

## CHAPTER V

### DR. RADHAKRISHNAN AND UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

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### V.1 INTRODUCTION :

The present chapter deals with Dr. Radhakrishnan's thoughts regarding the nature and aims of university education, Post-graduate teaching and Research. In fact, the chapters IV and VI to IX deal with the various aspects and features of education like, aims of education, curriculum, teaching methods, teachers, pupils and teacher-pupil relationships, rural universities and rural education, religious and moral education, women education and vocational education etc. The present chapter deals with the nature and aims of university education and post-graduate teaching and research.

### V.2 THE NATURE AND AIMS OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION :

Dr. Radhakrishnan's thoughts regarding the nature, the aims, the atmosphere, the functions and importance of university education are found in his number of speeches delivered at various places on various occasions and in his books as well as in the Report of University Education Commission (1948-49) of which he was the President.

According to Dr. Radhakrishnan the function of the university is not merely to send out technically skilled and professionally competent men, but their duty is to produce in

men the quality of compassion, brotherhood, love and peace. According to him, the universities are the creators of good people with good souls who can behave with moral principles and with eternal values.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Radhakrishnan believed in that the universities should create such citizens who would be fostered by democratic spirit and ideals. For the democratic spirit to be created, the students and teachers should behave friendly and there should be co-operative atmosphere maintained in the university and its campus. Teachers and students should behave sanely. Hence for this, Dr. Radhakrishnan advocated the study of Fine Arts, Music, Philosophy and Literature. To quote somelines, from his speech -

"University life is a co-operative enterprise between teachers and students; for this, the university atmosphere must be improved. Students must be trained to approach life's problems with the fortitude, self-control and sense of balance. This can be fulfilled by the proper study of the great classics, philosophy, religion and literature."<sup>2</sup>

According to him, the relation of a teacher and the students should be of a sacred one like the ancient 'guru' and his disciple. To explain, to quote some lines from his convocation address at Delhi University -

"A University is essentially a corporation of teachers and students. The relation between the two have been of a sacred character." <sup>3</sup>

Dr. Radhakrishnan was of the view that the atmosphere in the universities should develop the community life. He wanted that all the university teachers and students should feel unanimously, think unanimously and act unanimously. To explain, to quote some lines from his book, 'Education, Politics and War' -

"It is through the universities that we have to maintain and develop community of thought, feeling and practice." <sup>4</sup>

According to Dr. Radhakrishnan, the university atmosphere should maintain discipline. The students should be formed the habits of discipline, critical reflection and judgement. The pursuit of knowledge must be done by teachers and pupils together. The universities should become the holy temples of intellectual and moral life. To explain, to quote some lines from his occasional speech -

"Buildings do not make a university. It is the teachers and the pupils and their pursuit of knowledge, these make the soul of a university. The university is the sanctuary of the intellectual life of a country."<sup>5</sup>

According to Dr. Radhakrishnan, the universities are the places where peace and brotherhood are maintained on the national and international levels. To explain, to quote -

"The universities of the world form a great fraternity binding together their members all over the world."<sup>6</sup>

University creates a fellowship which transcends all barriers of race and nation, of class and creed; yet it honours the artistic and intellectual traditions of a variety of people. The universities find all the people of the world together. They have a supreme function in the advancement of international understanding and international peace. According to Dr. Radhakrishnan, they are the strongest influences for peace.<sup>7</sup>

All universities aim at cultural unity and racial and communal harmony. But with reference to the Indian traditions and different people of different castes,

creeds and religions, according to Dr. Radhakrishnan, it is the special obligation of the Indian universities to promote cultural unity and communal harmony. To quote, some lines from his book, 'Education, Politics and War' -

"In the universities at least feelings of love and brotherhood among all communities are fostered and a broad and liberal tolerance is developed."<sup>8</sup>

The university teaches us how to behave with our fellow beings; it develops our attitudes proper for democratic spirit. Dr. Radhakrishnan strongly believed that university people should create the universal spirit. To explain, to quote some lines from his speech -

"It is the university men with the universal spirit who are necessary to build up the progressive life and thought of our country. It is the universities that we have to develop the attitudes and dispositions, the ways of thinking and doing which will make democratic institutions work."<sup>9</sup>

According to Dr. Radhakrishnan the function of university is to give the people vision. It should awaken idealism. It should interpret life and lead us to the higher region. To explain, to quote some lines from his convocation speech -

"Where there is no vision, the people perish. It is the function of universities to give us the vision, to awaken idealism. Their purpose is to interpret life in its permanent aspects, to give us entry into a region higher than that in which we ordinarily move."<sup>10</sup>

As a general aim, according to Dr. Radhakrishnan, university should give economic justice, social equality and political freedom. To achieve these hard work, self control and effective propaganda are essential and people should behave with common sense, sanity and coolness. Then only these aims, i.e. economic justice, social equality and political freedom can be achieved.

According to Dr. Radhakrishnan, university is the home of liberty. It should promote the liberty of mind and give the freedom of thought.<sup>11</sup>

Dr. Radhakrishnan believed that university should develop the university spirit in students and also advance learning and knowledge. To explain, to quote some lines -

"The main function of a university is not to grant degrees and diplomas but to develop the university spirit and advance learning."<sup>12</sup>

Dr. Radhakrishnan strongly believed that universities are the homes of culture; that prepare young men and women with the spirit of dedication and sacrifice. He expected that the universities should become the centres for making of good men and women."<sup>13</sup>

He believed that the university should give the universal outlook. It should preserve the basic values of our cultural heritage. Universities should prepare the world community by taming the savageness of man by overcoming man's wildness. They should create the love for humanity, a sense of moral values and faith. To explain, to quote some lines from his convocation speech -

"It is the main function of Universities to foster world loyalties, a sense of moral values and faith in the human spirit, ideals which are shared by the universities of the East and the West."<sup>14</sup>



From the above discussion, it can be concluded that, according to Dr. Radhakrishnan, the university education has a prime importance in human community. Hence, it should be given properly. The university spirit and the universal aspect must be preserved by universities. It should create the civilized and sane men who will avoid wars and maintain peace and brotherhood. The relation between teacher and students should be a sacred one. The teacher should exemplify the ideals of ancient 'guru'.

In the democratic country, according to him, the education and especially the university education should be given the top priority as it creates the future leadership of the country. To explain, to quote some lines from his convocation address at Delhi University -

"Our whole experiment in democracy will suffer if education is not given the top priority. The future leadership of the country will be imperilled if university education is allowed to deteriorate for lack of financial support."<sup>15</sup>

Hence Dr. Radhakrishnan was of the opinion that since university education is important for the making of

the men and for the building of the whole country, sufficient financial support must be allowed for the expansion and development of the university education.

V.3 DR. RADHAKRISHNAN'S THOUGHTS REGARDING POST-GRADUATE TEACHING AND RESEARCH :

According to Dr. Radhakrishnan, Post-graduate teaching should be properly organized by means of regular lectures, seminars and library work for the M.A. students (Arts students) and by the same course along with laboratory work for the M.Sc. students. It should include advanced training and the latest methods of research in the special subjects of studies to equip the student to be able to carry on independent investigations, but it should not include actual research. According to Dr. Radhakrishnan, M.A. or M.Sc. candidate should show a high degree of scholarship and achievement in the examination. These examinations should be conducted by papers and a viva-voce test, to be supplemented by a practical examination in Science subjects. Post-graduate classes should be small and characterized by the closest personal touch of the senior professors with the students. The university teachers should be very particular and punctual in their duties.

According to Dr. Radhakrishnan, the learned persons, the investigators and the inventors should be created by the universities as they are the pillars of a

progressive society. The learned revive the past, the inventors give birth to new things and values and the investigators employ these new elements in everyday need. Hence, according to Dr. Radhakrishnan, the universities are the creators or the chief agencies to produce such men. To explain, to quote some lines from the Report of University Education Commission (1948-49) -

"The universities are the chief agencies for producing these types of men who will fuse progressive activities into an effective instrument."<sup>16</sup>

According to Dr. Radhakrishnan, India needs the great researches because without them the agriculture, health and industries cannot be built up a new. Hence, he was of the view that research and investigation should be given the prime importance in university education. Research work is very important in relation with the university work. According to Dr. Radhakrishnan, university teachers should create the germs of new ideas and newer methods in relation to their research work. University teachers should not only impart existing knowledge but should be in a real sense, creators of new knowledge.<sup>17</sup>

According to Dr. Radhakrishnan, the training for the Ph.D. should be given at least for two years. The candidate should have the grasp of his subject with breadth and depth. The examination should include a thesis and a viva-voce. Admission to Ph.D. courses should be made with great care and should be on an all India basis.<sup>18</sup> Research fellowships should be given for students who have taken the Ph.D. degree and wish to pursue a career of scholarship and research. According to the University Education Commission (1948-49), 'Research Fellows' are those scholars who show research abilities more than average character after expiry of their term of scholarship, they should be retained without any routine teaching. They should be designated as Research Fellows. The D.Litt. and D.Sc. Degrees should be awarded on published work of outstanding quality and conspicuous originality.

The University Education Commission (1948-49) had made some of the important suggestions regarding Post-graduate Teaching and Research,<sup>19</sup> like -

- There should be uniformity in the regulation for M.A. and M.Sc. degrees. Admissions to these courses should be on an All-India basis at every university.

- The training for the Ph.D. should extend over a period of at least two years.
- Teaching universities should develop research training in many branches of knowledge and affiliating universities should develop Post-graduate and research departments.
- In each university, there should be a certain number of Research Fellowships.
- The ample resources available for research work in language and literature, philosophy, religion, history and in fine arts should be properly utilized by scholars.
- A large number of scientists should be trained as there is an acute shortage of scientific manpower.
- The Ministry of Education should create a large number of scholarships for really good students at the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees.
- The teaching staff should be strengthened by the creation of additional professorships, readerships and lectureships. In the selection of them the emphasis on quality should be given.
- Fundamental research should be the primary concern of the universities; but they should be allowed to take up the special applied problems too.

- The generous capital and maintenance grants should be made available to the departments of sciences at the universities.
- The University Education Commission (1948-49) demanded for five marine biological stations and the universities of Bombay, Andhra, Madras and Travancore should be given capital to conduct teaching and research in Marine Biology.
- Greater facilities should be provided for study and research in border line sciences, like Bio-chemistry, Bio-Physics, Geo-chemistry and Geo-physics, etc.
- To equip Indian universities to meet these new responsibilities, the University Education Commission (1948-49) felt that all universities be constituted as autonomous bodies responsive to enlightened public opinion.

#### V.4 CONCLUDING REMARKS :

From the above discussion, it can be said that Dr. Radhakrishnan wanted that universities should give the proper education to youths and make a discovery of new truths. To realize these functions, universities should be provided large grants by the Central as well as State Governments.

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