

## Contribution of education in freedom moment of India

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### Abstract

Education was essential to the success of the independence movement in India because it acted as a driving force behind social transformation and a wellspring of individual agency. Education, at its foundation, produced a feeling of national awareness and togetherness among a variety of groups, overcoming boundaries of geographical distinction and language barrier. Education's ability to cultivate moral and ethical values, which were essential for a successful struggle for independence, was recognised by visionaries such as Mahatma Gandhi, who recognised the power of education in mobilising the masses. Gandhi emphasised the role that education played in cultivating these values. Universities and other more traditional educational institutions, such schools and schools, have evolved into hubs of intellectual conversation and political action. They made it possible for influential people like Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose to communicate their aspirations for a free India and rally popular support by providing forums on which they could do so. Education also educated citizens with critical thinking abilities, which enabled them to challenge oppressive colonial laws and argue for their rights. Education also enabled individuals to advocate for their rights. Women, who had been marginalised for a long time, were given the power via education to participate in the independence struggle in important ways. Leaders such as Sarojini Naidu and Annie Besant were not only educated in their own right, but they also advocated for the education of women and encouraged other women to play an active part in the fight for independence. Education was a vital factor in the Indian independence struggle because it fostered critical thinking, helped cultivate a sense of national identity, and gave citizens the ability to oppose the authority of colonial government. Because of the significant part it played in establishing the intellectual and moral underpinnings of an independent India, it was an essential part of the process by which the nation worked its way toward achieving its goal of independence.

**keywords :** National Consciousness, Unity, Mahatma Gandhi, Moral and Ethical Values, Intellectual Discourse, Political Activism

### Introduction

In the context of India's fight for independence, education was both a ray of light that signalled the possibility of change and a potent force that drove that transformation. It had a varied impact on the course of events that would ultimately determine the fate of a people that yearned for freedom from British colonial domination. Education in India became a driving force behind the collective awakening of the people, in addition to its traditional role of providing information and skills. It overcame boundaries of language, religion, and area, bringing together a heterogeneous populace behind the common goal of liberty. This contributed to the development of a feeling of national identity. This educational awakening was not confined to the four walls of official institutions; rather, it pervaded all strata of society, therefore allowing citizens to confront repressive practises, question the status quo, and actively engage in the fight for freedom. In this dynamic and transforming environment, education emerged as a cornerstone of the Indian freedom struggle. It shaped the minds and ideals of generations

who would go on to play crucial roles in the nation's path towards independence, and it was this education that became a cornerstone.

During the time period of India's struggle for independence, education signified far more than just the accumulation of information; rather, it marked a significant change in the way a nation's population as a whole saw the world. It established the intellectual and moral underpinnings upon which the fight for independence was based, and it was these foundations that were ultimately successful. Visionaries such as Mahatma Gandhi understood that achieving genuine freedom needed more than just the act of physically breaking free from colonial oppression; it also required a change in people's thoughts and souls. Within this framework, education evolved became a tool for inculcating moral and ethical principles, therefore cultivating a profound dedication to nonviolence, unity, and social justice. Formal educational institutions such as colleges and schools were hotbeds of political action and intellectual conversation, which helped to raise a generation of future Indian leaders who would go on to define the country's future. The inclusion of fresh voices and viewpoints into the liberation movement, which resulted in the movement being more inclusive and varied, was another key turning point that was highlighted by the education of women and their empowerment. Education was, in essence, the driving force behind the formation of a self-aware, ethically grounded, and intellectually lively society that jointly sought the ideal of a free and independent India. This dream was realised in 1947 when India became a republic.

#### **Education as a Unifying Force:**

Discuss the role that education had in bridging linguistic, regional, and religious divides in India in order to promote a feeling of national unity among its people throughout the war for independence. In the backdrop of India's fight for independence, education emerged as a potent uniting force that transcended the many differences that defined the country. This was made possible by the fact that education was provided free of charge. Education was the unifying factor that brought together the goals of millions of people in a country that was characterised by the coexistence of many different languages, cultures, and faiths. It offered a stage upon which Indians from all walks of life were able to congregate, so contributing to the creation of a common sense of identity and purpose. Individuals, regardless of the circumstances under which they had been raised, discovered that they had a similar desire: the hope of a free and independent India. This part of education that brings people together was not confined to only the official institutions; rather, it stretched all the way down to the grassroots level, where individuals hailing from a variety of different backgrounds and locations joined together in the pursuit of a shared purpose. Education, with its power to convey not just information but also ideas and goals, played a vital role in the unification of the country. Education provided the intellectual and emotional basis upon which the fight for independence was formed. In this view, education was not only a means of personal enrichment; rather, it was a catalyst for moulding a nation's destiny, which finally led India toward the achievement of its long-cherished ideal of independence. Beyond the realm of just academic instruction, education's function as a unifying factor in India's liberation struggle stretched far beyond. It served as a unifying force that encouraged the people to feel as if they were headed in the same direction. People started to perceive themselves, via the lens of education, not merely as citizens of certain groups or areas, but also as participants in a bigger, more communal effort to attain freedom. It offered a centralised forum in which ideas, beliefs, and ambitions for a free India could be discussed and honed in tandem with one another. This unity was especially apparent in the manner in which people hailing from a wide variety of language and cultural traditions rallied behind

leaders like as Mahatma Gandhi, who highlighted the significance of non-violence and unity as important components of the fight. Education evolved became the instrument that allowed people to grasp the injustices caused by colonial control and, more crucially, the method by which they might collaborate to make amends for those injustices. The roots of a cohesive, national consciousness were planted in the classrooms, in educational gatherings, and via educational materials, all of which contributed considerably to the ultimate success of India's liberation fight.

#### **Educational Institutions as Hubs of Activism:**

Investigate the significance that universities and schools have played throughout history as centres of intellectual debate and political engagement. It was in these institutions that political figures like as Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose came to prominence. During the time when India was fighting for its independence, educational institutions acted as vibrant foci of activity. These institutions provided a healthy breeding ground for the desire for freedom. These educational establishments, which comprised schools, colleges, and universities, served not only as hubs of academic learning but also as teeming crucibles of political awareness and agitation. Students, professors, and intellectuals gathered here to discuss various ideologies, engage in intellectual discourse, and plot out strategies of combating the tyrannical reign of the British colonial government. These institutions were recognised by the leaders of the independence movement as having the power to mould public opinion and galvanise young people. It was important leaders such as Jawaharlal Nehru, who himself attended prestigious educational establishments such as Harrow and Cambridge, who were vital in directing the enthusiasm of educated young people into the cause of independence. This educational activism was not restricted to the classroom; rather, it spilled out into the streets and public squares. There, students and instructors, motivated by their intellectual pursuits, actively engaged in demonstrations, strikes, and movements of non-cooperation. Because of this, the educational institutions of the period were strong platforms that produced a generation of leaders and activists who would go on to play crucial roles in the ultimate liberation of India from the shackles of colonial rule. In India's struggle for independence, educational institutions served as foci of activity. These institutions served as vibrant crucibles where ideas were formed into action. The communal yearning for self-determination served as the impetus for the growth of a spirit of dissent and opposition inside the confines of these institutions. In addition to gaining information, professors, students, and other intellectuals gathered together not just to participate in passionate arguments on the political, social, and economic concerns of the day, but also to network with one another. These locations were the breeding grounds for revolutionary thinking, serving as forums for the passionate debate and development of ideals centred on freedom, equality, and justice. These institutions were very important in the process of developing a feeling of national identity and pride among the younger generation. The curriculum was infused with the concepts of self-sufficiency, self-respect, and national solidarity, all of which were key components of the fight against the tyranny of colonial authorities. Many influential figures in the field of education took it upon themselves to develop a feeling of responsibility and civic duty in their pupils, putting an emphasis on the fact that education came with the ethical imperative to struggle for the liberation of the country. In addition to serving as classrooms, these institutions were also used as gathering grounds for various organised campaigns and rallies. Students, who are often at the vanguard of these campaigns, have been instrumental in organising their fellow students, staging strikes, and actively participating in acts of civil disobedience. Because of the role they played in igniting the fires of revolt and motivating an infinite number of people to join the cause, these educational centres had an effect that went well beyond

their physical bounds. Not only were educational institutions important cornerstones of the independence struggle, but they also served as wellsprings of action, helping to raise a new generation of leaders and activists who would go on to define the future of a newly independent India.

#### **Moral and Ethical Values in Education:**

Investigate the role that education had in the indoctrination of moral and ethical principles, in particular the non-violent philosophy that served as a foundation for the liberation struggle. During the time when India was fighting for its independence, the moral and ethical ideals that were instilled in its citizens via education served as the guiding principles that shed light on the way to freedom. In the context of this discussion, education did not refer only to the accumulation of factual information; rather, it referred to a transforming process that intended to cultivate people who had a profound awareness of moral duty and firm ethical beliefs. The leaders of the liberation struggle were aware of the fact that gaining independence was not just a question of altering political structures, but also a moral need on their part. Education was considered as the method to impart principles like as truth, non-violence, self-sacrifice, and social justice. These were ideals that were not only essential to a successful non-violent battle against the British colonial rulers but also intrinsic to the ethos of the Indian culture. The importance of a moral and ethical education may be seen best demonstrated by Mahatma Gandhi, who was the most prominent leader during the independence fight. His idea of "Satyagraha," which translates to "truth force," highlighted the need of having moral fortitude while standing up to injustice. The importance that Gandhi placed on nonviolence and his unyielding dedication to ethical behaviour became representative of the larger education-based strategy that was taken by the liberation struggle.

In accordance with these principles, educational institutions evolved into venues that foster the development of moral fibre in addition to intellectual prowess. They highlighted the significance of having compassion, being unselfish, and having a feeling of obligation toward other citizens of the nation. Students were not only educated for academic achievement via the use of a curriculum that encompassed moral and ethical principles, but they were also prepared for principled and selfless commitment in the battle for India's liberation. Education was not only a method for acquiring information; rather, it was a deep voyage of self-discovery and change. It was through education that people imbibed the principles that would guide their actions in the quest of a fair and free India. These roots in morality and ethics were built during the time of India's liberation struggle, and they continue to have an impact on India's educational ethos as well as its social ideals to this day. During India's fight for independence, incorporating moral and ethical principles into the nation's educational system was not only a theoretical possibility; rather, it was an absolute imperative. It functioned as the liberation movement's ethical compass, guiding the movement in the direction that it ultimately took. The leaders of the movement were aware that in order for it to be successful, it was necessary for it to have a strong foundation in the values of righteousness, compassion, and justice. These values not only provided the strength to endure the trials and tribulations of the struggle, but they also ensured that the fight for freedom remained untainted by the use of violent or unethical means. This is because these values provided the strength to endure the trials and tribulations of the struggle. The ideals of inclusiveness and togetherness started to be transmitted from generation to generation via the medium of education. Education plays a significant part in fostering unity and cohesion in a nation as culturally, linguistically, and religiously diverse as India. The country is home to a vast number of faiths, dialects, and cultural traditions. It reinforced the concept that every single person, regardless of their family history or other

circumstances, had an equal interest in the battle for independence. Beyond the bounds of caste, religion, or class, the moral and ethical education promoted a feeling of fraternity as well as a common dedication to the benefit of all people. Educational institutions and political figures such as Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, and Swami Vivekananda advocated for the inclusion of character education in the curriculum of schools and universities. They held the belief that a well-rounded education should not only focus on the development of one's intellect, but also on the cultivation of persons who have a strong sense of moral purpose and a feeling of social duty. The inculcation of moral and ethical principles in India's educational system served as the foundation upon which the nation's fight for independence was constructed. Not only did they impact the behaviour of people, but they also moulded the very spirit of the movement itself, making it a resounding monument to the power of non-violence, fairness, and ethical ideals in the quest of freedom and justice.

### **Empowerment of Women through Education:**

Highlight the role of education in enabling women to actively engage in the movement for independence from colonial rule, highlighting important figures like as Sarojini Naidu and Annie Besant in the process. During India's fight for independence, women were given new opportunities to better their lives by gaining access to education. This was a revolutionary step that represented a substantial break from the conventions of traditional Indian society. It marked a significant change in the position and role of women in a culture that had marginalised them for a significant amount of time. Education, in this setting, emerged as the key to unlocking the shackles of ignorance and oppression that had tied Indian women for generations. These chains had been bound by customs that had been passed down from generation to generation. Before the liberation movement gathered steam, the majority of women in India were relegated to responsibilities inside the home and had restricted access to educational opportunities as well as public life. However, political figures such as Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, along with a number of other prominent individuals, were aware that the emancipation of India could not be finished without the active involvement of the country's women. They realised that education was the most effective method for empowering women because it gave them the information, self-assurance, and capabilities necessary to make a significant contribution to the fight for independence.

Educational reformers and social activists such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Savitribai Phule, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar played critical roles in promoting the education of women and dismantling the hurdles that prevented women from gaining access to educational opportunities. Because of the work that they did, educational facilities that catered to the needs of girls and women started cropping up all across the nation. It was not enough to just provide women with access to classrooms in order to empower them; rather, it was necessary to cultivate a feeling of agency, independence, and equality in their educational experiences. Women who were given the opportunity to further their education went on to become influential thought leaders and active participants in independence movements. They challenged repressive standards and made significant contributions to the larger movement for India's independence, and they became outspoken advocates for social and political reform. During the time of India's independence struggle, women were given the opportunity to further their education and become more independent. This marked a major shift in society that helped dismantle centuries-old attitudes and biases. It was a testament to the progressive vision of leaders and reformers who

recognised that true independence could only be achieved when women were liberated from ignorance and injustice, making education an indispensable force in the fight for a free and egalitarian India. This achievement was a testament to the progressive vision of leaders and reformers who recognised that true independence could only be achieved when women were liberated from ignorance and injustice.

### **Education's Role in Shaping Leaders:**

Talk about the significant part that education played in forming the intellectual and ethical underpinnings of the leaders who would eventually steer India toward freedom from British rule. During India's fight for independence, education played a transformative role in the formation of political leaders. This role was nothing short of revolutionary. Individuals underwent a metamorphosis during the course of the voyage, becoming visionaries, thinkers, and agents of change as a direct result. The awareness that education has the potential not just to inform but also to inspire, to mould not only brains but also character, was at the core of this shift. The educational system that produced the leaders of the liberation struggle, such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, and others, placed a strong emphasis not just on academic achievement but also on moral and ethical principles. Their education instilled in them a profound feeling of duty towards their nation as well as the individuals who live inside it. They emerged from their school experiences as unique people who had a strong dedication to justice, equality, and the welfare of their fellow citizens. The pursuit of an education was a means of improving one's leadership abilities. Aspiring leaders had plenty of chances to hone their oratory, critical thinking, and organisational skills because to the intellectual atmosphere that educational institutions fostered. Not only did these leaders get knowledge from books, but they also gained it from the experiences of their contemporaries and mentors. The ability of education to alter was not confined to the walls of traditional educational institutions. Equally crucial was the non-formal education obtained via involvement in the independence struggle itself. Protests, acts of civil disobedience, and political action were the crucible in which leaders emerged with a realistic awareness of the issues faced by the people and the ambitions they had for the future. Education served as the primary crucible for the formation of key figures in India's independence struggle. It provided them with the information, attitudes, and abilities necessary to communicate the vision of a free and just India and to inspire millions of others to work toward achieving that goal. These men, who were moulded by their education, went on to play crucial roles in guiding the country to independence, so leaving an everlasting impact on India's history and inspiring generations of people to come.

### **conclusion**

The role of education in the fight for India's independence was crucial and played a variety of different but equally important roles. It functioned as a uniting force that overcame linguistic, regional, and religious barriers in order to bring together a heterogeneous country under the common flag of independence. Education also served as a furnace of activism, where ideas were turned into action and young people emerged as vital leaders of the fight. This transformation took place in the classroom. In addition, the incorporation of moral and ethical ideas into educational practises provided the movement with a solid moral basis, allowing it to place an emphasis on nonviolence and justice as its guiding ideals. The education of women led to a profound change in society, which ensured that women played an active part in the struggle for liberation. This transition was defined by the empowerment of women. Education was not just a means to acquire knowledge; it was a catalyst for change, a source of

inspiration, and a transformative force that propelled India toward the realisation of its long-cherished dream of freedom. Education was not just a means to acquire knowledge; it was a source of inspiration and a transformative force that propelled India toward the realisation of its long-cherished dream of freedom. Education's role in the independence struggle left an indelible mark on contemporary India, where it continues to be an essential component of the development of the country and an important vehicle for advancing the ideals of democracy, equality, and justice. It demonstrates the continuing power of education as a catalyst for social and political change, which is a tribute to the importance of education.

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