

## Shri Dolarrai Mankad's Contribution to the Field of Education and Literature

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### **Introduction:**

Many scholars have made unprecedented contributions to the development of Gujarati language, education and literature. Shri Dolarrai Rangildas Mankad, the first Vice Chancellor of Saurashtra University, has made a very significant contribution to our Gujarati literature in the field of literature and education. Shri Dolarrai Mankad holds a special place as a passionate scholar, researcher, poet, literary critic and educationist. The way he tried to bring about change in society is commendable. He has presented education not just as a curriculum, but as a tool for social and human welfare. Even in literature, his work has shed strong light on various aspects of society, human values, and morality. The aim of Shri Mankad's work was to give the society a better and more aware citizen, for which the best medium is education and literature. His work covers various aspects including pedagogy, literary criticism and research. This research paper discusses his contribution to the field of Gujarati education and literature.

### **Biography:**

Name: Shri Dolarrai Rangildas Mankad

Born: January 23, 1902 at Jangi-Vagad in Kutch district

Hometown: Jodiya, Dist. Jamnagar

Education: Primary education: Jodiya and Rajkot.

Matriculated in 1920.

B.A. in 1924 with Sanskrit and Gujarati subjects from D.J. Sindh College, Karachi

M.A. in 1927 with Gujarati subjects

Departed: August 29, 1970.

### **Contribution to the field of education:**

Shri Dolarrai Mankad was a passionate educationist. He has made special contributions in the field of education.

#### **1. Academic Career**

- 1927 to 1947: D.J. Sindh College, Karachi – Worked as a Professor of Sanskrit and Gujarati Language.
- 1947 to 1953: Vitthalbhai Patel College, Vallabh vidyanagar – Professor and Principal of the Gujarati Department.

- 1952: President of the Literature Department in the eighteenth session of the Gujarati Sahitya Parishad held in Navsari.
- 1953 to 1964: Darbar Gopaldas Mahavidyalaya, Aliabad – Led the educational activities as Principal.
- 1966 to 1970: Appointed as the first Vice Chancellor of Saurashtra University, where he strengthened the infrastructure of higher education.

## **2. Establishment and Management of Institutions:**

Shri Dolarrai Mankad's contribution in the field of education was not limited to teaching only, but he was also a pioneer in the establishment and management of educational institutions and reforms in the education system.

- Head of the Literature Department in the eighteenth session of Gujarati Sahitya Parishad held in Navsari. (1952)
- Inspiring role in research work as Director at Haribhai Research Temple, Aliabada. (1960-1966)
- Gujarati Adhyapak Sangh – Played an important role for the professional development of teachers.
- Gangajala Vidyapith: He was the founder of Gangajla Vidyapith.
- As the first Vice Chancellor of Saurashtra University, he gave importance to local language and culture in academic courses. (1966 to 1970)

## **3. Educational Reforms:**

Shri Dolarrai Mankad also introduced innovative ideas and educational reforms to make the education system more effective. He

- Started giving importance to Indian tradition in higher education.
- Inaugurated the importance of Gujarati language and literature in the educational curriculum.
- Created a research-based study plan for students.

## **Contributions in the field of literature:**

Shri Dolarrai Mankad was a well-known critic of literature. He has enriched Gujarati literature by writing articles on various aspects of Gujarati literature.

### **1. Literary genres and works:**

#### **\*Literary criticism and research:**

- Outline of the development of Sanskrit drama literature' (1943).- A study of Sanskrit drama criticism from a historical perspective.
- Wrote important literary texts like 'Kavyavivechan', 'Sahitya Mimamsa na be sharka', 'Naivedya'.
- 'Karna' (1939) wrote a children's story book.

- Also wrote research books like 'Outline of the Development of Sanskrit Drama'.
- "Vichardharana Vidroh": In the work, he discussed the lack of knowledge in society and its impact.
- "Shikshan and Sanskar": In the book, he discussed the complete philosophy of education, in which basic teaching methods and their social importance were presented.
- "Shikshan and Samaj": In the text, he showed how education can bring about change in society and how important it is to bring about appropriate changes in the field of education in this regard.
- 'Eksutri Shikshan Yojana' (1950), 'Vikramorvashyam' (1958) etc. are his educational works; 'Vashishtha's View in the Rigveda' (1964), 'The Middle Path in Hinduism' (1964), 'The Speech of the Founders of Religion' (1968), 'The Wisdom of the Gita' (1969), the posthumous publication 'Raspanchadhyayi' (1973) etc. are his books on religion and philosophy; while 'Shakradayastotra' (1929), 'Ahunavar' (1935), 'Education Plan in Ancient India' (1950) etc. are his translated works.

**\*Poetical Works:**

- 'Bhagwanni Leela' (1948) is a long narrative poem composed in anushtup.
- "Jivan and Kavita" which expresses various aspects of life and its struggles.
- 'Karna' (1939) is his book of children's stories.

**2. Literary Activities and Honors:**

Shri Dolarrai Mankad has received the following honors for his invaluable contribution in the field of literature and education.

- 1946 – Received Ranjitram Suvarna Chandrak.
- 1952 – Served as the President of the Literature Department in the 18th session of Gujarati Sahitya Parishad (Navsari).
- 1964 – Honored by Sahitya Akademi Award, Delhi.

**3. Literary Style and Influence:**

- An attempt to give a systematic direction to the history and criticism of Gujarati literature.
- An attempt to provide guidance to writers and teachers through literary activities.
- An attempt to combine literary and educational research together.

**Conclusion:**

Shri Dolarrai Mankad was a passionate educationist, critic, literary figure, poet and researcher. As an educationist, he emphasized on the all-round development of the student through education. As a literary critic, he made an important contribution to the development of Gujarati literature. As a researcher, he made an important contribution to the development of Indian culture and literature. He did research and teaching work throughout his life. Thus, he was a leading figure in the field of education and literature. His life struggle and inspiring work will always guide the future generation.

**References:**

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