

CHAPTER : 3



LIFE AND WORK
OF
GIJUBHAI



Do or Die :

At every moment.

I want to have a glimpse of the great soul
within the littlebody of the child.

This is my inspiration.

I want to live to re-establish
children's right and

I want to die doing it.

The Child':GijuBhai

In the present study researcher is trying to look all possible aspects of GijuBhai's life and work. The first chapter dealt with aims presenting traditional system of education and problems in it. In the second chapter researcher studied about the inspirations of GijuBhai from Maria Montessori in particular predecessors in general.

In this third chapter researcher desires to sketch all the details of GijuBhai's life history. His life was not like a great person. It was just like any other normal person. But one thing which made him different from all others is that he didn't satisfied just by giving lectures or present ideas to others. Instead, he practiced his every new concept carried them in a concrete life situation.

GijuBhai was born on 15 November 1885, in a remote village called chital near Bhavnagar (Gujrat). He was that man, who during align rule designed a novel format of children's education on purely indigeneous structure. His full name was "Girija Shankar Bhagvanji Badheka". But he was known to people by the name "GijuBhai". His students used to call him by "**Mother with Moustache**" [Muchon vali Ma]. This name given by his students shows his place in their heart.

For two years he worked in East Africa. After returning from there in 1910, he started pursuing his law degree and in 1913 he became high court pleader, Bhavnagar Camp. He was very good lawyer. Though practiced the advocate profession skillfully he couldn't get satisfaction in the profession.

In 1913 he became father. His son Narendra revived his childhood. He remembered how he suffered in his childhood in the name of discipline, study and welfare. He didn't wan't his son to face all what he faced. Fortunatly he got opportunity to read "Montessori Method". In the words of GijuBhai. "This book changed

my life, my life is enlighten with bright light, I got revolutionary vision." [**Bal Shikshan : What I Understand, page : 17**]

GijuBhai realised that because of this book his experience was unique, exceptional, suprising and extraordinary. He felt that what, he couldn't learn during his student life, in Africa and in his books of law, by the discussion with his intellect friends, that he found in this small book. Child is independent, respectable and dynamic, these ideas developed a new insight in him.

So, because of the experiences of "Montessori Method" he left his practice in 1916 and joined Shri Dakshinamurti Vidyarthi Bhavan. This institution was established by Mahatma Shrimad Nathuram sharma, Shri Nrishingh Kalisdas Bhatt (Nana Bhai) Shri Odhavji Bhai but Shri Hargovind Bhaiji Established its life in it.

Shri Hargovind Bhai was a uncle of GijuBhai. He is the one who introduced GijuBhai to Montenssori Method that transformed Girija Shankar into as GijuBhai.

After working 4 years in Dakshinamurti as a 'Aacharya' in Vinay-Bhavan he established a Bal Mandir in the same, for the children of 2^{1/2} Years to 6 years. This Bal Mandir was the base of his experiments in pedagogy. GijuBhai was greatly influened by Gandhiji's educational thought.

GijuBhai utilized different ideas of different great persons and made use them in his Bal Mandir. He also realised that to teach children is important but more important is to prepare teachers for this nobel Job. In other words he felt the need of teachers training. He worked for this also. He organized seminar in Bhavnagar in 1925 and the same year he established a teachers school called "Adhayapak Mandir". During this time he was also writing for parents, teachers and children.

On the other hand he participated in freedom struggle also. In 1930, at the time of 'Satyagrah' he stayed in a refugee camp and also organised 'Vanar Parishad' at surat. He started 'Akshar Gyan Yojna' also to enable Indian to read and understand.

In 1936 he was releaved from Dakshinamurti had the responisiblility of presidentship of child fate in Karachi, them after he moved to 'Kutch' in 1937. He was awarded for his job in 1938. He started last Adhayapak Mandir in Rajkot. In 1939, he left this world with his extra ordinary work.

GijuBhai wrote about 225 books in his mother tongue Gujrati. Some books for parents, some for teachers and for childrens. His all literature is perfect and in very simple and easy style so that anyone find himself familiar with it. When one read his books he can easily understand the concepts of child, education and teaching.

It is belived that the people, who are directly or remotely concerned with children and their education will go through it thoroughly so as to acquaint themselves with the philosophly of this renowned educator.