

## Chapter-18

# Educational and Civic Models Inspired by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

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### Abstract

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly referred to as Iron Man of India, was more than a political stalwart as he was also the father of post-independence unity in the Indian sub-continent. This leadership was on a much bigger scale than that relating to political integration and it is a belief about education being excelled with good moral values and citizens having a high level and moral sense of civic duty. Patel realized that the key to a good and strong nation is disciplined, informed and ethically motivated citizens. His ideals still have a ring in the education and civic life, and in the development of the policies and programs particularly with greater emphasis on integrity, national unity, and character building. His life can be taken as a beacon of light in coming up with systems that are a combination of moral and social responsibilities and academic work. Education to him was not just in learning but in the moulding of people who could make significant contributions towards further development of the country as well as in maintaining in its democracy spirit. It is in this chapter that the core ideologies espoused by Patel are problematized with a view to realizing their profound impact on the education philosophies and models of civic engagement of post-independence India. His contributions are impregnated in numerous institutional activities, including value - based curriculum, leadership training sessions, and national-integration programs. Such efforts were aimed at developing a populace who were devoted

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to the principles of unity in diversity, and self-reliance, as well as ethical governance. Analyzing the role of Patel in defining the educational and civic frameworks, one can find out how his legacy can help solve the modern issues. His undying philosophy on discipline, spirit of cooperation and all inclusive growth offers an everlasting guide to raising accountable individuals. The chapter shows how the vision of Patel remains relevant in the manner in which modern reforms of education, engagement in the civic action, and governance practices are to be directed, so that his ideas are inspirational to new generations of Indians still to be born.

**Keywords:** Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, National Integration, Value-Based Education, Civic Responsibility, Institutional Governance (NCC/NSS), NEP 2020 Alignment, Grassroots Leadership

### **Introduction**

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was nothing less than the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India. He contributed clarity and orderliness to the Indian political and social structure, the new republic. His statesmanship at the time of accession of hundreds of princely states in the Indian Union can stand as a landmark in contemporary state crafting which ensured territorial and constitutional integration that the nation required. That gain brought the geographic frame and a common civic horizon to India. No less lasting, though, is the determination of Patel to create a unified, disciplined, and morally directed society, and that has had the same effect on the educational perceptions and civilized sense of India as his politics. These ideals which he preached-- probity, patriotism, service of the people, and the rule of law-- did not belong in the archives but remain a spring of guidance in schools and universities, military and service academies, various civil institutions. These ideals continue to inspire

teaching in India across the curriculum, in leadership courses and citizen action supporting discipline coupled with compassion and unity backed by a sense of purpose. Because of this, the imprint by Patel lives on, teaches and is essential to the present-day India.

### **Objectives**

- Examine Patel's value-centered educational philosophy guiding national integration and character-building among youth.
- Analyze civic frameworks prioritizing discipline, law, and unity across diverse communities nationwide.
- Evaluate institutional models exemplifying Patel's ideals across NCC, NSS, and universities nationwide.
- Assess contemporary relevance for curricula, teacher training, and civic participation under NEP.
- Propose actionable policy recommendations enhancing inclusive governance and grassroots leadership development capacities.

### **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's Educational Philosophy is**

To Sardar Patel, he hoped to raise people who were not just intellectually attainable, but also people with moral fortitude and with some concern toward the civic life. His system of education was very realistic and visionary with an aim to produce citizens who could do all the three.

### **Placement of an Emphasis on the Integration of the Nation through Education**

Undoubtedly, Patel held the view that education was the greatest instrument to create a closer bond and unity within the country. It was with undying belief that he believed that educational institutions both at primary level and at higher level had a paramount role of ensuring that there were mitigations of the gap that did exist among communities, languages and regions. Instead, educators would actively inculcate a deep outlook towards patriotism, discipline and

selfless service in to the children. This focus was extremely needed in the wake of the partition and the long process of unionizing various states whereby a national identity had to be created. Thus, the educational curricula were adapted keeping in mind to promote the idea of highlighting the rich composite culture of India and also the common legacy that unites people of the country. (Prasad, 2015)

### **Education that is centered on values and character**

Education, as far as Sardar Patel was concerned, was however not enough, but worse still, it was potentially dangerous when it did not entail a sound moral core. In a consistent manner, he pointed out that an individual character formation should be right at the core of the real education. In several of his numerous speeches and addresses, Patel made it a point to point out that without instilling the basic values of honesty, courage, integrity, empathy and service to the society, education would be nearly losing its rich meaning and objective. In several ways he said this. He also advocated an education system that would bring up morally upright citizens who would understand what was right or wrong and would go out there and act with conviction in an attempt to improve the whole country. (Noorani, 2015)

### **Instruction in Rural and Practical Topics**

Patel was greatly inspired by the very notion of Mahatma Gandhi about rural upliftment and becoming self sufficient and thus was a strong proponent of the possibility of extending education to the majority of the population in the country, which was rural based. He knew that the development level of the villages of the nation was directly associated with the development level of the nation and the villages. Due to this, he strongly emphasized the importance of practical skills, vocational training, and self-sufficiency through education which were beyond the boundaries of the normal academic activities. The aim of this strategy was to

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ensure that people got what they needed in terms of contributing personally towards their local communities and the national economy to enable them to have sustainable growth at the grassroots levels. (Kapila, 2019)

### **Leadership and the Responsibility to the Community**

Sardar Patel believed very strongly in the concept of actively developing the leadership characteristics through education. He believed that younger generation would also succeed the nation as leaders and they had to be thoroughly trained to do this vital task without loss. His view point was that, pupils must be educated in a systematic way about social duties, the importance of preserving social harmony, and necessity of doing national service at an early age. This implied being sensitized to the ways of democracy, valuing the rule of law, as well as engaging in community building. This created the spirit of ownership and sense of responsibility towards the welfare of the nation. (Ganguly, 2019)

### **Civic Principles and Ideals Through the efforts of Sardar Patel**

Sardar Patel did not have civic values that were completely academic, but in fact lived, beliefs that informed policies and actions and thus making them the defining values of the new Indian state.

### **Unification and Oneness in the Face of Diversity**

Inarguably, the achievement of successful integration of 562 princely republics into the Indian Union forms the most hailed civic endeavor Sardar Patel had achieved. Strong and steady in its diplomatic skill, strategic aggressiveness, and uncompromising national unity, this behemoth of a project is portrayed by the archetype of civic leadership. It is one of those who provide civic leadership that is incomparable. His deeds were a kind of dramatic illustration of the idea of giving

a priority to national unity over its local regional, linguistic, or cultural to-may-toes. The dream shaped his idea of India,

powerful, united and strong but also diverse with all the individuals being respected in their uniqueness yet integrated into the framework of a unified nation. (Bhattacharya, 2009)

### **Discipline, Law, and Order**

Patel was never too keen in enforcing the point of view that a healthy civic society carried with it firm operation of the command of unquestioning obedience to the standards of the constitution and a rigid observance of the values of discipline. His leadership was characterized by a certain decisiveness, moral purpose and a diligence when getting to terms with the constitutional and legislative laws that existed at the time. He knew that the strengthening of the economy, maintenance of social balance and protection of personal freedoms was all conditional to the presence of a strong state that could ensure law and peace. This belief was reflected by the fact that he put so much emphasis in an strong administrative structure. (Bajpai, 2010)

### **Public Service and the Construction of the Nation**

There were important processes that Sardar Patel established which empowered him greatly to institutionalize ideals of civic duty, efficient and impartial governance by formulating such important processes like the conceptualization and introduction of modern civil services like the Indian Administrative Service, otherwise referred to as the IAS and the Indian Police Service otherwise referred to as the IPS. Horribly transformed, through his vision, he observed a bureaucracy that was devoted to the procedure of nation-building, non-corrupt, and devoted to people. These services were created to act as the steel frame of the country to ensure

there is uniformity and administration within such large and diverse area in India. (Menon, 2009)

### **Examples of Educational Models Patel's Ideals Inspired Me to Create**

Those values of Sardar Patel have echoed across the world of education, and inspired the creation of so many buildings and projects the planet over.

### **The Vallabh Vidyanagar campus of the Sardar Patel University**

One living testament to the Patel ideal of accessible education to all is Sardar Patel University, located in Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat and established in 1955. Particularly, it was created with the sole purpose of setting a substantial focus on educating the rural regions, developing communities, and propagating the Indian culture through higher education. The mission of the university is to provide education in the best possible form to its students of rural origin making it possible to contribute to the overall development of the regions it is located in. (Parekh, 2014)

### **Other Institutions, Including the Sardar Patel Vidyalaya Institute**

A very large number of institutions of education in India proudly bear the name of Sardar Patel; one of the best and the foremost of them is the Sardar Patel Vidyalaya in New Delhi. Such learning institutions are often characterized by their insistence in incorporating civic education, training in leadership and community service in its curriculum as fundamental elements. Following on its own beliefs held by Patel, they emphasize instilling its students with the ideals of self-control, honesty, and social responsibility. (Patel, 2016)

## **NCC and NSS Programs**

Although Sardar Patel did not active create National Cadet Corps(NCC) and National Service Scheme (NSS) directly, his immense reach is quite conspicuous in the very idea of marketing such a disciplined civic involvement and the regular attention given to the same. The National Service Scheme (NSS) and the National Cadet Corps (NCC), involving military training, discipline, and patriotism, are an ideal match to the aim of Patel regarding nation-building that is through sculpting disciplined and service-oriented young people. The participation in the programs is also actively promoted to the students so that they can contribute a significant input to their society and gain a strong sense of national identity. (Yagnik & Sheth, 2010)

## **Frameworks for Civic Participation With Patel's Legacy at the Center**

The tradition of Sardar Patel even today has helped in shaping the present methods of civic participation, thus reminding the Indians of the importance of unity and nationhood.

## **The Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, also known as the National Unity Day**

National Unity Day- commonly referred to as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, is one of the most popular days of national commemoration celebrated annually on October 31 st in memory of the birthday of Sardar Patel. I would like to use this platform as a stark reminder and a call to action in the name of promoting civic unity and a great sense of collective identity among Indian citizens, especially the students and the youth. National integration is being pursued throughout the country through several events, pledges and activities that are being reinforced by the message of national integration. Such happenings and actions represent the imperativeness of Patel to the construction of a unified India. (Sengupta, 2019)

## **The Civic Message of the Statue of Unity and Its Importance**

This majestic looking statue in Gujarat is the Statue of Unity, which towers over the ground and is an immense and overwhelming monument to the inarguable vision and untiring work of Sardar Patel in the path of uniting India. It is not only a tourist attraction but also an important cultural and educational location, which will be aimed to develop the feeling of national pride, civic senses, and a grand sense of understanding the unity in diversity of the country. It is a pilgrim site or destination to members who want to remember the seminal role that Patel played, and it is an embodiment of the resilience that is harnessed through group identity. (Sharma & Kumar, 2010)

## **Incorporating Civic Studies into the Content of the Curriculum**

Many state and central education boards in India have went to the extent of creating and enhancing modules within their curriculum that specifically promote unity, tolerance, ethics in the society, democratic and civil responsibilities. Patel had ideas of national integration and responsible citizenship, and these initiatives were motivated by that. All these efforts are aimed at educating the young citizens on their rights and responsibilities about which the ultimate objective is to raise a generation which is well-educated and more importantly participates fully in the democratic process and the nation-building process. (Chopra, 2000)

## **Importance in the Context of Modern Education and Life in the Community**

It is not a thing of bygone days, but also a thing of the socio-political landscape of today which is increasingly more and more fragmented, but the vision of Sardar Patel is more relevant and truer to itself today. Solutions to solve the challenges that are applicable to today are indeed clear and

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effective when it comes to the holistic paradigm that he posits that comprises of value-based education, robust civic engagement and disciplined leadership. (Sharma & Kumar, 2019) Some of these factors include the rise of extremism, the low level of interest in politics, the decline of moral standards in the social life, and the great field of social conflict. The principles as expressed by Patel provide everlasting currency to the creation of an ethically upright, responsible and cohesive society that has the ability to traverse the complex global and local obstacles with integrity and strength. (Balasubramanian & Venkatraman, 2020)

### **Recommendations for Both Methods of Practice and Policies**

In order to develop further the applicability to the ideas of Sardar Patel in the framework of the Indian organization, it is suggested that the following policy and practice proposals should be adopted:

The philosophy of civic education of Sardar Patel ought to be included in any structure of teacher training in a more broad and direct measure at whatever level of education. This will make it more possible to have educators effectively transmit such ideals to future generations. It is suggested that national integration camps should be arranged in schools and colleges more frequently and on a considerable scale, with chances of making these a part of the extracurricular curriculum as an entity. It is both important to promote and finance major studies about concepts of Patel regarding education in the institutions of higher education and to encourage academic research that explores the contemporary viability and impact of his ideas. Promote the widespread training in the local governance at the grassroots on the example of Patel administrative career and his focus on powerful and ethical local institutions. This is to be carried out in a bid to learn

local governance. This may include community activities and seminars whose focus is empowering the citizens.

### **Closing Remarks**

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel remains an icon of integrity, an unwavering unit that one can never break, selfless public servant and therefore, he is still represented by these virtues. The prospects of the educational and civic patterns that have been immensely influenced by his life and thoughts to cause a massive change in Indian society are enormous. These models can instill confidence in the country to deal with future challenges by growing its citizens to be responsible, aware, and service oriented. Modern educationists and planners have a great chance of redesigning and remodelling an education system that is not only nationally-grounded and culturally enriched, but also globally and futuristically oriented so as to bring about individuals with an input that benefit both the nation and the world. This unprecedented possibility can be achieved, through meaningful revisiting and re-assertions of his deep legacy.

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