



## A Comparative Study of M.K.Gandhi's and P.V.Athavale's Thoughts on Education for Women

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### A B S T R A C T

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*This research was carried out to understand the similarities and dissimilarities between Gandhi's and Athavale's thoughts on education for women. It was applied research and content analysis method was used. The data regarding Gandhi's and Athavale's thoughts of education for women were collected by reading the books. Collected data was properly studied and descriptively analyzed. The result was interesting. Both were agree to give the education to the women. They believed that co-education is possible at primary level but at higher level separate education is essential. There were no dissimilarities found in Gandhi's and Athavale's thoughts on education for women.*

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### Introduction

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and Pandurang Vaijanath Athavale both were educational thinkers. Their thinking was on the base of experiment. To understand the women education in context of 21<sup>st</sup> century teachers, thinkers and educationist should know the ideas of former educationist. Gandhi's and Athavale's thoughts on education for women are useful to understand women education. That is the reason why researcher decided to study the similarities and dissimilarities between Gandhi's and Athavale's thoughts on education for women.

### The main objective of study

To study the similarities and dissimilarities between Gandhi's and Athavale's thoughts on education for women.

### **The main question of the study**

What are the similarities and dissimilarities between Gandhi's and Athavale's thoughts on education for women?

### **Research Methodology**

The present study was one kind of applied research and content analysis method was used for it. This study was purely based on Gandhi's and Athavale's authentic written material so content analysis method was applied. The field of this study was educational philosophy because Gandhi's and Athavale's basic philosophy of women education was discussed here.

### **Population**

All the available literature related to the problem was included in population in the content analysis method. So all the books which were written by Gandhi and Athavale and the books in which their written thoughts took place were the population of this study.

### **Sample**

To find the similarities and dissimilarities between Gandhi's and Athavale's thoughts on education for women 85 books of Gandhi and 340 books of Pandurang Athavale were selected as a sample. Gandhi's books were published by Navjivan Publication, Ahmadabad and Athavale's books were published by Satvichar Darshan publication, Bombay. It was purposive sample. List of the sample was given below.

#### **Books of Gandhi**

1. Gandhijee No Akshardeh Vol. 1 to 81 (1<sup>st</sup> Edition)
2. Satyana Prayogo (1994)
3. Payani Kelavani (1969)
4. Khari Kelavani (1955)
5. Kelavani No Koyado (1956)

#### **Books of Athavale**

1. Eshah Pantha Etat Karma

2. Bilva Patra
3. Bhartiyo Nu Adarsh Jivan
4. Chaitanya
5. Devyaparadh Kshamapan Stotra
6. Dashavatar
7. Didhiti
8. Geetamrutam
9. Geetana Pancha Pran
10. Geeta Pathey
11. Gangalahari
12. Ishavashyam
13. Jivan Tirhta
14. Jivabhavana
15. Jivan Ma Shu Khute Chhe
16. Madhurashtakam
17. Murti Pooja
18. Nirghosh
19. Pandurangashtakam
20. Sanskruti Chintan
21. Sanskruti Poojan
22. Sanskrutik Vichardhara
23. Shri Krishna Jivan Darshan
24. Shri Krishnastakam
25. Shri Shuktam

26. Shradh Bhag-1
27. Shradh Bhag-2
28. Tulasidal
29. Valmiki Ramayan Darshan
30. Vedsar Shivastav
31. Vijigishu Jivan Vaad
32. Vyas Vichar
33. Udhyot
34. Yuvan
35. Dawn of Divinity
36. Eternal Ecstasy
37. Hope of Humanity
38. Light that leads
39. Padavidan Vyakhyan Temaj Anya Pravachano
40. Nivedanam
41. Tatvagyan Monthly Periodicals – 300 issue

### **Data Collection**

Researcher read all the sample books one by one and whenever the information regarding education for women found it was noted in the information sheet which was created by researcher. This way the data was collected.

### **Data Analysis**

Collected data was in descriptive form so statistical analysis was not possible. It was analyzed descriptively.

Gandhi's thoughts on education for women were like this:

1. "There is difference between man and woman. This difference is because of nature. That is why the basic difference is essential in their education also." ( Gandhijee No Akshardeh Vol.14,p.31)
2. "Most of the part of primary education must be equal. It could be not equal at higher level." ( Gandhijee No Akshardeh Vol.14,p.31)
3. "I believe that women should get proper education. But she should not imitate the men. Women can not contribute to the world by imitation." (Gandhijee No Akshardeh Vol.64, p.126-27)
4. "There should be no provision for earning money for women." ( Gandhijee No Akshardeh Vol.14,p.31)
5. "Women are not competitor of men. She has to do something else which can not be done by men." ( Gandhijee No Akshardeh Vol.64,p.127)

Athavale's Thought's on Education for women were like this:

1. "There must be different education for women which can help to develop womanly virtues among the women." (Sanskriti Vichardhara, p.31)
2. "A woman has to take care of family so she has to give such education which helps her for family development." (Sansrutik Vichardhara, p.31)
3. "Co-education is possible at primary level. It is not possible at higher level. Different education is essential at higher level." (Sansrutik Vichardhara, p.31)
4. "Life oriented education should be given to the women." (Sansrutik Vichardhara, p.32)

## **Results**

The similarities in Gandhi's and Athavale's thoughts on education for women are given here:

1. Both were agree to give the education to the women.
2. They believed that co-education is possible at primary level but at higher level separate education is essential.
3. They suggested different syllabus for men and women.

4. They didn't believe in bread oriented education which was given to the women.
5. Both educationists agreed to develop womanly values among the women.
6. They didn't believe in unhealthy comparison.

There were no dissimilarities found in Gandhi's and Athavale's thoughts on education for women.

## **Discussion**

Gandhi's and Athavale's thoughts on education for women are difficult to accept because it is against the current education system. Contemporary education system denies the thought of separate education for men and women as well as co-education. Not only Gandhi and Athavale but Vinoba Bhave, Aurovindo and Pramukh Swami also think in same direction. Bhatt (1973) studied Vinoba Bhave's Educational thinking, Babu (1978) studied Aurovindo's educational thinking, Gohil (2004) studied educational thoughts of Pandurang Athavale, Shastri (2009) studied educational thoughts of Pramukh Swami and Godbole (2010) studied the educational thoughts of Rangavdhoot. All these thinkers believed that separate higher education should be given to the women. So when we think about higher education for 21<sup>st</sup> century, one should not ignore their opinion. Before to give equal education to the women with same syllabus educationist must think on this issue and find proper solution.

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