

Education in Detail

“An Integral Education which could, with some variations, be adapted to all the nations of the world, must bring back the legitimate authority of the Spirit over a matter fully developed and utilised.”¹

The Mother

“The ascent of the human soul to the supreme Spirit is that soul’s highest aim and necessity, for that is the supreme reality; but there can be too the descent of the Spirit and its powers into the world and that would justify the existence of the material world also, give a meaning, a divine purpose to the creation and solve its riddle. East and West could be reconciled in the pursuit of the highest and largest ideal, Spirit embrace Matter and Matter find its own true reality and the hidden Reality in all things in the Spirit.”²

Sri Aurobindo

The sacred institution of Integral Education is missioned to bridge the gulf and sharp division between the two extreme ends of existence, the Matter and the Spirit which begins step by step obscurely and ignorantly, continues through diversity and exclusiveness and culminates in an immense educational movement through inalienable unity, constant luminous reconciliation and triumphant harmony. It recognises this mutable mechanical unintelligent bodily substance as the noble and fit material to inhabit the immutable and imperishable Spirit and the Soul; they are reconciled with each other either by objectively subjective method of critical analysis, organisation and observation applied to Life, Mind and Matter through knowledge by projection, confrontation and apprehension or by subjectively objective method of synthesis, truth discerning vision and illumination applied to Psychic, Spiritual and Supramental Self through Knowledge by identity, harmony and comprehension and arrives at the repose of the ultimate Oneness without denying the manifestation of the vivid multiplicity. Objectively Subjective method of Education proceeds separately from all multiple things to resultant unity and arrives at the knowledge of the Self and the Universe through the activation of the pure Reason, Intellect and Mind and Subjectively Objective method of Education proceeds from essential oneness to resultant multiplicity and arrives at the Knowledge of the Self and Universe through pacification of mind and the activation of Silence and Intuitive faculty of the triple Soul. Only by complete and catholic affirmation of both the method of Education known as Integral Education can all the multiform and apparently contradictory fact of existence be harmonised and Mind with its effort and the endeavour and the Soul with its spontaneity and the way of infinite enlargement will discover the true centre or the Central Truth, and Education will know its aim of objective and subjective self-fulfilment through apprehensive and comprehensive knowledge and integral human existence through infinite unity and serves the life with a

serene and settled joy and light with rhythmically coherent Divine *Shakti* to support the growth of a diversified individuality.

The first object of Integral Education is discovery of its true centre which should be neither achievements, nor fame, nor success, nor power, nor material opulence, nor morality, nor separative ego, nor attachment to mutable form. So the true centre of education must be always identified as the dynamic Soul, the Psychic being in the heart, the need of its growth and experience, its aspiration towards possession of pure power of light, love, joy, beauty and harmony and elimination of all imperfection. All that helps this Soul growth, Mental, Vital and Physical Education are identified as its accessory or a subsidiary helpful process; by the pressure of Soul force they are lifted out of their limitations and carried more swiftly and profoundly to their supreme light in knowledge, integral completeness and their detailed and yet undreamed potentialities. The second object of Integral Education is the discovery of its second centre or second Soul, which is not a high intellectual notion of truth and right, not idealism, not altruistic eagerness, not an ethical turn of mind, nor moral purity and austerity, not religiosity or an exalted emotional fervour, not even a compound of all these excellent things, not an emotional aspiration and fulfilment, not a regulation of conduct according to religious and ethical formula. It is the discovery of the Spiritual Self above the head, a vast static and silent Self, enters into contact with greater immutable Reality beyond and pervading the universe; it is also a turning, conversion and transformation of our whole being through a large dynamic descent of Light, Knowledge, Power, Bliss or other supernormal affirmative Energies into untransformed Nature. This Spiritual Self uncovers the passage to Cosmic Consciousness where the Matter is real to the Spirit and Spirit is real to the Matter and both find their true reconciliation. The third object of Integral Education is the discovery of its third centre or third Soul, the discovery of a Supramental Self, the limitless Consciousness in which the individual, the Cosmic and the Transcendent live eternally in each other; it has come for the adventure of the Soul lapsing into Inconscience and emerging out of its darkness and this adventure proceeds to capture all other sheaths without disturbing the poise which is kept firm from summit of Consciousness to its base; the experiencing Consciousness must preserve a calm balance, supreme harmony and a high Spiritual positivism. The fourth aim of Education concentrated around a centre of Infinity must be all-inclusive perfection directed to resolve all the problems of existence including the ultimate, lasting and permanent solutions and utilise the Psychic, Spiritual and Supramental Education towards transformation of human collectivity and a journey towards the discovery of the source of *Ananda* from which this whole creation is originated. And the last aim of integral Education is the perfect self-expression of the Spirit in the material life of our terrestrial existence by purifying, perfecting and transforming the nether dark worlds through Subconscious and Inconscient Education or restoration of all-perfection of

Sachchidananda Consciousness in the whole of humanity through activation of Subconscious and Inconscious Self.

The Main Formula of Integral Education:

The literal meaning of Integral Education is the Concentration on the total Consciousness of the Eternal. Its main formula and its successive bifurcations are derived from the main formula of integral Yoga. They are as follows:-

1) All Life is Education. Or 'All Time of All Life is a continuous uninterrupted Education' of which 'this Time of this whole life' is a very small fragment of integral Education. This whole external ordinary life is a very small part of vast inner living. This inner life is connected through a subtle link of union with our unnumbered past and future bodies and births, which is defined as All Life and the Timeless Spirit in us has thrown itself into All Life as the adventurer in Time to uncover self-knowledge and integral knowledge. Education is defined as the developmental urge discovered by the Mother-nature through many sided purposeful efforts in Ignorance and spontaneous leap action by *Shakti* in Knowledge to arrive at apprehensive Knowledge, *Prajnana* and comprehensive Knowledge, *Vijnana*. It begins with limited separative exclusive awareness and ends with integral awareness of integral knowledge. True education means to purify, expand and perfect the constitution of subtle physical, subtle vital and subtle mental which constitute our inner life which is again veiled by outward appearance of phenomenal Education of training the surface mind, vital and body.

2) All Education is a synthesis of all developmental methods discovered by the Mother-nature through age-long many-fold effort of Science, Arts, Religion, Ethics, Occultism, Spiritual thought and Spiritual experiences and lifts them out of their existing limitations. They draw all their new discoveries and inventions from the 'secret Supermind's huge store.'²⁰ The evolutionary endeavour of Nature has experimented on all lines and attempted every possible way in order to discover her primary education of enlarging the bound of surface knowledge, deeper and larger teachings of true inner education and the out bringing of the widest, the most powerful and the highest boundary of whole education which are combined as Integral Education.

3) All methods of Education are the synthesis of dispensable and indispensable self-discipline. Education cannot confine itself to dispensable method of an outwardly acquired and learned knowledge of the existence or exclusively preoccupied with its immeasurable outlook on the world and uncovering the secrets of the material worlds, but an unveiling and revelation of an inward and upward self-unfolding and would awake to an indispensable awareness of Self's vast in look, (1) a clear and complete knowledge of the multiple Selves and triple time, (2) a direct knowledge of others, surrounding world and extreme

complexity of untransformed Nature, (3) a direct knowledge of hidden and mysterious dark forces of Nature and (4) a direct knowledge of the occult mechanism of mind, life and matter, which are beyond our present immediate attainment.

4) The methods by which the largest time saving development in the shortest possible path can be pursued are identified as indispensable self-disciplines of Integral Education which are Psychic, Spiritual and Supramental Education, responsible for evolving the capacity in man to become the (1) master of himself or opening towards his multiple Selves, (2) master of the hierarchies of ascending and descending Consciousness, (3) master of the energies of Nature, (4) master of his instrumentation of mind, life and matter. These indispensable self-disciplines are subordinated by all other lines of developmental urge of Nature, identified as Psycho-physical discipline, which is further fragmented as Physical, Vital and Mental Education; its utmost mission is to educate the obscure consciousness emerged out of the dark prison of Matter, to overcome and control life and matter, to enlighten the dull inertia, blind instincts and vague perceptions till it shall be capable of opening towards higher Light. The last perfection of mental, vital and physical education can come by opening to something beyond which is key of his completeness. When the dispensable self-discipline of education learns consciously to become the subordinate of the indispensable self-discipline, then the essential and comprehensive truth of the Integral education is known and not at all ignored.

5) All the dispensable self-discipline or objectively subjective approach towards education is defined as development of higher or highest faculties through the formulation of lower mental methods of 'educate thyself' and its indispensability is felt till the higher methods or Soul's methods of 'know thyself' are evolved and it asks indispensable presence and help of physical guide. Mind has the capacity to enter large effort to gain small result and even if with this struggle to limit the action of our capacities and even then uses with a much less sure rapidity, the intelligent will is treated as our first conceptive potentiality, main force of effectuation and the highest available faculty at our immediate disposal and to fully utilise the mental faculty of exclusive concentration for purification is identified as the best beginning and sure promise of integral emergence of an underlying truth which is an uncovering of higher faculties other than mind, acquisition of scientifically minute knowledge and scrupulous accuracy through long culture of intellect.

6) The need of Integral Education is felt primarily to enlarge our knowledge on the World, Self and God and extend our Mental, Vital, Physical and Spiritual existence; secondarily reconcile, integrate, transform and perfect them; where the former is enforced on each student of Integral Education in order to make him fit

to enter the main stream of life and world and the latter is a special opportunity of voluntary choice among the privileged few.

7) As Integral Education is the utilitarian aspect of Integral Yoga, Integral Evolution, Mediatrix *Shakti* and Absolute *Shakti*; so, all developmental aspect of the former will draw its strength, innovation, inspiration, expansion and guidance from the latter. Education has its root in Yoga; Yoga has its root in Evolution of Nature; Evolution has its root in Consciousness; Consciousness has its root in *Shakti*; *Shakti* has its root in *Chit or Sachchidananda*. What *Sri Aurobindo* stated in the Principal *Shastra*, *The Synthesis of Yoga* for a *Sadhaka* in terms integral Yoga and strong declaration that ‘All Life is Yoga’ (through consecration), the same thing He restated with greater precision, force and enlargement in the complementary *Shastra*, *The Life Divine* for mere men or all humanity in terms Integral Evolution, hence we can discover it as the book of ‘The Synthesis of Evolution’ and He asks all humanity to train the mind towards the realisation of the *mantra* ‘All Life is Evolution’ (of Consciousness). The same objective He restated in the complementary *Shastra*, ‘*The Mother*’ book for Her all children in terms of Mediatrix *Shakti* where all the four intermediate Spiritual Powers and Personalities of the Mediatrix Mother are synthesised to which we can discover it as the book of ‘The Synthesis of (four) Overmental *Shakti*’ whose *mantra* is ‘All life is the possession of the Truth and the Divine *Shakti*’ (through increase of faith, *Sraddha*, and Truth Power that rejects, destroys and transforms falsehood). The same objective He restated again with greatest intensity and vividness in the complementary *Shastra*, *Savitri* for swiftest Spiritual evolution of Her dearest children or Integral Yogis in terms of absolute or virgin Mother Power, *Maya*, to which we can discover it as the book of ‘The Synthesis of four¹⁹ Supramental Mother Power, *Maya*’ and Her *mantra* is ‘All life is possession of Virginity and Supramental *Maya*’ (through intensification of purifying and all-embracing Divine Love that rejects, destroys and transforms the limitation of human love). So now the method of Education is to be restated in the form of profound developmental urge of learning for all students from above four books in terms of Integral Education along with the *mantra* ‘All Life is Education’³ (through practice of concentration, *samyama*) and the evolution of the new written truth can be restated as ‘*The Synthesis of Education*.’ Now it is time to intensify education through four powers of the Mother-nature that of the integral Yoga, integral Evolution, integral Truth and integral Virginity, not limiting oneself to physical virginity alone and weld them strongly to the One, the Divine, *the Sachchidananda* who stands above as the Lord of Yoga, the Lord of Evolution, the Lord of Truth Power, *Shakti* and the Lord of absolute Virgin Power, *Chit Shakti* and also the Lord of Integral Education. A student of Integral Education will be at once a seeker of Integral Yoga, Integral Evolution, Integral Truth and Comprehensive Virginity extending over multiple subtle bodies in addition to his surface training of mind, vital and body. He will be aware of a Supramental world whose advent will be foreseen

when earth life will be the playfield of more and more ‘superior human and invisible beings’¹⁷ hinted in *Savitri* as ‘Omnipotent’s flaming pioneers,’⁵ ‘mighty wardens,’²¹ ‘The sun-eyed children,’⁵ ‘radiant children of Eternity,’⁴ ‘princes of the Sun,’¹² ‘garbless deity,’⁶ ‘golden child,’⁷ ‘King-children,’¹⁵ ‘nude god-children,’¹⁸ ‘The heroic leaders of coming time,’¹⁵ ‘The Infants of the Monarchy of the worlds,’¹⁵ ‘Nameless the austere ascetics without home’¹⁵ ‘sunlight moulded like a golden maid,’⁸ ‘high-bred maiden,’⁹ ‘golden bride,’¹⁰ ‘the eternal bride,’¹¹ ‘golden virgin,’¹⁶ ‘virgin bridals of the dawn,’¹² and the ‘citizens of that mother state.’¹³

8) The superiority of one educational institution from another (or one individual from other) can be discerned by the degree of truth and knowledge they have worked out from world falsehood and world Ignorance and the best institution (or the most conscious individual) always suffers least corruption in its mind and heart and that is possible when the Mother Nature’s four Evolutionary energy that of Yogic Power, Consciousness Power, Truth Power and Virgin Power are perfectly reconciled. **An uncorrupted individual and institution always reject falsehood from within by silencing and purifying the three *Gunas* and reject falsehood from without which diminish and lower the frontal distorted consciousness or wage a constant outer war against *adharma*.**

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References:

- 1: The Mother’s Centenary Works/13/361,
- 2: CWSA-36/Autobiographical Notes-p-553,
- 3: “Auroville will be the place of an unending education, of constant progress, and a youth that never ages.” The Mother’s Agenda-07.02.1968,
- 4: “The **radiant children of Eternity** dwell” *Savitri*-282,
- 5: *Savitri*-343,
- 6: *Savitri*-430,
- 7: *Savitri*-76,
- 8: *Savitri*-400,
- 9: *Savitri*-496,
- 10: *Savitri*-718,
- 11: *Savitri*-666,
- 12: *Savitri*-401,
- 13: *Savitri*-262,
- 14: “A seeker of truth, *jijnasu*, after many births of preparation, purification of impurity and sin, endeavouring with sincerity becomes a *Yogi* and attains the highest goal... After many births of preparation, a *Jnana Yogi* with strong foundation of *Karma* and *Bhakti Yoga*, attains My *Purushottama* or Supramental state of Consciousness. He also realises the intermediate stair that all this existence

is Divine, the Cosmic Consciousness, *Vasudeva sarvamiti*. Such great Soul or integral Yogi is very rare.” The Gita-6.45/7.19,

15: CWSA/34/Savitri-382, 266,

16: CWSA/34/Savitri-384,

17: The Gita defines developed Souls in different terminologies of *Dvija*, *Dvijottam* (the best among the twice born), *Yantra*, *Vibhuti*, *Avatara*, *Panditah*, *Sthita Prajna*, *Buddha*, *Maharsi*, *Debarisi*, *Siddhanam*, *Suhradam*, *Sadhunam*, *Sraddhavan*, *Jnanaban*, *Jnani*, *Jnaninah*, *nitya Sannyasi*, *Tyagi*, *Brahmachari*, *Munirbrahma*, *Muneh*, *Mumuksubhih*, *Yoginah*, *Tattva-darsinah*, *Tattvavit*, *Jitendriya*, *Visuddhatma*, *Dhira*, *Putah*, *Sthirabuddhi*, *Yatinam*, *Suhrud*, *Jitatmana*, *Triptatma*, *Prasantatma*, *Vijitatma*, *Asammudhah*, *Samyami*, *Bhakta rajarsayah*, *Brahmavid*, *Mahatma*, *Kshina-kalmasah*, *Krishna-vit*, *Dharmatma*, *Brahmavadinam*, *Mokshakankhivih*, *Atiba-priya Bhakta*. Among the masculine personalities it has identified *Janaka* (A famous King and Sage and the Father of *Mother Sita*), *Vivasvan* (the Sun-God), *Ikshavaku* (head of the Solar line and the first king of solar race), *Vrighu* (son of *Varuna*, regarded as one of the *Rishis* in *the Veda*), *Ushana* (a *Vibhuti* among seer-poets), *Kapila Muni* (traditional founder and chief exponent of *Sankhya* system of philosophy), *Narada* (the heavenly sage who stands for Divine Love and Knowledge), *Manu* (mythological Father of mankind), *Asita* (name of *the Vedic Seer*), *Devala* (the name of *the Vedic Seer*), *Vyasa* (compiler of *the Vedas* and the author of *the Mahabharata*), *Sanaka* (son of the creator God, *Brahma*), *Prahlada* (son of an *Asura King Hiranyakasipu* and true devotee of Lord *Vishnu*), *Arjuna* (one of the five *Pandavas*, very dear to the external manifestation of Godhead, the best among the twice born Souls, Instruments and Emanations), *Sanjaya*, (*Dhritarashtra's* minister who was endowed with the power of celestial vision) and *Lord Sri Krishna* (son of *Devaki*, Godhead and the Lord of *Ananda*, one of the ten incarnations of *Lord Vishnu*) as developed Souls. Among the feminine personalities it has identified *Kirti*, *Sree*, *Vak or Vani*, *Smriti*, *Medha*, *Dhriti* and *Kshama* as developed Souls. They are unattached to outward touches for their happiness and are ever satisfied with themselves through inner contact with the Soul, *nitya-trupto nirasrayah*. Similarly they can use but do not depend on external aid for their Spiritual fulfilment. The traditional Yoga of *the Gita* proposes that a developed Soul is free from seven deformations, *vicaras*, that of liking and disliking, *iccha*, *dvesah*, pleasure and pain, *sukham*, *dukham*, subjection to lower consciousness, *chetana*, place together truth and falsehood, *sanghatah*, *tamasic* and *rajasic* persistence, *dhriti*. Integral Yoga proposes that a developed Soul or adult Soul is free from seven deformations, *vicaras* that of (1) hatred, (2) disliking, (3) scorn, (4) repulsion, (5) clinging, (6) attachment and (7) preference.

18: Savitri-126,

19: Four Supramental Mother Powers are Truth supreme, Power supreme, Supreme Delight and Will supreme.,

20: Savitri-187,

21: “The **mighty wardens** of the ascending stair” Savitri-265,

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