



# Bo-Tree

WISDOM • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY • REFLECTIONS

## Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

*"The aim of education is not the acquisition of information, although important, or acquisition of technical skills, though essential in modern society, but the development of that bent of mind, that attitude of reason, that spirit of democracy which will make us responsible citizens."*

*-Dr. Radhakrishnan*

### INTRODUCTION:

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was born on September 5, 1888. Dr. Radhakrishnan is known as one of the greatest thinkers and philosophers of modern India. He led the Indian delegation to UNESCO during 1946-52 and served as the Indian Ambassador to the U.S.S.R. In 1952 he was elected the Vice-President of India. India's highest award, the Bharat Ratna, was conferred on him in 1954 in recognition of his meritorious service to mankind. In May 1962, he became the President of India.

### OVERVIEW:

#### As a teacher

In April 1909, when he was only 20 years old, Radhakrishnan was appointed to the Department of Philosophy at the Madras Presidency College. From then on, he started teaching, the profession on which he was to leave a lasting impression. He became very popular with his students not only because of his knowledge but also because of his simple, yet interesting way of teaching. So popular was Radhakrishnan that when he was leaving to join as a professor in Calcutta he was taken all the way from the Mysore University to the Railway Station in a flower decked carriage pulled by his students!

### Teacher's day and Dr. Radhakrishnan

*"Respect for teachers cannot be ordered but it should be earned."*

*-Dr. Radhakrishnan*

Dr. Radhakrishnan's birthday is celebrated every year as Teachers' Day. The celebration has an interesting story behind it. When he became the President of India in 1962, some of his admirers approached Dr. Radhakrishnan and requested him to allow them to celebrate September 5, as his "birthday". In reply Dr. Radhakrishnan said, "instead of celebrating my birthday separately, it would be my proud privilege if September 5 is observed as Teachers' Day". From then onwards, the day has been observed as Teachers' Day all over the country.



### As an educationist

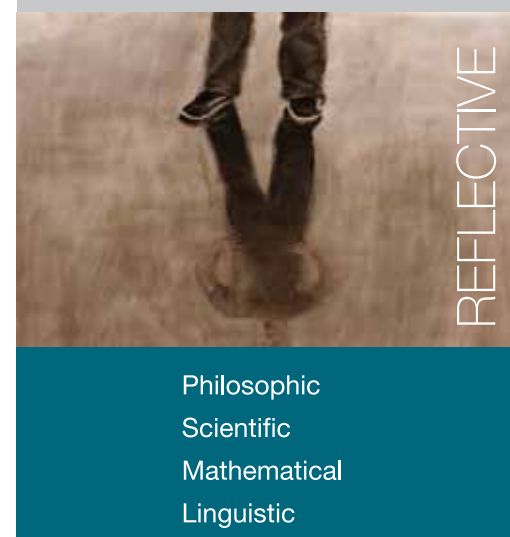
The educational thoughts of Dr. Radhakrishnan bear immense values in modern times. Being the Chairman of University Education Commission he had recommended many changes in the higher education after Independence for reconstruction of nation.

Dr. Radhakrishnan was of the opinion that only the right kind of education could solve many ills of the society and the country. He wanted to bring in a change in the educational system by improving the quality of education and building up a strong relationship between the teacher and the taught.

According to him, the process of education is life long. We learn from the teacher, by ourselves, from one another and from life or experiences. Children learn by doing, for them play is education. He propounded that students should try to penetrate to the roots of any subject they study because gnana (knowledge) without viveka (understanding of right and wrong) is nothing. Over and above providing skill and knowledge, education should provide students with a purpose. He understood the social context of education and the interconnectedness of curriculum. He strongly advocated education for world citizenship over and above education for national integration.

### Curriculum:

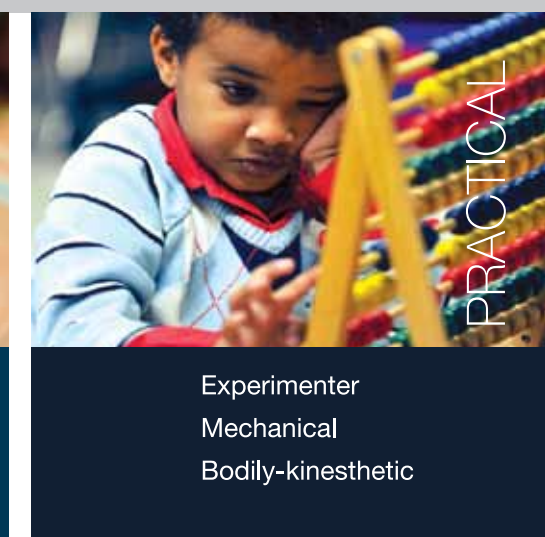
According to Dr. Radhakrishnan, a teacher should try to identify if the child is of a reflective, artistic or practical bent broadly classified into the below characteristics and potential:



Philosophic  
Scientific  
Mathematical  
Linguistic



Literature  
Music  
Painting / Sculpture



Experimenter  
Mechanical  
Bodily-kinesthetic

### Teachers and teaching methods:

According to Dr. S Radhakrishnan, a good teacher must know how to arouse interest and curiosity among the pupil. He/she must himself be a master in the field of study and be in touch with the latest developments in the subject. He rightly pointed out the short comings of lecture method for teaching, was against tutorial education and felt that use of textbooks is limiting to the process of learning. He pointed out the relevance of general education, professional education, creative education, education for women, liberal education, humanities study, solitary learning (meditation and reflection) and religious education(respect and understanding of all religions).

*Thus, Dr. Radhakrishnan aptly understood the Education that India needed at the brink of its Independence.*

### Book source:

- 'Educational Philosophy in Modern India' edited by Satinder Kumar. Excerpt available online at <http://books.google.co.in>