

Inclusion of Cultural Values in Indian Education System: A Study

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ABSTRACT

India's education system is unique which has preserved the culture, values, history and traditions of the country. In the ancient Indian education system, Gurukul was a teaching centre in which disciples used to stay in an ashram and receive education. Before the transmission of knowledge under the guidance of the Guru, an emotional bond was developed which helped in acquiring knowledge. The basis of education is not only reading books and collecting information but also the overall development of the child which includes mental, cognitive, spiritual and physical development. Students were made to study theology, medicine, philosophy, astrology, art of war and statecraft. In Gurukul, emphasis was laid on inculcating human values like self-reliance, creativity and empathy along with cultural values and ethical behavior in the students, the aim of which was to make them practically capable of finding solutions to the problems of future life after acquiring knowledge. Talking about the traditional and modern policy of the Indian education system, its main objective was not only to develop cognitive skills but also to provide social emotional skills. In the National Education Policy 2020, emphasis was laid on those values which include cultural awareness and empathy, perseverance and patience and leadership etc.

KEY WORDS

Education, cultural values, Vedic education, character building, social values.

INTRODUCTION

Indian education system has developed from the totality of knowledge, value formation and philosophy of life. Cultural values and educational sanskars have special importance in Indian education system. Educational sanskar means that along with knowledge, a person is taught morality, social values and good conduct. Indian education system has contributed significantly to the intellectual and spiritual prosperity of the country in which this education system has been created by incorporating mathematics, science, astronomy and astrology and deep or oral traditions of theology and refined with social values and sanskars. 'Sa Vidya Ya Vimukti' ('सा विद्याया विमुक्ति') means that knowledge is that which liberates, in this way the Sanskar education system provides education for human welfare and upliftment. Indian education system is scientific even though it is based on spirituality. It includes Ashram system, rin system, Yoga, Purusharth, Sanskar etc. which are the basis of social system and are also a part of education,

which are inter-related as well as scientific, the authenticity of which is proved by various developed researches done by others at present.

OBJECTIVES

Objectives of this study are as following -

- Review Indian knowledge system to understand its cultural values.
- Find out how Indian Knowledge system affect society.
- Find out the reason of integrating Indian knowledge system in our education system

METHODOLOGY

For the study of this inclusion of cultural values in Indian Educational System, data collected from secondary sources as different website, books, research reviews. Various editorial articles, a variety of qualitative methods research paper were studied.

Indian Cultural Values

Indian culture is considered to be the best culture in the world. It is honoured by addressing it as Dev Sanskriti. Along with being the oldest, it still preserves the moral and cultural values and traditions. Politeness, good manners, discipline, charity and considering the entire stream as a family in the society are the main sources of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' cultural values. Education is considered a collective responsibility in the Indian society. This is a sanskar which the ancient sages used to associate with the all-round development of man.

Character building

The main objective of Indian education is character building. In traditional Indian culture, it is believed that in the absence of morality and character, intellectual skills and achievements have no value. In Manu Smriti, 'Aacharoh Param Dharmah' (आचारोः परम धर्मः) means that pure and proper conduct is the best religion. Similarly, celibacy and self-study are considered to be the ultimate duties for students. They must always remain determined for the knowledge and conduct they have acquired. The Acharya also paid special attention to the development of moral and character along with intellectual competence of the students. Students were inspired to build character by presenting the ideals of high character of great persons.

Educational Sanskar

In Indian education system, Sanskars have special importance along with education. Sanskars mean purity, refinement and refinement of conduct and thoughts. In Indian thinking, Sanskar is the sowing of seeds of useful virtuous habits in life, which when done in the right manner in the right environment, makes the personality fragrant. Sanskar increases the creative power of the

students and also develops the tendency of etiquette and civilized behavior. In the Indian context, a person's life is refined through sixteen sanskars, which include educational sanskars - Karnavedhan, Vidyarambh Sanskar, Upanayan Sanskar, Vedarambh Sanskar, Keshanth Sanskar and Samavartana Sanskar etc. Samavartana Sanskar is performed before receiving education and after receiving education, in which a student who has been celibate for twenty five years enters the householder ashram and fulfills his duty towards the family, society and country.

Self-discipline

Self-discipline is the center point of the Indian education system. Self-discipline is very important for students to acquire knowledge, self-discipline and self-control leads to the attainment of Brahma knowledge. The basic objective of the Indian education system is to develop a person completely so that he is able to solve every problem that he may face in his future life. Complete development means development of qualities like self-respect, self-development, self-restraint and justice. Self-discipline, conduct, ideal behavior and imitation become easy due to the intimate relationship between the Guru and the disciple, which proves humility from both sides. Dr. A.S. Altekar has written in his book that 'devotion to God and a sense of religiosity, character building, personality development, fulfillment of civic and social duties, social efficiency and preservation of national culture were the basic objectives of Indian Vedic education.

Ashram System

The main objective of ancient educational thinking was to develop human values, for which the first ashram of the ashram system propounded by the sages, Brahmacharya Ashram, was dedicated to education. Brahmacharya was to make the student skilled in performing the duties of other ashrams in future life. After getting education, it is necessary for the child to fulfill his duties as a citizen for the family, society, nation and the world. Physical, spiritual and mental powers were developed during the education period in Gurukul itself. In the Indian education system, education meant spiritual upliftment, religious thinking, character development and educational sanskar.

Moral Upliftment

Moral education has been given special importance in India since ancient times. In the Vedic period, disciples used to receive education of morality and ethics under the guidance of the Guru and qualities like truth, non-violence, justice and penance were developed. Disciples were taught religious principles. Education was given to develop and protect religion which also helps in character building. In Gurukul, it was taught to restrain the mental tendencies. In this subject, Dr. R.K. Mukherjee has said in his book that "The aim of education was chittavritti nirodh ,

inhabitation of those activities of the mind by which it get connect with the world of matter or object.”

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

Since ancient times, we Indians have been considering the entire stream as one family. Our sages have had great faith in the principle of “Udaaracharitanam tu Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” (उदारचरितानां तु वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्). In this way, we have the most systematic, ethical, Vedic education system in which, along with being generous, public welfare oriented, coordination oriented and empowering, it is as much spiritual as it is scientific. The main objective of the teacher centers was to explore the truth and develop the character of the students and prepare them for the future life. India's cultural values and spirituality are exchanged all over the world, especially in countries like South East Asia, Central Asia, Japan, China, Korea and Indonesia etc. Indian Sanskrit has the ability to absorb all the cultures of the world. Indian culture has the spirit of 'Sarvajan Hitaay' and 'Sarvajan Sukhaay' (सर्वजन हिताय और सर्वजन सुखाय) i.e. everyone's welfare should be there.

Relevance of Indian education system

Ancient Indian tradition had many streams of thinking, whereas the West has spread only one stream. Foreign invaders left no stone unturned to destroy our knowledge tradition. After that, modernization, westernization is completely destroying the Indian knowledge tradition and social style. Hence, there is a need to protect our knowledge tradition, social system, and lifestyle from the influence of westernization and commercialism. We need to revive Indian traditions and beliefs to save the present and future generation from western civilization and cultural degradation so that we can fully live in Indianans. Indian knowledge tradition is thousands of years old, it has a wonderful repository for all fields including modern science management, Indian knowledge tradition is very rich, by studying which India can once again become a world leader. It is said in the verses of Rig Veda that ‘Aa no Bhadraah Kratvo Yantu Vishwatah’ (आ नो भद्राः क्रतवो यंतु विश्वतः) let the virtuous and saintly thoughts come from the right direction. don't deprive yourself of anything.

CONCLUSION

In India's ancient knowledge tradition, the focus is on the overall development of man and the form of education is helpful for the practical life of man. The sources of ancient knowledge tradition like Ramayan, Mahabharat, Vedic literature, Puranas, Smriti texts, ancient philosophy, astrology, grammar and poetry etc. are fully capable of protecting Indian civilization, culture and cultural values. The cultured knowledge of India creates a cultured society through cultural values. As it is seen that cultures also purify the social environment with mental, verbal and

physical purity. In the present changing social environment, it has become inevitable to make our education system inclusive of Indian cultural values because in the blind race of modernity, the Indian young generation is forgetting its culture and its cultural values. In this blind imitation, the situation is similar to what is said in the Upanishads that if the one who shows the way to the blind is also blind, then achieving the goal will not only be difficult but impossible. The inclusion of Indian knowledge tradition and cultural values in the current education system is an effort in the right direction of the National Education Policy 2020. The ancient Indian knowledge tradition provides its comprehensive perspective in various fields including art, culture, science, philosophy and management, which will play an important role in the process of national development and making India a world leader.

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