



Future Vision

Even in these changing times, Gujarat University follows the principles of Gandhi. Vidyapith promotes education by living and learning. Gujarat Vidyapith is the harbinger of future education, with high elements of science and technology but with an underlying emphasis on environmental sustainability. Vidyapith is planning to have an Energy Park to become self reliant in energy and spread awareness among students and outsiders on responsible and conservative use of energy.



About the Institute

Gujarat Vidyapith was founded by M. K. Gandhi on October, 18 1920 and is a deemed university since 1963. It is funded by the University Grants Commission for its higher education programmes. The foundation of the university was one of the landmark events in the initiative of Satyagraha launched by Gandhi as a means to peacefully terminate British rule in India.





Vidyapith and the Call to Youth

The main objective of Gujarat Vidyapith is to prepare workers who are equipped with character, capability, culture and commitment through educational programmes in the context of re-construction of the nation, based on Gandhian ideals.

The vision behind establishment of Vidyapith was to liberate the Indian youth from the shackles of British colonial rule by establishing a nationalist education system, thus proving the country's independence from British-run institutions, and so de-legitimizing British Raj in India. Another crucial reason behind the founding of Gujarat Vidyapith was educating young India and their character building. Education through skill and introduction of vocation in the curriculum became the essence of teaching at Vidyapith.

Gujarat Vidyapith is a living memorial of education which Gandhi wanted to propound.

Guiding Principles

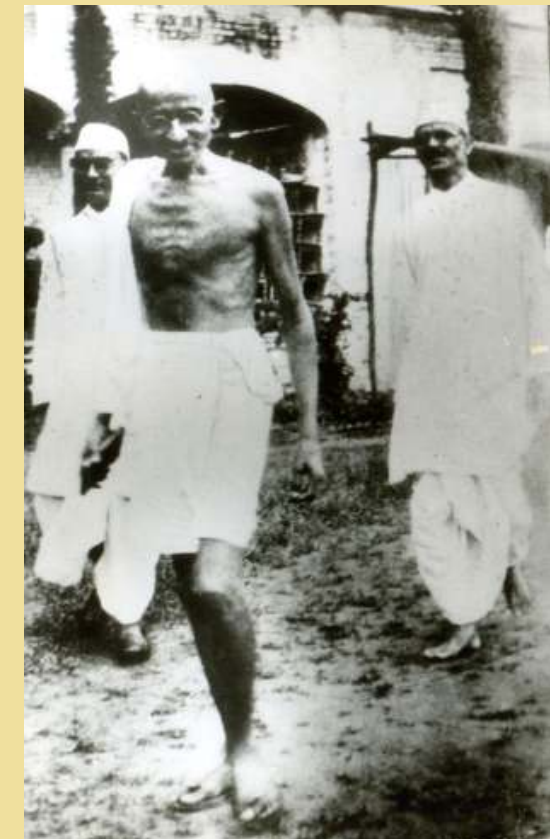
- Adherence to truth and non-violence
- Participation in productive work with a sense of dignity of labor
- Acceptance of equality of religions
- Priority for the need of village dwellers in all curricula
- Use of mother-tongue as a medium of instruction



Gandhi and Vidyapith

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi also known as Mahatma Gandhi, was the leader of the Indian nationalist movement against British rule. Gandhi went to London to train as a barrister after completing his studies in India. In 1893, he accepted a job at an Indian law firm in Durban, South Africa. He stayed for 21 years in South Africa, fighting for Indian rights and defending indentured labour in low courts against discrimination. In 1915, Gandhi returned to India permanently and joined Indian National Congress. He took leadership of Congress in 1920 and began a steady escalation of demands, until on January 26, 1930 the Indian National Congress declared the independence of India.

*Vidyapith Motto
Discipline and character building through education in mother-tongue and to produce citizens of sterling qualities*



As against the British colonial education system propounded by Lord Macaulay that produced human resources to serve the British Empire, Gandhi was instrumental in the establishment of Gujarat Vidyapith with a clear vision to prepare the youth for the task of national reconstruction and ushering 'Hind Swaraj', the India of his dream.



Gandhi's Contribution to Education

Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to education has been phenomenal and inspires millions of educationists in India and abroad. Neither a teacher by profession nor an armchair educational philosopher, all his life, Gandhi had been a teacher of men, irrespective of class or creed, caste or color, gender or race. Gandhi's achievements in the domain of politics and social reforms have been so spectacular that his magnificent contribution to the theory and practice of education does not generally receive as much attention as it deserves.

Gujarat Vidyapith is based on Gandhian thoughts and is providing life-building education to the youth of India. Vidyapith has placed special emphasis to Nai Talim. It has made special efforts in the direction of self reliance in food grains, milk and vegetables for the students. Students are also provided with an opportunity to spin their own cloth and the university is still practicing the use of khadi.

Gujarat Vidyapith aims at total development of students. For this purpose, various schemes and programmes are organized to expose its students to the rural society. For example, 'Gram Shilpi' scheme is offered to students who are interested in rural development programmes after obtaining their graduation and post graduation degree. Also, 'Padyatras' are organized for students to visit rural societies. Besides these special schemes and programmes, every course of Gujarat Vidyapith is inter-woven with activities like camps, tours, and research.



Gandhi's concept of education was closely associated with the socio-economic development of the society. He believed that education through skill and vocational training or work experience is of utmost importance. Gandhi's philosophy of education is known as "Nai Talim" or Basic Education which states that knowledge and work are not separate. According to him, the two stimulate the human mind for creative thinking. He thought that such creative thinking should be taken up from primary through higher level education. He also laid emphasis on the education of three H's - Heart, Head and Hand. He believed education is for character building though heart and this involved living together, working together and learning together. He started residential institutions where learning and living were designed to be concurrent and integrative processes.



A Response to the British Rule

Gujarat Vidyapith was established as a national university during the movement against British Rule in India. Founding of Vidyapith was both a political and educational initiative. The political purpose of establishment of Gujarat Vidyapith was to promote educational institutions run by 'Indians for Indians' and enable them to be outside the financial and governing control of British authorities. Gandhi and his associates were prophetic about the British System present in India. The Vidyapith in its first avatar served as a board of examination for many schools which had declared themselves as nationalist schools in Gujarat and Bombay Presidency (a province of British India). Gandhi viewed education as an integrated approach to the all-round personality development that emphasized on physical training and high moral ground along with intellectual and cognitive development. Hence, the educational purpose of Gujarat Vidyapith was to impart higher education with an integrated system of education teaching from the Nursery to the Doctorate level. The main objective was to prepare workers of character, ability, culture and dedication for the conduct of movements connected with the regeneration of country in accordance with the ideals given by Mahatma Gandhi.

The Model of Vidyapith is such that it promotes simple living with conservation of energy.





Chancellors

| Name | Tenure |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| M.K. Gandhi | 18-10-1920 to 30-01-1948 |
| Shri Sardar Vallabh Patel | 14-06-1948 to 15-12-1950 |
| Dr. Rajendra Prasad | 14-03-1951 to 28-02-1963 |
| Shri Morarji Desai | 16-06-1963 to 10-04-1995 |
| Professor Ramlal Parikh | 23-06-1996 to 21-11-1999 |
| Dr. Sushila Nayair | 26-06-2000 to 03-01-2001 |
| Shri Navinchandra Barot | 26-06-2001 to 01-08-2002 |
| Shri Naval Shah | 04-10-2002 to 15-02-2003 |
| Shri Ravindra Varma | 18-07-2003 to 09-10-2006 |
| Shri Narayan Desai | 23-07-2007 (continues...) |



Early Years

During its first decade, many thousands of teachers and students left British colleges to join Vidyapith, answering Gandhi's call to boycott British institutions, influences and goods. Students chose the new way of learning leaving their old schools. Vidyapith acted as a fountainhead of every play and was the place for experimentation. At the time of its establishment in 1920,

Following its principle of "education through skill or trade", students were taught by masters of various trades like black smithy and carpentry. These masters belonged to lower social classes. Hence, Vidyapith in its own unique way promoted abolishment of caste barrier. Men like Acharya Kripalani, Dr. Choithram Gidwani and Kakasaheb Kalekar became votary of Gandhian approach and joined the institute.

Up to 1930, languages like Gujarati, Marathi, Bengali, Sanskrit, Persian and English were taught along with courses in Indian Studies, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Economics and Music. During 1930 to 1935, the educational work of Gujarat Vidyapith was suspended as a part of national movement for independence. It was restarted in 1935. Again during 1942 to 1945, the educational work came to a standstill since students and teachers joined the 'Quit India Movement'.



The journey of the institute can be well captured in three phases - Pre Independence Phase (1920-1947), Post Independence Phase (1947-1963) and the third phase after 1963. During the first two phases, Gujarat Vidyapith conducted many graduation level courses, besides primary and secondary education. Many more institutions, colleges and schools were affiliated to the Vidyapith. In 1923, the total number of students in these institutions stood at 30,000. In its third phase, the institute gained recognition from University Grants Commission and started offering courses in post-graduation. Today, it is one of the national universities with a charter from the Government of India and seeks to promote Gandhi's ideals of service-oriented education.

Gujarat Vidyapith, besides conducting various courses at its main campus in Ahmedabad, runs several graduation level courses at its Sadra campus and Randheja campus in Gandhinagar.



Colleges, Centers and Schools

Colleges

- ✓ Mahadev Desai Samajseva Mahavidyalaya, Ahmedabad (Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities)
- ✓ Mahadev Desai Gramseva Mahavidyalaya (Mahadev Desai College of Social Work), Sadra
- ✓ Mahadev Desai Shareerik Shikshan Mahavidyalaya (Mahadev Desai College of Education), Sadra
- ✓ Mahadev Desai Gramseva Mahavidyalaya (Mahadev Desai College of Social Work), Randheja
- ✓ Shikshan Mahavidyalaya (College of Education), Ahmedabad
- ✓ Hindi Teacher Training College, Ahmedabad

Centers

- ✓ State Resource Centre for Adult & Continuing Education including Population Education
- ✓ Department of Adult and Continuing Education & Extension Work including Population Education
- ✓ P. G. Center for Studies in Rural Management, Randheja
- ✓ Centre for Bio-gas Research Education & Extension, Sadra
- ✓ Tribal Research & Training Institute
- ✓ Bharatiya Bhasha Sanskruti Kendra
- ✓ Krishi Vigyan Kendras (Agriculture Science Centre) (Dethali, Randheja, Ambeti)
- ✓ I. T. I., Shahibaug, Ahmedabad
- ✓ Kocharab Ashram, Ahmedabad

Schools

- ✓ Gujarat Kumar Vidya Mandir, Ahmedabad
- ✓ Gramseva Kendra (Dethali, Bhalada, Ambeti, Bochasan, Bharel)



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Facilities

Central Library

Started since the foundation of the Vidyapith in 1920, the Central Library has grown over the years to become one of the richest repositories of books, journals and manuscripts in Gujarat. The Central Library of the Vidyapith is the statutory referral library of the state for the purpose of copyright.

- 6,01,730 books
- 382 journals
- 38 newspapers
- 691 manuscripts



Tribal Research and Training Institute

TRTI was set up in 1962, and is a unique museum. The Institute carries out studies on the life, culture and economy of the tribal people of Gujarat. It has done extensive documentation and created a data bank on the living conditions of various tribes. The Institute has also been the coordinating centre for anthropological studies. It has conducted training programmes for state government officials, extension workers, educators, youth leaders and members of voluntary organizations tasked with working in tribal areas. The Institute also has a tribal museum.



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Gandhian Ideology & 'Live Like Gandhi'

- Gujarat University and Georg August University of Gottingen in Germany have initiated a post graduate degree course on Gandhian Ideology. This unique initiative provides an opportunity for German students to sign up for the course on Gandhian Ideology in Germany and visit Gujarat Vidyapith for six months and learn about Gandhi and his values.
- An initiative has been organized by the Vidyapith, where tourists from all over the world are invited to 'Live Like Gandhi'. Tourists can live in Gandhi's Satyagraha Ashram but must adhere to his principles. The objective of this programme is to allow people to experience a sustainable lifestyle, to enjoy the simplicity of Gandhi and experience the virtue of the Mahatma.

