobindo's teachings advocate for a deliberate alignment with higher principles and a transcendent moral compass. Researchers can draw inspiration from exploring the application of these ethical foundations to contemporary issues, cultivating a sense of responsibility and a commitment to ethical conduct across different domains. Aurobindo's emphasis on spirituality and the evolution of consciousness provides researchers with a distinctive perspective on religious studies. His teachings promote a synthesis of

various spiritual paths and a transcendence of dogma, fostering a more inclusive and integrative approach to religious exploration. Researchers may delve into the impact of such teachings on interfaith dialogue, the pursuit of meaning, and the evolution of religious practices.

Moreover, Aurobindo's ideas on the transformation of human nature and the concept of a divine life on Earth provide a framework for researchers interested in the intersection of spirituality and everyday existence. This could include investigations into the practical implications of integrating spiritual principles into social, educational, or political contexts. Researchers may also explore the influence of Aurobindo's teachings on the development of intentional communities and educational institutions inspired by his philosophy. These communities often seek to embody the principles of integral living and provide a fertile ground for researchers examining alternative models of communal and educational life.

Sri Aurobindo's ethics and religious teachings offer researchers a unique lens through which to explore holistic approaches to personal development, ethical conduct, spirituality, and the integration of transcendent principles into various aspects of contemporary life. The impact of his philosophy is evident in diverse fields, encouraging researchers to navigate the intersections of spirituality, ethics, and practical application for the betterment of individuals and society.

The role of Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy in the life of a Researcher

Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy holds a profound and transformative role in the life of a researcher, shaping not only their intellectual pursuits but also fostering holistic and integral development. Central to Aurobindo's philosophy is the idea of education as a means to unfold the latent potential within individuals and guide them towards a harmonious integration of mind, body, and spirit. For a researcher, this approach translates into a commitment to nurturing not just academic excellence but also a deep understanding of one's inner self and purpose. Aurobindo emphasizes the importance of self-discovery and the realization of one's unique capabilities. In the life of a researcher, this philosophy encourages the exploration of diverse intellectual domains, urging individuals to transcend the boundaries of conventional thinking. The researcher, guided by Aurobindo's principles, sees education not as a mere accumulation of facts but as a transformative journey that engages the entire being. This holistic perspective inspires a researcher to approach their work with a sense of purpose and a commitment to contribute meaningfully to society.

Moreover, Sri Aurobindo's emphasis on the integration of spirituality into education adds a dimension that goes beyond the purely academic realm. The researcher, under the influence of his philosophy, recognizes the interconnectedness of knowledge, the self, and the universe. This broader perspective fosters a sense of interconnectedness and a deep appreciation for the ethical dimensions of research. It encourages the researcher to consider the impact of their work on society, promoting a commitment to responsible and ethical research practices.

Sri Aurobindo's educational philosophy serves as a guiding light for the life of a researcher, shaping not just their intellectual pursuits but also their personal and ethical dimensions. It encourages a holistic and integral approach, fostering a sense of purpose, self-discovery, and a commitment to contribute positively to the world through transformative research.

Contribution of Sri Aurobindo's philosophy in the life of a Researcher

Sri Aurobindo's philosophy possesses the transformative potential to profoundly influence the life of a researcher, offering a distinctive perspective that goes beyond conventional methodologies and delves into the spiritual dimensions of human existence. At the heart of Aurobindo's teachings lies the concept of integral yoga, a comprehensive path aiming to harmonize and integrate all facets of human experience – physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. For researchers, this philosophy encourages deep exploration of consciousness, emphasizing that intellectual pursuits alone may not yield a comprehensive understanding of reality. Integral yoga proposes that knowledge acquisition should transcend empirical observation and rational analysis, urging a deeper connection with one's inner self and the universal consciousness.

In the pursuit of knowledge, Aurobindo emphasizes the importance of a balanced and harmonious life. His philosophy encourages researchers to cultivate not only their intellectual faculties but also to nurture emotional intelligence and spiritual insight. This holistic approach can lead to a more enriched and fulfilling research journey, fostering a sense of purpose and interconnectedness.

Aurobindo's notion of the "Supermind" introduces the concept of an elevated state of consciousness that surpasses the confines of the human mind. This notion challenges researchers to explore innovative and visionary ideas, pushing the boundaries of conventional thinking (Ahmed & Godiyal,2021). It encourages them to tap into a higher source of creativity, inspiration, and intuition, which can be transformative in the process of discovery. Furthermore, Aurobindo's philosophy advocates for the practical application of spiritual principles in everyday life. For a researcher, this means integrating ethical considerations, compassion, and a sense of responsibility into their work. This approach not only enhances the quality of research but also contributes positively to society, aligning the pursuit of knowledge with the greater good.

Sri Aurobindo's philosophy provides a unique framework for researchers to transcend the limitations of traditional intellectual pursuits. By embracing integral yoga and exploring the realms of consciousness, researchers can foster a more balanced, purposeful, and ethically grounded approach to their work, ultimately contributing not only to the advancement of knowledge but also to the betterment of humanity.

VII. FINDING

Through this research paper, an attempt was made to know what impact Sri Aurobindo has on the life of a researcher and how a researcher can incorporate the thoughtful thinking and principles shown by him in his life and develop his thinking power and deep understanding developing which is an important component for developing metacognition ability having poetical to look into various problems associated with research meta lenses the researcher will be able to automatically develop a philosophical attitude. Along with this, how the personality of a researcher should be reflective and concentrated has been a major funding in this entire paper.

VIII. SUGGESTION

In the field of research, one encounters many philosophical thoughts and ideologies. Sri Aurobindo's philosophy is one of such thoughts which have been used by the researchers in this paper to explore its implications on the holistic development of the researcher who is undertaking the research activities. As philosophy offers many great thinkers such as J Krishnamurti, Plato, Hegel, Kant, etc. They have provided us with their various versions. So we need to understand their version in terms of integrating in the field of

research so that it could contribute to the holistic development of research as a person and academicians in a wider perspective.

IX. CONCLUSION

Through this paper, researchers have tried to understand the reason behind Sri Aurobindo's Philosophy being so relevant to the current generation and researchers as following his philosophical approach has the potential to bring changes in personality, educational ideas, values, thinking, and reasoning power. If a researcher follows the Aurobindo Approach, he will be able to expand his knowledge, he will also make good use of his intellectual capacity, and channel his investigative nature toward creativity and the attainment of new knowledge. Along with this, the researcher will be able to integrate educational philosophy and spirituality into his life and research work. If he does this then he can achieve the biggest goals of life. Divine Life and Synthesis of Yoga are two books that not only influence a person's life but also work to bring positive energy to his life so that he can try to live his life in the right way. There have been many such Indian philosophers, but Sri Aurobindo's Ghosh was one such philosopher and spiritual thinker, who has made a great contribution to our country and society. Even today, with his philosophy and spirituality, he has proved helpful to researchers in reaching the pinnacle of their goals

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