

National Seminar on Nai Talim

1. Title: Nai Talim – Challenges and Task Ahead

2. Date: 12th & 13th February, 2011 (Saturday and Sunday).

3. Venue:

The Seminar will be held at Majhihira National Basic Educational Institution, Majhihira, Purulia, West Bengal.

Majhihira, a modest village, is located 45 km away from the Purulia town. It is connected by an all season motorable road with Purulia, Tatanagar and Ranchi. The town of Purulia, Tatanagar and Ranchi have direct rail link with Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai. Ranchi is the nearest air link with direct flights to Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

The choice of the venue is dictated by the fact that the Majhihira National Basic Educational Institution is among the first Buniyadi Talim Schools established in 1940 following Wardha conference, Dr. Zakir Hussain Committee Report and adoption of Buniyadi Talim Resolution by the National Congress at Haripura Session under the Presidentship of Netaji Subhas Bose.

4. Main Objective

Since 1937, Nai Talim has been discussed often and reflections of this Gandhian vision have been observed in many countries throughout the world. This seminar is targeted to highlight the challenges and opportunities before the Nai Talim system of education. Many among those who believe in the Gandhian vision of Nai Talim attempted implementation of the same to the best of their abilities. Despite sincere effort and commitment, the implementations did reach sustainable adoption. Even the most ardent follower of Gandhiji will admit that Nai Talim, till date, remains a distant dream as a National Educational Policy. The implementation of Nai Talim in the true spirit and perspective needs to be discussed afresh especially in the context of wide reach of modern science and technology. The life and message of Gandhi is all about weakening of boundaries. The modern communication systems (internet, broadcast, newsprint, cable, mobile phone) presents a opportunity to reach Gandhians across boundaries to organize, debate, exchange and disseminate information towards promoting Nai Talim in twenty first century.

If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children. – “Young India” Gandhiji to Madame Montessori

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Such collaborations can lead to a mass movement like the Gandhiji's 'Quit India Movement', and the vision of Gandhiji will no longer will be a dream but a reality. Gandhiji has been accepted as an apostle of peace (Ahimsha) and total development (Sarvoday) throughout the world. But Nai Talim can provide a strong foundation to attain of Sarvoday and Ahimsha as it provides an education systems which encompasses every aspect of its life - social, economic, political and cultural.

The total change of the present socio-political paradigm, influenced by consumerism, needs a protracted global movement for emancipation of humanity. The path to a true peaceful and emancipated world, the vision of Gandhiji, can only be achieved by implementing Sarvoday through Nai Talim. Hence, the role of Nai Talim in social reconstruction is to be properly defined. Our founder, Shri Chitta Bhusan Dasgupta, stresses on the four pillars of Nai Talim- Students, Parents, Teachers and Administration. All these roles are to be defined broadly and the curriculums for the students are to be worked out in a way such that they become apt in the other three roles in the context of the present time. Modern day educationists and social reformers may accept this Gandhian thesis without much debate especially for natural science and some of the social sciences. The approach and orientation of all these subjects as well as a meaningful evaluation system needs to be looked into.

Above all think, speak and do the truth at any cost, with special emphasis on any. Gandhiji's Message To The Boys At YMCA, Newburgh, NY, USA

The present seminar propose to offer discussions into the various aspects of the implementation of these ideas into today's unabashedly urban policies vis-à-vis the Gandhian vision of a prosperous India through a development of 'Rural India'.

5. Theme

Revitalization of the Gandhian vision of Nai Talim

6. Sub-theme

- a) Historical perspective of Nai Talim
- b) Nai Talim : Science & Technology
- c) Nai Talim and Right to Education Bill ; Our stand
- d) Evaluation system of Nai Talim and Establishment of Nai Talim Board and University
- e) Training of teachers engaged in Nai Talim
- f) Political consciousness for promotion of Nai Talim

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7. Language

Bengali, Hindi and English will be the languages of the Seminar. Papers will be accepted in any of these three languages.

There never was a greater superstition than that a particular language can be incapable of expansion or expressing abstruse or scientific ideas. - Evil Wrought by the English Medium

8. Call for Papers

Contributions are invited from educators, research workers, intellectuals, social activists, NGOs and policy makers, covering one or more sub-themes/objective of the Seminar. Authors are requested to send two copies of abstract to the Executive Secretary by 20th January, 2011 and the full paper in either soft or hard copy (in A-4 size) is to reach us before registration.

9. Publication

Proceedings of the Seminar along with selected papers will be published in a volume. This publication will be given to authors and co-authors those who have registered their names and will also be available for sale to be priced later.

10. Registration

Registration of delegates should be made in advance in the annexed registration form by remitting the registration fee as indicated below:

i. Individual	Rs. 200
ii. Sponsored by Institution	Rs. 500
iii. Student	Rs. 100

11. Sponsors and Co-sponsors

Planning Commission, Government of India is the primary sponsor of the seminar. Co-sponsorship is earnestly solicited from academicians and organizations, who share our views of propagation of Nai Talim.



12. Payments

All payments should be made through a/c payee demand draft on **State Bank of India**, Manbazar Branch, A/C no. 11678428398 (IFS Code – SBIN 0002085) in favour of **Majhihira National Basic Educational Institution**. However registration fees may be accepted in cash during the time of registration.

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13. Accommodation and Food

A modest accommodation for all participants has been arranged in the Ashram campus at Majhihira on twin share basis or at dormitory (depending upon the availability). Depending on the arrival and departure timings of trains and buses at Purulia town, participants can be lodged in hotels in Purulia town during transit, only if prior information is sent to us regarding arrival and departure, at least one week in advance.

“..it is necessary to find out the simplest and cheapest foods that would enable the villagers to regain the lost health.” – On Food Reform in “Mind of Mahtma Gandhi”

Simple vegetarian meals will be served to participants during the stay at Majhihira.

14. Transport Arrangements

Transport facilities would be offered to all participants between Purulia and Majhihira only during arrival and departure.

Travelling expenses, AC-III Railway fare between home town and Purulia, will be reimbursed to all the participants whose participation will be confirmed by the Seminar Committee.

15. Experience/Expertise of the Institution in Conducting Seminar/Workshop

Since the initial phase of establishment of **Majhihira National Basic Educational Institution** i.e. during the decade of 1940, the Institution organized seminars and workshops attended by celebrated Gandhian educationists of the stature of Dr. A. W. Aryanayakam, Smt. Asha Devi, political personalities like Dr. Rajendra Prasad and many other scholars of different walks of life. During 1950s, MNBEI faced tremendous challenges to preserve the records of all such seminars. Many records were destroyed by organized vandalism and arson and posed a serious setback in the activities of MNBEI.

MNBEI successfully weathered many other impediments during the transition of Manbhum (Bihar) to Purulia (West Bengal). During the transition in an uncertain environment, the governmental assistances were slashed suddenly. After transition, West Bengal government, initially encouraged Buniyadi Education, but turned away from rendering assistances to Buniyadi Education and MNBEI, during the later part of 1960s. During this period of financial difficulties, MNBEI continued to organize meetings and seminars at Majhihira and at the district and state headquarters but the effectiveness of such seminars were less then desired.

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In the present phase, MNBEI has taken up different endeavors for emancipation of the rural socially excluded people namely the capacity building and income generating project of ***Samagra Shiksha Yojna, Inclusive Education programme for disabled, Mahila Swashaktikaran Yojna***. All these and many other similar activities of MNBEI are the outcomes of our first national seminar on **Gandhian Thoughts of Education** held on 1st and 2nd November, 2006 at Majhihra under the financial assistance from Planning Commission, Govt. of India. The said seminar was attended by national level scholars, researchers and eminent Gandhians. Throughout the discourses in the seminar and different post-facto discussions encouraged MNBEI to enjoin with different organizations who are engaged in total rural development (Sarvoday through Nai Talim), the Gandhian concept of education and this resulted in establishing a relation with **National Council of Rural Institute (NCRI)**, Govt. of India. At this point it is worth mentioning that MNBEI and its endeavors on Basic Education were aptly represented by the Executive Secretary in different seminars of NCRI. On 28th January, 2010 MNBEI organized a seminar on **Sarvoday through Nai Talim** at Majhihra under the aegis of **NCRI**. This state level seminar was attended by Dr. N. V. Peter, representing NCRI. Shri Narahari Mahato, M.P. of Purulia was the chief guest and many other state level eminent scholars, Gandhian and even non-Gandhian, together with representatives of different political parties. The outcome of the seminar might be summarized as:

- I. Total development of rural India in the era of consumerism and globalization could not be achieved without a successful implementation of Nai Talim.
- II. Successful implementation of Nai Talim largely depends on political goodwill and this can not be sui gen'aris, and
- III. The precondition for Sarvoday through Nai Talim is the emergence of a national consciousness of the National Anthem, the National Flag and the National Education Policy.

Subsequent to the propagation of the Gandhian vision of Nai Talim as envisaged in the above mentioned seminar, MNBEI arranged workshops for the teachers of the Ashram school and the Nai Talim workers in Kolkata in February, 2010 wherein curriculum, syllabi and the mode of teaching were discussed in detail for five days. Through this workshop we could generate the necessary motivation for the same.

Craft, art, health and education should all be integrated into one scheme. NAI TALIM is a beautiful blend of all the four and covers the whole education of the individual from the time of conception to the moment of death. Instead of regarding craft and industry as different from education, I will regard the former as the medium for the latter. - "The selected works of Gandhi", Vol. 6, The Voice of Truth

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In order to develop ways and means to counteract the rapid consumerism in the rural community causing social cleavage, MNBEI took recourse to the path of rural industrialization. With the help of S.R.I., Ranchi, MNBEI arranged four workshops, three at Ranchi and one at Majhihira. The outcome of these workshops was visualizing the new horizon of industrial endeavors in villages by the common people of the area, which is a substantial part of income generation for the hitherto deprived section.

MNBEI also focused on the problem of social exclusion of the visually impaired and low vision children. In order to address this issue, MNBEI organized seminars, workshops and village level meets where the problem of exclusion was dealt in details. As a result of these workshops, MNBEI has initiated the project of Inclusive Education. We should not forget that exclusion out of physical disability was primarily addressed by Gandhiji and his followers during the pre independence time.

MNBEI has taken advantage of the internet and other modern means of communication to disseminate information and collaborate with others in the world. MNBEI has setup a website (<http://www.mnbei.org/>) and planned to release much more interactive and collaborative social networking feature on the website soon. Moreover, due to a regular inflow of national and international scholars and researchers, we are to arrange meetings and workshops on the Buniyadi School, Charkha and other rural industries and issues of anthropological and political interest. While arranging and attending all such seminars, workshops, village meets, MNBEI is committed in propagating the Gandhian vision of total development.

Although **Majhihira** is a remote village, we feel that our experience in organizing such programmes have generated the necessary experience to hold such programmes successfully in so far as the management, the logistics and the overall atmosphere for the presentation of the papers and discussions are concerned, whether it is a state level or national level seminar or workshop as such.

Let us realise that the future is with those who would be truthful, pure and loving. For, as the old wise men have said, truth ever is, untruth never was. Love alone binds and truth and love accrue only to the truly humble. – “Letters to Americans” message to W.E.B DuBois on slavery.

Study what you see, Understand what you study, Say what you understand, Do what you say.

যাহ দেখিতে ঐহ পড়িতে, যাহ পড়িতে ঐহ বুঝিতে,
যাহ বুঝিতে ঐহ বলিতে, যাহ বলিতে ঐহ করিতে।

ইহাই সমগ্র শিক্ষার মর্মবাণী

– চিত্তভূষণ দাশগুপ্ত

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16. Programme Detail (Seminar)

Day 1 : 12 th February, 2011	
10.00 a.m.	Arrival of guests & participants
10.30 a.m.	Registration
10.30 a.m. – 11.45 a.m.	Session – I <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Inaugural song by the students of Ashram Vidyalaya II. Lighting of lamp by the Chief Guest III. Welcome address IV. Key note address V. Address of Chief Guest VI. Address by other Guests
11.45 a.m. – 12.00 noon	Tea Break
12.00 noon – 1.30 p.m.	Session – II Topic: Historical perspective of Nai Talim <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Initiation of the topic II. Presentation of papers by 2 experts III. Discussion & question-answer session
1.30 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.	Lunch
2.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Session – III Topic: Nai Talim - Science & Technology <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Initiation of the topic II. Lecture of 3 Expert Speakers III. Question & Answer session
4.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	Tea Break & Leisure
6.00 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.	Session – IV Topic: Nai Talim and Right to Education Bill – Our stand <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Initiation of the topic II. Group discussion (30 minutes) III. Presentation of Gr. Discussion's report in open session
7.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m.	Cultural Show by the students of Ashram
Day 2 : 13 th February, 2011	
9.30 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	Session – I Topic: Evaluation system of Nai Talim And Establishment of Nai Talim Board and University <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Presentation of papers by 3 Experts II. Open Question & Answer session
10.45 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.	Tea Break
11.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	Session – II Topic: Training of Teachers engaged in Nai Talim <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Presentation of papers by 3 Experts II. Practical experience sharing by the teachers of Majhihira

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	Ashram Vidyalaya III. Question & Answer session
1.00 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.	Lunch
2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Session – III Topic: Political consciousness for promotion of Nai Talim I. Initiation of the topic II. Lecture by the District heads of five political parties III. Question & Answer session
3.30 p.m. – 4.15 p.m.	Valedictory Session I. Summing up of the outcome of the Seminar by MNBEI II. Valedictory address by the founder of MNBEI, Shri Chitta Bhusan Dasgupta III. Vote of thanks by the President of MNBEI.

17. Correspondence

All the correspondence should be addressed to –

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Majhihira National Basic Educational Institution

REGISTRATION FORM

Seminar on: *Revitalization of the Gandhian Vision of Nai Talim*

Office use only

Registration No. _____

Local/outstation Receipt No. with date _____

Amount Received _____

To be filled in by the participant

Name _____

Occupation _____

Mailing Address _____

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REGISTRATION FORM

Do you intend to send Paper YES / NO

Title of the Paper _____

Author(s) _____

Accompanying person _____

Arrival details

a) Mode _____ (b) Date _____ (c) Time _____

Remittance sent

a) Delegation fee _____ (b) D.D. No. _____ Date _____

Date: _____

Signature : _____