

GURUKUL EDUCATION SYSTEM: RELEVANCE

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Abstract : The society is composed of individuals and the aim of education is the overall improvement of mankind. At present, students are given education being in the society itself, they are affected directly or indirectly by the social evils such as idleness, egotism, poverty, decline in moral values, destructive politics, etc. Thus, it is desirable that education should eliminate the evil social practices. The present aim of education is to fulfil the need of a better structure and revitalization of benchmarks. As a result, most of today's philosophers, socialists, educationalists and researchers are found judging the present education system against the ancient one, commonly known as the 'Gurukul' system. Now, in this paper we will enlighten Gurukul Education System and try to find its relevance, whether it can bring the above mentioned problems to an end?

Keywords: Gurukul Education System

Introduction

In this living world, Human is such an individual who is dependent on others, from his birth till his last breath, to acquire knowledge and guidance. We can interpret from this that humans attain good characters from time to time by various techniques and behaviours. In ancient India, the Vedas, the Upanishads, the epics manifested and upheld the values of Indian society. Imparting value education was the main aim of the teachers of the ancient age (Pathania, 2011). From the time beyond our imagination, through the origin of Vedas, and till this very moment, the surroundings, society and teaching have affected the development of humans a lot because these are the only sources by which a child grows, develops, achieves, accomplishes and at last reaches great heights as a result of passionate thinking and study on the basis of his knowledge and will. Rabindra Nath Tagore, Maharishi Aurbindo, Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Vivekanand, Pt. ShriRam Sharma and such noble personalities have defined education as the finder of liberty, the one who has strengthened us mentally and emotionally, the one who has made us great philosophers and the one who makes us capable to find ways to success. In these 70 years of independence, India has memorably developed in the field of technology,

economy, social structure, democracy etc. but our education system has not reached the desired heights where it should have been and as a result there is mass dissatisfaction among the society as a whole. The present aim of education is to fulfill the need of a better structure and revitalization of benchmarks. As a result, most of today's philosophers, socialists, educationalists and researchers are found judging the present education system against the ancient one, commonly known as the 'Gurukul' system. Is it likely to run the ancient Gurukul system at the present? It is a foremost need of the present for canvassers and educationalists to critically analyze these changes in education system. Why is there a need for such changes? In what manner these alterations will be implemented? In present times, millions of students from innumerable institutions step in the society yearly with a spellbound education. But, do they have the wisdom of devotion for their parents, respect for their educators, patriotism for their motherland and moral responsibilities.

We believe today that activist education does not reflect that power or will to accomplish the laid aims through which the seed of humanity can be identified in people and also the physical, intellectual and emotional power of people can be boosted. It is believed that the present intend of education is to make more

and more money and for that the mental power of people is developed. This thinking motivates each person on this territory. As, at present, students are given education being in the society itself, they are slowly but surely affected directly or indirectly by the social evils such as idleness, egotism, poverty, sexual disability, materialistic appeal, evil practices, corruption, marginalisation, decline in moral values, destructive politics, etc. Providing education in such environment is the cause of materialistic, social, individual and cultural wickedness.

The society is composed of individuals and the aim of education is the holistic development of mankind. Thus, it is desirable that education should eliminate the evil social practices. Now, we will enlighten Gurukul Education System relevance in present era and try to find whether it can bring the above mentioned problems to an end?

Review of Literature

Number of studies has grown in the area of Gurukul Education System considerably. But still much work needs to be done. Scholars have analyzed the growth and development of Gurukul Education System with great care and they have examined every aspect of it. These studies are very important for discussing the relevance of Gurukul Education System-

Saran (1954) attempted to analyse the Gurukula system of education and to explore the possibility of reinstating it in India in a modernized form. He has studied some peripheral concepts regarding the Gurukula system, in comparison with western models –in order to show the superiority of the ‘rishi-aim’ of God realisation, and some suggestions and exhortations were given. His main suggestions are: (1) the pupil should read and question their guru in a homely atmosphere. (2) The students should develop a religious outlook and aim at God-realisation. (3) Education should be imparted in a democratic way and (4) it should help to

strengthen the national solidarity along with international understanding.

The study on Educational Ideas of Upanishads by **Surendran (1998)** reveals that Universal integration was the ultimate aim of education and it was comprehensive in all respects. Objective based approach in education was prominent and there was a perfect harmony in teacher-pupil relationship. The Upanisadic society was purely secularist.

Jain and Shelly, 2013 -Ancient Gurukul education system In ancient India, the Gurukuls were dedicated to achieve the highest ideals of complete human development that included physical, mental, spiritual development as well as leading to God-realization.

Kalyani Tripathy Dubey, Akhilesh Arvind Nimje 2015- Modern education system need a strong bond with ancient education system, Gurukul education system was focused on holistic development not only materialistic development.

Gurukul Education System: concept

The Gurukul was a type of school in ancient education system. The gurukul system is an ancient learning method. Gurukulam has existed since the vedic age. Their main motto is to develop the knowledge and they were highly focused on education. In ancient India, the gurukuls were dedicated to achieve the highest ideals of complete human development that included physical, mental, spiritual development as well as leading to God-realization. Devotion for the Almighty and religion, character formation, personality development, sense of duty as a citizen and as the part of society, development of fields of excellence and the protection as well as the expansion of national tradition and heritage was the aim of ancient Gurukul Education system. Our hope from education is not only to teach but to join together knowledge and experience. The subjects under the syllabus at that very time were religion, Ayurveda, Vaishishika, economics, archery, justice, reasoning, all united together with

some other subjects too. The age for a child to begin his education journey was five when he was taught the letters and words known as the Vidya Aarambh Ceremony. Then he was provided with the Vedic education under his Guru's supervision, called **Upnayan Ceremony**. And finally, the **Samaptvartan Ceremony**, at the age of 25, when the students returned home. Instead of the so called convocation ceremony of present education system, an ending speech was delivered asking the students to always be honest, to abide their duties, not to be irregular when self studying, follow the good deeds done by them and donate with faith. The classes were held in the shade of trees, and under some shelter during monsoon to ensure that the students are in touch with nature which benefitted their physical and mental development. The Gurukuls were situated at beautiful natural places which were near some rural or urban areas to fulfill the daily necessity requirement of the students and to have the facility of imploring. The age to begin Vedic education was usually eight to twelve years and for those parents who did not send their children to the Gurukul; a specific punishment was decided and implemented. The Shudras (low caste people) did not have the right to education. The time period for the study was twelve years and a student could study only one Veda in that time period. The session was of five months only. The holidays weren't too long for the students to return their homes due to the problems in transportation. So, the students returned home only after completing their education. The education was totally influenced by religion. There was the provision of free education but after the completion of education, money, land, animals, grain, etc. was given as reward. Due to the lack of printed books, the lessons were delivered orally. There were certain rules for the students to adhere regarding their daily lives such as to lead a simple life, wake up early before the day breaks, get freshened up and take a bath early, and then worship the God

and perform *havan*, etc. They could eat food twice a day. The students were asked to follow the rules of self control and discipline. The students had great respect for their teachers and treated them as their parents and king. The relation between the teacher and the students was of care, respect, trust and duty. Punishment was given but was not harsh. At that time, the state or the king did not interfere with the Gurukuls.

Discussion

Many features of Gurukul System that should be followed by present education system are character building and philosophy which should get an appropriate place in today's education system. The schools should be situated away from the noisy and polluted environments of the cities so that the students are not affected by the everyday fights and bad practices. In modern times, however, it is not possible to completely lead a life full of control, but we should try to adapt to such way of living. Here, we will also analyze those concepts of Gurukul education system which when fully adapted by present education system may prove to be meaningless such as – using Sanskrit as the medium of instruction for attaining education, offer religion the supreme position in education, not granting access to education to Shudras and females. In this education system, the spiritual world was preferred over the practical or real world. They never went beyond the forethought of the religious conviction, and so, there was nothing such as independent thinking or thinking out of the box.

- What will be the qualifications or essentials for the teachers involved in the modern Gurukul System which our government wants to establish?
- In this education system, what subjects will be included in the curriculum?
- After independence, India has Secularism as a key feature of the Constitution, so, why will the religious minorities accept majority of only one religion in the education system?

- Will a student not face any complications regarding language after he has completed the education as in Gurukul Education System, the medium of instruction would be either Hindi or Sanskrit?
- How will our students coordinate with other countries when they are not acquainted with English language on time?

However, it is noteworthy that already some schools/Institutes/Universities following Gurukul system in modern form have been set up such as *Navodaya Aawasiya Vidyalaya*, *Prabhat Ashram* in Meerut, *Chotipura Amroha* for girls, *Gurukul Kangdi*, *Vanshthali Vidyapeeth* in Jaipur, *Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya* in Haridwar, *Patanjali University* in Haridwar. These institutions resemble the Gurukul Education System, and combine the both cultures (Ancient and Modern) and providing the quality education

and have the capabilities to cop-up with above challenges. So our country need such type of educational Institutes which are combining the ancient and modern ages, these type of institution have the capability to progress the country with science and technology with preserving our rich heritage.

Conclusion

Gurukul education system is ancient education system of our country. It has positive and negative both aspects, but number of positive aspect is more than negative. Gurukul Education system focused on holistic development of student and made their pupil responsible citizen of family, society and nation. Gurukul education system is need of present era with some changes in its functions.

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