



**A STUDY ON CUMULATIVE APPROACH TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT IN THE LIGHT OF GANDHIAN TRADITION AND RELEVANCE  
AT PRESENT CONTEXT**

**Koushik Mondal**

*Asst. Teacher, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Narendrapur, kolkata-700103, West Bengal  
& Ph.D. Research Scholar, West Bengal University of Teachers' Training, Educational  
Planning and Administration, B.C Road, Kolkata-700019, West Bengal.*

**Abstract**

*The term 'development' generally refers to advancement or progress of the society. Now we are living in the era of knowledge explosion and globalization. Every country of the world is taking various developmental polices to achieve the extreme point of development. Nature of developmental polices depend on the state of socio-economic condition of a nation. Developmental polices in developing nation like India should be long term based and cumulative in nature. Acute and precise perception of holistic development through integrated approach is very important at present context. The Researcher mainly used secondary sources of data throughout the study. Researcher tries to explain education philosophy of Gandhi and how cumulative approach to socio-economic development is quite important and relevance even at present context.*

**Keywords:** *Basic education, Cumulative approach, Rural industry, Socio-economic development.*



*Scholarly Research Journal's* is licensed Based on a work at [www.srjis.com](http://www.srjis.com)

**Introduction:** India is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest country (According to area) and 2<sup>nd</sup> largest populous country (According to population census 2011) in the world. Among the total population 83.3 crores live in rural areas and 37.7crores live in urban areas. we can say- real India lies in rural India. There are various determinants of development. We should always remember that developmental polices practiced in developed countries (USA, UK, Canada etc.) are entirely different from developing countries (India, Bangladesh etc.). In India it is a matter of challenge to frame and regulate the developmental polices in considering the huge number of population. Before Gandhiji, education was only way to gather knowledge instead of life. Gandhiji tried to transform knowledge-based education to activity based (learning by doing) through basic education. Gandhiji realised that single or unidirectional approach is not suitable for development of India due to vast size and heterogeneous nature of the country.

**Definition of important terms:**

**1. Cumulative Approach:** The term ‘cumulative’ has been taken from statistics. The approach is integrated or additive in nature. By the term ‘cumulative approach’ researcher tries to inter-relate and accumulate among different parameter of development. Gandhian philosophy mainly emphasizes on total development, that’s why this approach is very significant in this study.

**2. Socio-Economic Development:** Economy, occupation and education reflect the socio-economy of a region. The Researcher tries to implement cumulative approach for the development of socio -economy of a region. In this paper the researcher mainly, emphasis on rural socio-economic development through education.

**Significance of the Problem:** Development is the foremost priority of a country. Inequality in development of different parts of a country brings inequality among the masses. A cumulative approach includes the different peoples in different activity of developmental process which is the way to bring the equality among the masses. Socio-economy reflects the quality and living status of the people of a nation. To elaborate the term ‘development’ Gandhiji used the term ‘totality’. In general term, ‘development’ refers to progress, more production, more consumption which is entirely different from the concept of development according to Gandhiji. Gandhiji more emphasis on self-development than material development. According to Gandhiji- if we want to holistic development of India we should focus on rural industry and khadi. Gandhiji realised the major cause of poverty and unemployment is due to modern machinery-based industry. Gandhiji wanted to make people self-sufficient through ‘swadeshi’ process. Spinning wheel would propagate skills among the masses. Now, the situation is quite same like at the time of Gandhi. Huge amount of population are theoretically fulfil but hardly develop their skills. In this present paper the researcher tries to show how cumulative approach and basic education policy is quite important and relevant even at present time.

**Objectives:** Objectives of the study are –

- 1.To find out Gandhi’s educational philosophy and concept of development.
- 2.To find out the role of cumulative approach in socio-economic development.

**Research Questions:** Following are the research questions of the study-

- 1.what was Gandhi’s educational philosophy and concept of development?
- 2.How does cumulative approach bring socio-economic development?

**Methodology of the study:** Study entirely descriptive and conceptual in nature. Mainly secondary data are used throughout the study. Data are collected from different books, journals, papers, internet etc.

**Discussion:**

**Gandhian Educational Philosophy and Nature of Development:** Gandhiji opposed to traditional way of education. According to him- “literacy is not the end of education nor even the beginning. It is one of the means whereby man and women can be educated. Literacy itself is no education.” He also says- “By education I mean an all-round drawing out of the best in the child and man-body, mind and spirit.” Education philosophy of Gandhi was very complex because he was not the follower or implementor of any one of the philosophy of idealism, naturalism, and pragmatism. He implemented these three philosophies in different point of view in his education philosophy. At the time of Gandhi, country was ruled by British. So, he framed education policy on the basis of socio-economic condition of the country. Huge mass of population was illiterate. So, spread of mass education was not the matter of easy task. Gandhiji started the task from grass root level. He started to spread such type of education which would provide not only knowledge but also practical use of this theoretical knowledge. The main aim of education is all round development. Gandhiji also emphasis on all round development means development in body, mind and soul. He said mother tongue should be the medium of instruction. The core component of curriculum was- craft, means skilled based education and said an alternative pedagogy. Learning should take place through everyday life experiences. Basic education and Nai-talim were the basic feature of education. Basic education is related with the production and based on learning by doing principle. So, he tried to practice education as way of life instead of collection of mere information.

Gandhiji engaged to holistic development of Indians like- social, political, economic, spiritual development. It is only possible through ideal education. Holistic development hardly possible unless we involve every people irrespective of their position. According to him- education is only the way through which the waves of development can propagate each corner of the country. Real progress is not mean economic progress. Gandhian philosophy focusses on self-development than material development. In the western countries development means material development. To bring all round development he mainly focused on rural industry, khadi, spinning wheels. That means he tried to involve rural people in the production process. So that profit can get the mass instead of few rich. He used the

term 'swadeshi'- that means all daily necessary products would produce with in the country. Gandhiji tried to involve people in economic activities and production and to be self-sufficient them. Spinning wheels production make people more powerful, independent, self-reliance and also help to develop national unity, spiritual discipline among the people of the country.

**Cumulative Approach to Socio-Economic Development:** Cumulative policy is very important for total development. At the time of Gandhi, the country was heterogeneous in the different point of view (economy, Cast, creed, classes etc.). Gandhiji was the supporter of total development means self-development and material development. That's why he took cumulative approach to development policy in the country. Gandhiji applied integrated approach in activity based basic education where Gandhiji focus in craft. To bring actual development two key factors are very important- 1. education (self- development) 2. skills (material development). Gandhiji started development from very grassroot level through his education policy.

In case of spatial distribution hierarchal and cumulative approach is mainly followed. India is vast and diverse nation. Heterogeneity is found in topography, climate, ethnicity, cast, creed, custom, through-out the nation. A single approach is hardly suitable for the development of a nation like India. North eastern part of the country is entirely occupied by mountainous region, great desert found in western part, fertile great plain found south of Himalaya, south part is occupied by plateau. So, to bring the holistic development throughout the nation each parameter of the development should consider and interconnect.

Gandhiji's cumulating components of development were-

**1.Propagation of education:** Gandhi knows that until we propagate mass education the real development would never come, so he engaged to spread mass education. With the help of education, people would concern about self-development.

**2.Human resource:** Gandhi wanted to transform human to human resource. Educated, cultural and skill-full human are regarded as a human resource. Human resource is the best resource of a country. Human resource is the indicator of the potentiality of a nation. As Gandhi realised the quality of human resource is very low so he had much more emphasised on human resource.

**3.Skill development:** Skills determine the quality and quantity of production. As Gandhiji wanted 'swadeshi' production that's why he wanted to develop the skills among the people

through his basic education. He emphasised on craft which develop skills among the pupils- then they would be skilful producer.

**4.Rural economy:** Gandhi's motto was holistic development and total development. Production is one of the important key of economy. At the time of Gandhi maximum people were illiterate. so, to bring economic development is not the matter of easy task. He started the work from very grass root level. He tried to involve maximum people through rural industry and khadi. The other purposes of Gandhi through rural industry and khadi was, India would be equipped with swadeshi products.so that country would be less dependent on British products.

Education is one of the key factors of social development and production is one of the important component of economic development. Inter-connection among the various occupational structure (primary, secondary, tertiary, quaternary, quinary) is very necessary to bring radial development. In initial stage, we should focus on rural economy or primary economy. If rural economy is solvent, then it is very easy to develop the other sectors of economy. Economic development leads to social development and vice-versa. Maximum people of the nation depend on agriculture. So, we can focus on food-processing industry. India is a populous country, so we should focus on cottage industry. If we ignore such type of potential sectors of industry and concentrate on heavy industry (iron-steel, engineering, cement industry) then it would be hardly possible to bring all-round development in the society as well as the country. Gandhiji noticed such types of gap and tried to establish bridge between the gap through basic education. Inequality is the basic hinderance for the development in any developing nation. we should understand the core concept of development and take integrated and cumulate approach for development of a nation.

**5.Establish a bridge between rich and poor:** Equality is very necessary to bring equilibrium among the masses. That's why our constitution also propagate equality and justice. At the time of Gandhi, an invisible gap prevailed in society between the rich and the poor. He tried to establish a bridge between the rich and the poor. In this context he trusted on the rich and said, they would uplift poor people to improve their condition.

**6.Unity:** Unity is very necessary to sustain the waves of development. Establishment of unity is one of the basic purposes of Gandhi. By the spread of education, involvement of people in production, abolish the gap between the rich and the poor- the motto was to establish the unity among the masses. If the unity establishes among the masses, then it would reflect the

nation's unity. Through rural industry, khadi, Gandhi wanted to begin unity from grass root level.

**Findings and Conclusion:** Development is very dynamic concept and changes its dimension every moment. To bring holistic development there should be an inter-connected relation among the occupational structure. Now we are living at the era of technological development. Modern machinery-based industries have grown very rapidly. Yet there is still applicability of Gandhian philosophy in socio-economic development. Following are major components of Gandhian philosophy which are quite relevant even at present situation-

1. Gandhiji tried to directly involve people in production or economic activities. So that the benefit would not reach to a limited rich person. At present it is very necessary because a huge amount of people are unemployed. It is utmost important to involve people in economic activities. At present various self-help groups, NGOs and various govt. policies are helping people to take part in economic activities that would help them to be independent. Different financial institutes (govt. and non-govt.) also provide credit with very low interest to people so that they can actively participate in production and contribute in GDP.

2. Gandhiji emphasised on skilled based (craft) education through principle of correlation. At present education system focuses on skill-based curriculum. Different vocational streams are now widely practised. World's maximum number of youth live in India. If we make our youth skilful then they would take an important role in production. Though Gandhiji was not a supporter of modern skilled based industrial development yet he did not oppose the utilisation of indigenous technology and skilled labour in the economic activity and production. It would help the nation to be self-sufficient and self-dependent.

3. Maximum people of India live in rural areas of the country. Mainly they are engaged in primary activities (agriculture, fishing, mining, hunting etc.). If we develop the rural industries, then it would help them to be self-independent, self-sufficient, self-reliant. Village (Mouza) is the lowest administrative unit of a country or region. If we try to start development from the lowest level of hierarchy it would gradually impact to the upper order of the hierarchy. That's the way Gandhiji started development through village industry. Through village industry village people are directly engaged in production and they would gradually become financially literate and financial inclusion would take place.

4. One of the major features of Gandhian philosophy is joint trusteeship between the rich and the poor that means the rich people help the poor for their development. This philosophy brings a bridge between rich and poor and abolishes the inequalities among the masses. It is very

important at present time due to globalization this gap increasingly increases day by day and it should immediately be reduced.

5. Gandhiji emphasised on total development. Development is not the isolated process. We should integrate various aspect of development. So that different areas are involved in economic and production process. It also helps in propagation of national unity. Self and material development both are necessary. Without self-development it is quite impossible to bring holistic development only through material development. That's why at present time in the education system in society the moral values are very self-explanatory. So, to propagate socio-economic development in the modern techno-based world, we should have emphasised on moral values which was also told by Gandhi in his own time.

6. Gandhi wanted free education from the government. Now, education is free and compulsory up to elementary level. Education is now fundamental rights to the child up to age 6 to 14 years old. So, the concept free education may have rooted from the time of Gandhi.

Though, now the situation is entirely different from the time of Gandhi. But the key components are remaining same. At the time of Gandhi, he wanted to nourish skills among the people to increase production. At present country also, emphasised on the science and engineering to nourish skills among the masses to increase production. If you want to continue trend of development, then you should have to depend on your own technology. That's why Gandhiji emphasis on indigenous technology. At present country also, emphasis on indigenous technology, so that country may be self-sufficient in future.

#### **References:**

*Bandyopadhyay, A. (2006), Sikha Dharsan and Sikha Nity, Kolkata, kundu & sons.*

*Roy, S. (2017), Theories & Philosophies of Education, Kolkata, Soma Publisher.*

*Veeravadra, A. (2016) Mahatma Gandhi views on philosophy of education. International journal of Academic Journal Vol.3, Issue 04, pp.93-99.*

#### **Web Links:**

*<http://infed.org/mobi/mahatma-gandhi-on-education>. Date on 02.02.2018. at 11.40 pm.*

*[http://www.mkgandhi.org/articles/g\\_edu.htm](http://www.mkgandhi.org/articles/g_edu.htm). Date on 01.03.2018 at 2.00 pm.*

*[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahatma\\_Gandhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahatma_Gandhi). Date on 01.03.2018 at 2.45 pm.*

*<http://www.preservearticles.com/201106238413/gandhi-on-education.html>. Date on 02.03.2018 at 9.00 pm.*

*<http://www.foradian.com/10-most-inspiring-views-of-gandhi-on-education/>. Date on 09.03.2018 at 1.00 pm.*

*<http://www.gandhifoundation.net/about%20gandhi1.htm>. Date on 18.03.2018 at 2.58 pm.*

*<https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/ZbAasECpOPxEkLxjilaNUM/Gandhi-on-education-relevant-but-still-ignored.html>. Date on 03.04.2018 at 11.55 pm.*

*[www.edusatignou.online](http://www.edusatignou.online) programme. Date 04.04.2018*