

THE STUDY OF HUMANS AND HUMANITY, PAST AND PRESENT THROUGH THE LITERARY WORKS AND LIFE OF DR. APJ ABDUL KALAM

Ajay Kumar Musawat*
Dr. Hitendra Goyal**

ABSTRACT

The proposed research work will introspect about the Humanistic approaches in the literary works of former president Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. Dr. Kalam is Known as the "People's President" of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was a prolific writer in addition to being a renowned scientist and a visionary leader. His life and writings provide insightful analyses of people and humanity across history and the present. This research paper will also find out the sound impact of literary humanism on the life of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam and how Dr. Kalam showed that impact into this various writing including his autobiography "Wings of Fire", "Ignited Minds", "My Journey: Transforming Dreams into Actions" etc. In this research paper we will also find out what can we learn about the past and present of humans and humanity through these writings of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

Keywords: *Dr. Kalam, Humans and Humanity, Literary Writings, History and Present.*

Introduction

Known as the "People's President," Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was a visionary leader whose achievements went beyond politics and science. His writings, such as "Wings of Fire," "Ignited Minds," and "India 2020," demonstrate his profound comprehension of society issues, human nature, and the transforming potential of creativity and education. This research paper explores how Dr. Kalam's experiences and literary influences provide a thorough analysis of humanity in the past and now by looking at his life and writings.

Review of Literature

The following topics are covered by the literature review:

- **Autobiographical Works:** Examining Dr. Kalam's memoirs to gain insight into his experiences, struggles, and triumphs.
- **Inspirational Writings:** Leadership, ethics, and human potential are among the topics covered in his motivational works.
- **Literary Influences:** Examining how Dr. Kalam's philosophy and worldview are influenced by authors like Walter Scott, John Milton, Charles Dickens, and William Shakespeare. Finding recurrent themes in Dr. Kalam's works that express his opinions on society advancement, human nature, and the place of science and technology is known as thematic analysis.

* Assistant Professor, G.K. Gowani Government PG College, Bhinmal, Jalore & Research Scholar, Department of English, Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India.

** Research Supervisor & Assistant Professor, Department of English, Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India.

Methodology Used

The study uses a qualitative methodology and textual analysis of speeches and literary works by Dr. Kalam. In order to place his experiences and the factors that influenced his ideas in context, biographical research is also used. The analysis is supported by secondary materials such as critical essays, biographies, and scholarly papers.

In his many publications, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam offered his vision, ideas, and philosophies about life, progress, and the advancement of society. These writings served as an outlet for him to express his ideals about humanity.

- **Wings of Fire:** In his autobiography, "Wings of Fire," Dr. Kalam described how he rose from a lowly beginning to become the President of India and a renowned scientist. His conviction in the strength of dreams, perseverance, and hard work is reflected in the book. He emphasized the value of having a vision and putting in a lot of effort to achieve it frequently. His life narrative serves as evidence that anyone can succeed through perseverance and hard effort, no matter what their background.
- **Ignited Minds:** The central idea of "Ignited Minds: Unleashing the Power Within India" is Dr. Kalam's plan for the advancement of India. He underlined the importance of youth in the process of developing a nation and exhorted the youth to dream big and strive toward making India a developed country. The book promotes a knowledge-driven society in which moral principles, creativity, and education are vital in determining the course of history.
- **India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium:** In this book, which he coauthored with Y.S. Rajan, Dr. Kalam presented his outlook for India's progress by 2020. In order to achieve holistic growth, he talked about the significance of numerous areas, including industry, education, healthcare, and agriculture. His conviction that science and technology should be used to advance society is reflected in the book.
- **My Journey: Transforming Dreams into Actions:** In "My Journey," Dr. Kalam related anecdotes and events from his own life that influenced his outlook on life. His humility, compassion, and commitment to helping people are highlighted throughout the book. He told tales that emphasized the value of compassion, empathy, and the significance of modest deeds of kindness.
- **Transcendence: My Spiritual Experiences with Pramukh Swamiji:** In "Transcendence," Dr. Kalam talked about his experiences with Pramukh Swami Maharaj and the spiritual side of his life. His views on the relationship between spirituality and science as well as the importance of spiritual principles in promoting happiness and peace are reflected in the book. It draws attention to the notion that real advancement entails both material and spiritual well-being.
- **Articles and Speeches:** Dr. Kalam shared his views on humanity and humanism in a number of speeches and writings that he penned. He frequently underlined in his remarks the value of moral principles, the effectiveness of education, and the necessity of compassion and solidarity. His well-known speech to young people, "My Vision for India," powerfully reflects his views on inclusivity, national growth, and the future-shaping role of youth.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam had insightful and motivating views on humankind and humanism. His experiences, his training in science, and his hope for a better future all influenced his opinions. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's views on humanity and humanism were marked by a strong sense of inclusivity, empathy, ethical principles, and a conviction that advancements in science and education have the potential to improve everyone's quality of life. Millions of people worldwide are still inspired by his life and works. Some salient features of his viewpoints are as follows:

Human Capabilities and Adaptability

"Wings of Fire" autobiography:

Dr. Kalam's rise from a little Rameswaram hamlet to a prominent role in India's space and missile programs is a testament to the potential and resiliency of people. The story highlights the value of knowledge, tenacity, and mentoring in overcoming hardship and realizing one's goals.

Ethical and Moral Leadership

Book: "My Journey: Transforming Dreams into Actions"

Personal anecdotes highlight Dr. Kalam's commitment to ethical leadership and moral integrity. The emphasis on humility, selflessness, and service to humanity underscores his leadership philosophy.

Social and Cultural Dynamics

Books: "Ignited Minds," and "India 2020"

Dr. Kalam's vision for India reflects a deep understanding of the country's social and cultural fabric. His advocacy for unity in diversity and the empowerment of youth through education and innovation highlights his approach to societal progress.

The Role of Science and Technology

Books: "The Luminous Sparks," "Turning Points"

Dr. Kalam emphasizes equitable growth and sustainable development in his contributions to science and technology, all while maintaining a humanitarian perspective. A recurrent topic is his belief that technical breakthroughs should be used as tools to improve society.

Literary and Philosophical Influences

Writers' Influence:

Dr. Kalam found inspiration in the writings of many authors, including Dickens, Shakespeare, Milton, and Scott. These inspirations are clear in his writings, as he frequently paraphrases and considers their lessons to uphold moral principles like empathy, compassion, and the quest of knowledge.

Encouraging Peace and Harmony

Books: "Indomitable Spirit," and "Mission of India"

A major topic in Dr. Kalam's works is his vision for a world free from violence and strife. His support for international cooperation, nuclear disarmament, and world peace demonstrates his dedication to a better world.

- **Unity and Inclusivity** : Regardless of their origins, Dr. Kalam thought that all people are one. He frequently underlined the value of encouraging a sense of belonging among all individuals and cooperating to achieve shared objectives. In his ideal society, individuals of many ethnicities, cultures, and religions would be able to live in harmony and cooperate.
- **Compassion and Empathy**: Kalam's profound empathy and compassion for people were frequently evident in his writings and speeches. He spoke in favor of recognizing and addressing the needs and goals of the marginalized and disadvantaged. He thought that real growth could only come about when each person was given the chance to reach their full potential.
- **Knowledge and Self-determination**: Dr. Kalam thought that education was crucial to empowering people and changing society. In his view, education should emphasize character development, ethical principles, and the creation of a feeling of social duty in addition to academic knowledge.
- **Spirituality and the Temperament of Science**: Kalam was exceptional at fusing a scientific temperament with spirituality. He thought that spirituality and science could coexist together and did not compete with one another. He saw humanism as balancing spiritual well-being with material advancement.
- **Visions and Dreams for the Future**: He frequently urged people to set lofty goals and put in a lot of effort to realize them, especially the younger generation. He thought that everyone has the capacity to advance humanity and that dreams are the first step towards doing great things.
- **Moral Guidance**: In all areas of life, ethical leadership is crucial, according to Dr. Kalam. He held that leaders ought to set a good example for their followers, exhibit integrity, and feel a sense of obligation to them. He believed that becoming a leader was a way to better the world and help people.
- **World Harmony and Wealth**: In addition to supporting international disarmament and peace, he thought that science and technology should be applied to raise everyone's standard of living. In his ideal world, nations would cooperate to overcome shared difficulties and guarantee a brighter future for all.

- **Sustainability of the Environment:** Sustainability of the environment and the effects of human activity on the globe were other issues that worried Kalam. He thought that the environment needed to be protected for future generations and that resources should be used responsibly.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has a comprehensive awareness of humanity's history over time, mixing historical perspective with a forward-looking vision. This is an examination of his perspectives on humans historically and currently:

Humanity in the Past

- **Historical Accomplishments:** Dr. Kalam was impressed by the scientific, cultural, and spiritual advancements made by the ancient civilizations. He frequently used historical instances from India, such as the discoveries made by ancient Indian intellectuals in the fields of mathematics, astronomy, and architecture. He emphasized the value of taking lessons from the successes and failures of the past while acknowledging the rich legacy and wisdom that have been passed down through the ages
- **Value Systems:** Dr. Kalam claims that strong value systems based on ethics, family, and community were common in earlier societies. These principles supported communal well-being and social peace. He valued the conventional focus on moral rectitude and spiritual development because he thought these qualities laid a strong basis for interpersonal relationships and the advancement of society.
- **Unity and Diversity:** Dr. Kalam recognized the rich tapestry of human civilization that resulted from the coexistence of many cultures in the past. He thought that humanity was strengthened by the historical mingling of ideas and cultures. He pointed out that humanity's general tendency was toward collaboration and communal advancement, despite disputes and wars.

The Current State of Humanity

- **Scientific and Technological Developments:** Dr. Kalam was a fervent supporter of using contemporary science and technology to advance humankind. He considered modern developments as instruments to address urgent world problems like environmental degradation, sickness, and poverty. He held that the advancements in technology should be used in an ethical and inclusive manner to benefit all facets of society.
- **Global Connectivity:** Thanks to developments in communication and transportation, Dr. Kalam saw previously unheard-of levels of global connection in the modern period. There is hope that increased connection would lead to better mutual understanding and cooperation between many countries and cultures. He underlined that in order to effectively handle issues like terrorism, climate change, and economic inequality, a global perspective is required.
- **Opportunities and Challenges:** Dr. Kalam was well aware of the ethical ramifications of emerging technologies, social injustice, and environmental difficulties that humanity is currently facing. To meet these issues, he urged responsible leadership and group effort. He encouraged young people to actively participate in creating a better future because he saw enormous potential for advancement and creativity.
- **Human Values and Ethics:** Dr. Kalam thought that the fundamental human values of empathy, compassion, and integrity should not change in the face of technical advancement. He frequently discussed the necessity of fostering these attributes in people through a value-based educational system. He promoted a holistic approach to development, advocating for a balance between spiritual well-being and monetary advancement.
- **Youth as Change Agents:** One of Dr. Kalam's main themes in his reflections on the present was the potential of youth. He saw young people as the agents of change and innovation, bringing their vitality, inventiveness, and idealism to bear on society. He exhorted them to dream big, work hard, and never lose sight of their duty to humanity.

Combining the Past and Present

Dr. Kalam combined the greatest aspects of the past and present to create his vision for humanity. He always applied the morals and knowledge of the past as a benchmark and tried to learn from the history. In addition to this Dr. Kalam always making use of recent developments to promote inclusive and moral progress. He used to promote a forward-thinking viewpoint with an emphasis on world peace and sustainable development.

Conclusion

The literary works and life of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam offer a wealth of information for researching people and mankind. The timeless themes of human potential, resiliency, moral leadership, and the revolutionary possibilities of science and technology are all present in his writing. Through an analysis of his writings and the literary works that influenced his perspective, we can acquire important understandings of the human condition and the development of social values. Future generations will continue to be motivated and guided by Dr. Kalam's legacy to pursue a vision of development, harmony, and moral behavior.

References

1. Kalam, A. P. J. Abdul. *Wings of Fire: An Autobiography*. Universities Press, 1999.
2. Kalam, A. P. J. Abdul. *Ignited Minds: Unleashing the Power Within India*. Viking, 2002.
3. Kalam, A. P. J. Abdul. *India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium*. Penguin Books India, 1998.
4. Kalam, A. P. J. Abdul. *My Journey: Transforming Dreams into Actions*. Rupa Publications, 2013.
5. Kalam, A. P. J. Abdul. *The Luminous Sparks*. Punya Publishing Pvt Ltd, 2004.
6. Kalam, A. P. J. Abdul. *Turning Points: A Journey Through Challenges*. HarperCollins India, 2012.
7. Various secondary sources including scholarly articles, biographies, and critical essays on Dr. Kalam and his works.

