ABSTRACT

This paper presents an analysis of Tsai Yuan-pei's thought of Aesthetic Education. Tsai Yuan-pei, an important educationist during the hectic first decade of the Republic of China, was influenced greatly by Neo-Kantian Philosophy. His views of aesthetic education encouraged the love of beauty so that students would be able to transcend tendencies towards the noumenon world.

Bearing in mind the shortcomings of religion and its effects on society, and in order not to leave education, which is highly influential, in the hands of any religious body, Tsai proposed substituting religion with aesthetic education. This was the most revolutionary aspect of his educational thought that makes him the first person ever to make such a proposal.

Inspite of the fact that Tsai's theory overemphasised beauty (spiritual joy) instead of religion, most of his ideas are very practical. Today, Tsai is recognised as a great educationist having made significant contributions to the development of education in China.