



Cover Page



## CONTRIBUTION OF MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD TO THE MODERN EDUCATION SYSTEM OF INDIA

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### Abstract:

After independence, India needed strong policy measures and creative leadership to build modern education. The first Education Minister of independent India, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the nation's contemporary educational system. He highlighted the significance of advancing science, culture, and universal education. He oversaw the establishment of a number of significant educational institutions and organisations, including as the Indian Institutes of Technology to advance technical education and the University Grants Commission to oversee higher education. By founding organisations like Sahitya Akademi, Sangeet Natak Akademi, and Lalit Kala Akademi, he also promoted the development of literature, the arts, and culture. This study assesses Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's educational philosophy and vision as well as his contributions to the evolution of India's contemporary educational system.

**Keywords:** Modern Education, Educational Development, Cultural Education, Higher Education

### Introduction

Education is essential to a country's progress. India had to rebuild its educational system to satisfy the demands of a contemporary democratic society after attaining independence in 1947. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad became a major figure in the development of contemporary Indian education in this setting.

He established the groundwork for an all-encompassing educational system that prioritised equity, scientific advancement, and cultural development while serving as India's first Education Minister from 1947 to 1958. Azad thought that education should foster social justice, cultural harmony, and national integration in addition to imparting knowledge.

Increasing primary education, bolstering higher education, encouraging scientific research, and safeguarding India's rich cultural legacy were the main goals of his initiatives. The Indian educational system is still impacted by the organisations and regulations put in place during his administration.

We can solve all of these concerns in the field of education. We need someone who can close these gaps, steer India toward prosperity, and make it a forward-thinking, contemporary nation after independence. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was the individual with this level of expertise. His vision and contribution to the contemporary Indian educational system will be outlined in this article.

### Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of this research paper are:

1. To know details about Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

To discuss his contribution to the development of modern education system in India.



Cover Page



## Methodology

This research is mainly based on secondary data. Information has been collected from various books, research papers, educational reports, and government publications.

By analysing and comparing this information, a comprehensive idea of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's contribution to the field of education has been provided.

## Main Discussion

### 1. Encouragement of Universal Education

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's insistence on universal education was one of his most important contributions. He was adamant that every individual has the fundamental right to an education.

He supported mandatory, free education for kids up until the age of 14. His idea set the stage for India's eventual development of universal basic education laws.

### 2. Development of Primary Education

Azad believed that the foundation of the whole educational system was primary education. He placed a strong emphasis on raising the standard of instruction and promoted the growth of elementary schools across the nation.

He thought that social and economic advancement would be impossible without a robust primary education system.

### 3. Promotion of Higher Education

The advancement of higher education in India was one of Azad's other significant contributions. He supported the founding and expansion of academic institutions and research centers.

The University Grants Commission (UGC), which is essential to financing and overseeing Indian universities, was founded by the government to uphold standards in higher education.

### 4. Establishment of University Grants Commission

The purpose of the University Grants Commission (UGC) is to keep an eye on the standard of higher education. In addition to giving universities financial help, the UGC is essential to preserving educational standards.

### 5. Development of Technical Education

Azad came to understand the value of science and technology for the advancement of his country. As a result, he backed the growth of technical education in India.

His efforts resulted in the founding of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), which went on to become some of the world's most esteemed engineering schools. In 1951, the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur became the first IIT.

### 6. Encouraging Scientific Research

Azad firmly thought that the development of science and technology was crucial to the advancement of a contemporary country. He promoted scientific education in universities and backed the growth of research institutes.

### 7. Promoting Cultural Education

Azad also thought that education should foster creativity and cultural sensitivity. During his time, a number of cultural organisations were founded to protect and advance India's cultural legacy:

- Sahitya Akademi for literature
- For performing arts, Sangeet Natak Akademi



- For fine arts, Lalit Kala Akademi  
 Indian culture and artistic traditions are still promoted by these establishments.

### 8. Promotion of Adult Education

He stressed the expansion of adult education because many people were unable to get an education as youngsters.

### 9. Encouragement of Education for Women

He embraced a number of initiatives to advance women's education. He thought that without the advancement of women's education, society could not progress as a whole.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was a key figure in the development of India's contemporary educational system. His ideas and strategies established the groundwork for an all-encompassing and forward-thinking educational system.

Azad made a substantial contribution to the country's educational advancement by advocating for universal education, establishing institutions of higher and technical education, and fostering the advancement of science and culture.

Many of the organisations and regulations put in place during his time still direct and have an impact on the Indian educational system today.

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Cover Page



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