



Role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Women Education with Reference to Charotar Region

Bhupendrakumar H Solanki

Department of History, CVM University,
Vallbhba Vidyanagar, Anand, Gujarat

Dr. Archana Bansod

Department of History, CVM
University, Vallbhba Vidyanagar,
Anand, Gujarat

Abstract:

Great men have instilled great ideals in the formation of the culture of any nation. The education system of the country is formed from the inspiration of great men. Great men preach to people, present their views. Behind his teachings, there is a vision of the spirit of human welfare as well as the spirit of an ideal human being, an ideal society, an ideal nation. Sardar Patel has often presented his views to the people in one or the other function on different occasions. It is natural that these views of his cover society, literature, politics, economics, trade, agriculture, commerce, self-government, importance of women, etc. and also the education system of an ideal country. In that view, his views play an important role in revealing the personality of Sardar Patel. Sardar has expressed his educational thoughts touching on the aspects which were considered important from the views given by different dignitaries in terms of education. Which comes from his speeches, letters and articles. His ideas about where and how education should be properly used are also mind-blowing. Opinions about medium of instruction are significant in education. What should be the character of teachers and educational institutions. Apart from this, Sardar Patel has given ideas on how to build the character of the student.

Keywords: Sardar Patel, women education, reformation.

Introduction:

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was son of Ladba, his mother and Zaverbhai, his father, who was possessed of awe, thinker of patriotic thoughts after contemplating them and implementer. He was the hero of the earth of Charotar. Even breeching in Karamsad, a small village of Kheda district (now in Anand district), he possessed soft but hard personality which can detect to foreigners due to his own grace. He was so bold that he told Mahatma Gandhi what he meant, even though he honored him well. After stabling of British reign in Indian starting of 19th century modern education was started. The chief pioneers were British and Khristi missionaries. The East India Company started teaching to local Indians who particularly working in army and government administration. Under The Chapter of Act 1813 A.D. British

rulers and Khristi missionaries were full of renaissance and logical thinking with industrial revolution and capitalism.

Significance:

What is education? Education is defined as learning or studying existing knowledge and cultural legacy. It is a fundamental human right, accessible to all genders or sexes. Across the world, education is viewed as a necessity yet millions of women remain illiterate because of poverty, social stigma, discrimination, lack of resources and much more. we will understand the importance of women's education and will see some of the famous quotes of world leaders on women's education.

Importance of Women's Education:
Explained in Simpler Terms

Women's education is critical to the country's entire development. It's similar to an effective medicine

that may know how to cure a patient and recover their health. A well-educated lady is capable of managing both her personal and professional lives. The physical and intellectual growth of the child is the moral goal of education. Education's true objective is to provide students with "full knowledge" or "greater information." A well-educated woman provides the skills, knowledge, and self-assurance necessary to be a better mom, worker, and citizen. A well-educated woman will also be more productive and well-paid at work. Indeed, the return on investment in education is often higher for women than for males.

Methodology:

The methodology of the paper is, historical, descriptive, analytical as well as qualitative.

Role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Women Education:

Modern institutional education began in India in the early 19th century when the British state became stable. Its first proponents were British rulers and Christian missionaries. The East India Company under the Charter of Act 1813 began to educate native Indians, especially those who worked in government administration and the military. British rulers and Christian missionaries were imbued with the Industrial Revolution and capitalism along with the renaissance and rationalist thinking. These factors led to social and economic change in Europe. As a result, new institutions and ideas were stimulated in which the values of liberty, equality and fraternity were the foundation. The seeds of the idea of gender equality

were planted. This was the foundation of modern education.

During the British rule, Reformers Social Activist workers in India like, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Behramji Malabari, Dhondo Keshav Karve, Swami Dayananda Saraswati, Mahadev Govind Ranade, Narmad, Dalpatram, Karsandas Mulji, Govardhanram Tripathi etc. made efforts for women education. Iswarchandra Vidyasagar started a girls' school, following this, other girls' schools were started in the big cities of India and indifference and opposition towards women's education began to decrease and women's education began to gain social acceptance.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, despite being involved in the freedom movement during the Gandhi era, directly and indirectly made an important contribution to the promotion of women's during the freedom movement in modern times, education. Vitthal Kanya Vidyalaya was established in Nadiad on 31st May 1935 in the name of Vitthal bhai Patel, the first Indian President of the Central Legislature, as part of the promotion of women's education. Children of all castes were getting education in this school. But Vitthal Kanya Vidyalaya had to function by taking loans. And for this, Sardar Patel in a letter written to Ravjibhai Manibhai Patel on 18-04-1947 said, "The condition of having to run Vitthal Kanya Vidyalaya by borrowing is considered unbearable, you should drop all other work and devote all your time to this work only and save the Vidyalaya from financial crisis. This work should be completed as soon as possible, taking the help of

other people and wherever they have to go for that."¹ His insistence on keeping the educational institution free from financial constraints was indicative of the advance arrangement that there would be no obstacle or hindrance in the matter of girls' education. He also accepted the responsibility of financial management for Gujarat Vidyapith. Thus, Sardar Patel has indirectly also contributed significantly to girl child education.¹

Sardar Patel wanted girls to learn lessons in self-defence and character along with education. Addressing the girls of Vitthal Kanya Vidyalaya, Sardar Patel said that even if few girls come to this Vidyalaya, they should be able to make an impact wherever they go and anyone can say that this is a woman of character.² Also Sardarshree taught that there are two things to learn. Girls studying in schools or colleges should develop the habit of hard work and not fun. The real beauty is in the movement of the limbs. We should not work like a labourer but with knowledge, we should get culture, good thoughts in us, the power to attract good things wherever there is good in the world, we should do as the bee extracts all the sweetness from the flower.³

Vitthal Kanya Vidyalaya Institution was inaugurated on 13-05-1935 by Mahatma Gandhiji. After that, through the efforts of Sardar Patel,

¹ Patel, Manibehan, Sardarshree Na Patro, Volume-2, Sardar Patel Smarak Bhavan, Ahmedabad, (1981), page-56.

² Bhatt, Siddharth Narahari, (2001), Sardar Ni Vicharshruti, Commissioner of Youth Service and Cultural Activities and Member Secretary Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel 125th Birth Anniversary Celebration Committee, Gujarat State, Gandhinagar, p-96.

³ Ibid., 283.

assistance of Rs. 50,000 was received, on that basis, the girl's hostel building was prepared. According to Sardar Patel's ideology, staying in a hostel develops qualities like discipline and self-reliance in girls. With the efforts of Sardar Patel, Seth Shri Mafatlal gave 4 lakhs 5 thousand rupees. A school building was built with it. Kanya Vidya Bhavan was inaugurated by Sardar Patel on 10-03-1942.

In the matter of girl education, Sardar Patel was ardent in removing the ignorance prevalent in the society about female education. Addressing the girls of Vitthal Kanya Vidyalaya, Sardar Patel said: "Until today, parents used to think that teaching girls makes them depraved. But that superstition is rapidly disappearing. The chariot of the life runs on two wheels, but we have been crippled for the last two hundred years. Because we have let one of our constituent parts useless. The girls are not getting the help they should get."⁴ Addressing the girls of Vitthal Kanya Vidyalaya, Sardar Patel said: "Though there are few girls in this Vidyalaya, she should be able to make an impact wherever she goes and anyone can say that this is a woman of character."⁵ Thus Sardar Patel explained the importance of character. From the very beginning he took interest in the creation of intelligent and cultured girls.

Sardar Patel was a strong advocate of cleanliness. And so they insisted that hygiene lessons should also be included in education. He addressed the school girls about education: "Keeping the whole school clean, keeping our bodies and clothes

⁴ Ibid., 284.

⁵ Ibid., 286

clean, wash your dishes and utensils, helping the little girls who cannot do their own work. True education lies in all of them.”⁶ Addressing the girls of the school regarding education, Sardar Patel said: First, girls learn to carry a pot and fill it with water, then they learn to carry a pot, then they learn to grind and crush, and they learn to do all the work at home. Today, our homes have become untidy, so its education has to be given in schools. When we leave the school after studying, anyone can recognize us that these are the girls of the school, there is sweetness in their language, there is modesty and discretion in their behaviour and thoughts, they have a high level of civility. We should get the impression that the girls are characterful that glorifies Hindu culture.⁷

After that, Sardar Patel told the girls that, "Girls studying in schools or colleges should get used to hard work and not fun. There is real beauty in the movement of hands and feet. If we work intelligently, not like a labourer, we will have virtues, good thoughts, the power to draw good things wherever there is in the world, the bee takes all the sweetness from the flower. That's what we should do."⁸

Sardar took his daughter Manibehan out of a convent school in Mumbai and sent her to study at Gujarat Vidyapith, which shows his insistence on national education.

Sardar Patel criticized the discriminations held for boys and girls and said: “We have to adapt to the new era. If boys are taught and girls are not

taught, then there is a conflict. And both become discontent.”⁹ With the inspiration of Sardar Patel, girl education was developed not only in urban areas but also in rural areas. Girls from forest areas like Dang and Sabarkantha were also getting education in Mardi Kanya Ashram.¹⁰ With the inspiration of Sardar Patel, a good development of girl education is seen in the rural areas of Gujarat. According to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, girl education is not only education but the overall development of women - it is desirable that women should be educated in terms of education, self-care, social and moral aspects. Tried to embody that spirit. The work he did for the promotion of women's education by being directly active in the freedom struggle itself is highly commendable. Also, thanks to his inspiration and blessings and the important and responsible contribution made by friends and relatives in the work for the promotion of women's education is highly appreciated.

Great men have instilled great ideals in the formation of the culture of any nation. The education system of the country is formed from the inspiration of great men. Great men preach to people. Expresses their own opinions. Their preaching mirrors the spirit of human welfare as well as the spirit of an ideal human being, an ideal society and an ideal nation.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel has often given his views in one or the other function on different occasions. His ideas about society, literature,

⁷ Ibid., 284

⁸ Ibid., 284.

⁹ Ibid., 284.

¹⁰ Shah, Gunwant, (2010), Sardar Etle Sardar, R.R. Seth's Company, Ahmedabad, Page-35

culture, economics, trade, agriculture, commerce, his ideas which benefit all have become glorious.

A good example of this is Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the last of his family. Because, at that time the Patidars clearly admit in the knowledge that Policewa says. Most of the time, it was a market for women to preserve the home kitchen and children for a long time. The truth itself made no big difference that most women did not waste time studying at that time. But the governor came from a volunteer family. Even though he himself was called Krishi Baba, he thought about education for his children. He understands the facility of education and because of this he has placed him for study in the best Queen Mary High School in Mumbai.

Apart from this, Patidar girls were married off at a very young age. Due to which women were not able to get education. Vallabhbhai Patel has provided an excellent example of this too. Due to which women were not able to get education.

Vallabhbhai Patel has provided an excellent example of this too. Vallabhbhai himself got married at a young age. But he never forced marriage for his children. He also wanted to take his children to England for higher studies but it was not possible for some reason. Sardar Vallabhbhai was constantly striving to ensure that his children get an excellent education. Because he inspired his daughter and son to study at matric and graduation level. Not only that, but in those days, he brought a bicycle to his daughter Manibehan to make it easier for her to study and to

save her time and pay more attention to her studies.

In those days, a girl riding a bicycle was no less than the ninth wonder of the world. Thus, he left no stone unturned in the all-round development of his daughter through education. He also used to increase his enthusiasm for studies.

From this, it can be seen how much importance of female education is for the Sardar. Apart from this, he has clearly presented his ideas about girl education at different times. It can be seen as follows.

Great men have instilled great ideals in the formation of the culture of any nation. The education system of the country is formed from the inspiration of great men. Great men preach to people. Expresses their own views. Their preaching mirrors the spirit of human welfare as well as the spirit of an ideal human being, an ideal society and an ideal nation.

Sardar Patel has often presented his views to the public in one or the other function on different occasions. These views of his have shown his beliefs about society, literature, politics, economics, trade, agriculture, commerce, self-government. In it His female glory is sung supremely.

The work of creating awareness among women in India and Gujarat was started by stating that it is necessary for a woman to gain confidence and get her rightful place. He also said that women's problems will be solved when India becomes independent. He denied this and said that the truth is that women have been

demoted. Only when she is given her rightful place and respect will we get true freedom. Just as the arrangement of a house is incomplete without a housewife, Swaraj is incomplete without women.

Inaugurating the girls' school building in Karamsad, Sardar Patel said, "If we give proper education to our girls, it will be easy to remove some evildoers from our society, which do not allow us to progress."¹¹ Thus Sardar Patel was a champion of female education. But he also knew why parents do not send their daughters for education. He said in a speech at Vitthal Kanya Vidyalaya, Nadiad on 7-4-1947, "Until today, parents believed that teaching makes girls lazy. But that belief is rapidly being eliminated."¹²

Sardar Patel conclusion was that by teaching, evils enter girls, that beliefs of parents are rapidly being eliminated. How accurate it was, is sensing today when more and more girls come every year to receive education from primary to higher education level.

As an advocate of female education, what kind of education should be given to women. Thoughts about that can be known from Sardar Patel's speech at Vitthal Kanya Vidyalaya, Nadiad. In his speech dated 7-4-1947, he said, "There are two things to be learned, girls studying in schools or colleges should get used to hard work and not entertainment. Let us not work like labourers but with knowledge. With it comes in us

refinement, good thoughts, power to attract good things wherever there is in the world. The bee extracts all the sweetness from the flower."¹³ Patel Maniben's Diary, 01-01-1942 to 08-08-1942.

Even if the bee of hell is placed on a flower, it will not spread fragrance, it will only make dirt. Bees take honey wherever they find and we should also do like that. Stating that the spirit of labour is necessary in women too, Sardar Patel has said that, "No child should be ashamed of doing any work. One has no shame, no hesitation in speaking the truth. We should not sit in the corner and talk to anyone. We have nothing to hide."¹⁴

"Poverty is not a stigma or a fault. We have to learn how even a poor man can be happy."¹⁵

Our country is poor. We have to live among the poor, even in that poverty we spread fragrance. In old times, girls learn to carry a pot and fill it with water, then they learn to carry a pot, today, our homes have become untidy, so its education has to be given in schools.¹⁶ Keeping the whole school good. Keeping our body and clothes clean. Wash our dishes, helping small children who are unable to do their own work, true education lies in all this. There should be no untouchability in schools. There should not be differences of caste. Everyone should live in a family spirit.

Thus, through the above speeches and opinions, Sardar Patel advocates that Women should get used

¹¹ Patel, Manibehan, (1981), Sardar Na Patro Vol-2, Sardar Patel Memorial Bhavan, Ahmedabad, p-62.

¹² Ibid., 26.

¹³ Patel Maniben. Maniben's Diary, 1-1-42 to 8-8-42.

¹⁴ Samahik Gujarat Times Nadiad

¹⁵ Maniben's Diary Purvokta

¹⁶ Dr. Patel Punambhai Purvokta, Page-27

to working intelligently and not for fun, to distinguish between better and worse, and acquire the power to absorb good elements, to be able to live a contented life even in poor economic conditions, to witness cleanliness and hygiene in her every work, to learn to perform the responsibility as a housewife efficiently, to develop excellent character, do not hesitate to do any work, express the truth without hesitation, stay away from criticism of others and be free from caste discrimination and advocated for education to develop a sense of belonging to one family towards one's fellows.

Conclusion

In brief, according to Sardar Patel a woman should be educated, through which she becomes a good character, tough and ideal housewife so that she can play the various important lessons in life very efficiently. Thus, Sardar Patel thinking on women has been formulated in accordance with the modern era and discerning the impact of the new times. Sardar Patel is neither narrow minded nor conservative in this matter.

Bibliography

1. Patel, Manibehan, Sardarshree Na Patro, Volume-2, Sardar Patel Smarak Bhavan, Ahmedabad, 1981.
2. Bhatt, Siddharth Narahari, Sardar Ni Vicharshrusti, Commissioner of Youth Service and Cultural Activities and Member Secretary Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel 125th Birth Anniversary Celebration Committee, Gujarat State, Gandhinagar, 2001.
3. Shah, Gunwant, Sardar Etle Sardar, R.R. Seth's Company, Ahmedabad, 2010.
4. Samahik Gujarat Times Nadiad.

5. Maniben's Diary Purvokta.
6. Mehta, Shirin, Women's consciousness in Gujarat, Audience History fund, Ahmedabad, 2009.
7. Gandhi, M.K., History of South African Satyagraha, Navjivan Prakashan Mandir, Ahmedabad, pg-286
8. Gandhiji, (context-lallubhai makanji), Women and problems of women's life, Navjivan Prakashan Mandir, Ahmedabad, 2007
9. Gandhi, Rajmohan, (translated by-Nagindas Sanghvi), Sardar Patel: A devoted life, Navjivan Prakashan Mandir, Ahmedabad, 2010,
10. Patel, Article by Maniben Vallabhbhai, We Father Daughter, Sardar Centenary Commemorative book-1, Gujarati division, Translated by- Jashvant Shekhdivada, Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidhyanagar, 1976