

ROLE OF NEP2020 IN INCORPORATION OF TRADITIONAL VALUES IN PRESENT EDUCATION SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

India has always been known for its rich tradition in the context of learning and education since ancient times. The combination of study, spirituality, worship helped India to reach top of the world and made India "Vishwa Guru". The Gurukul System of education was widely followed in ancient India is considered relevant because of its emphasis on holistic and integrated learning, where the students are taught not only academic subjects but also life skills, spiritual values and practices. Students and teachers live with each other and study at same place allowing more personal learning experience. But in colonial era, Gurukul education system was replaced by Western education system based on theoretical and rote learning and made people self centred so, Government of India introduced New Education Policy 2020 to promote the education at universal level and address the challenges of present education system such as outdated curricula, inadequate teaching resources, infrastructure, spirituality, teacher's training etc. The Gurukul Education System, which is traditional form of education in India, has given recognition and a place in National Education Policy (NEP2020). This research paper discusses about Gurukul education system and its some advantages over present education system and how inculcation of some principles and ethical values of Gurukul education system can make present education system better. The focus of the paper will be on how NEP 2020 can play important role in imbibing the traditional values in today's education system to create an education system that will be more comprehensive, inclusive and relevant to the needs of 21st century students.

Keywords: Gurukul Education System, Modern Education System, NEP 2020, MHRD.

Introduction

India has always been proud of a rich tradition in the area of learning and education since ancient times. Indian Culture and ideology have had an important effect on whole World; it is well known that people from other nations such as Europe came to India to get education. If we look back in history, India is always known as "Vishwa Guru" which means the teacher and the knowledge provider to the world because of its well-known education system. The combination of study, spirituality, worship helped India to reach top of the world.

One of the famous educational systems practised in India in the ancient times was The Gurukul System. The Gurukul System of education was widely followed in ancient India and our country was in list of top-quality nations in fact India was the one who gave the concept of zero to the world and it was an Indian who first proved that earth is round in shape. The ancient literature of India talked about the Viman which we know today as aircraft. Indian medicine system was also highly developed. They have non-surgical techniques to cure the illness and diseases. Yoga and meditation techniques were used to be practiced to increase concentration and self-control. Indian epics acknowledged that lord Rama, Krishna, Kauravas and Pandavas also studied in Gurukul under supervision of their guru's Vashistha, Sandeepani and Dronacharya respectively.

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So let's discuss about Gurukul education system and its some advantages over present education system and how inculcation of some principles and ethical values of Gurukul education system can make present education system better. How NEP 2020 can play important role in imbibing the traditional values in today's education system.

Gurukul Education System as Ancient Education System in India

Gurukul education system was primary education system in ancient India. This was the system of education prevalent around 5000 BC in the Indian subcontinent. It was a traditional residential schooling system in which student went to the teacher's house and request them to teach, if guru accepts the student as shishya then the student stays at the Guru's place. It was more prevalent during the Vedic age where students were taught various subjects and about how to live a cultured life and discipline was given higher priority.

Gurukul was actually the home of teacher or Acharya and was the centre of learning where students resided till their education got complete. Equality for the students was major priority at the Gurukul and *guru* (teacher) as well as *shishya* (student) resided in the same house or lived near to each other. This relationship between guru and shishya was so blessed that no fee was taken from the students. However, the student had to offer a *gurudakshina* which was a token of respect paid to the teacher in the form of money or a special task that the student had to perform as per instruction of the teacher.

Role of Gurukul Education System in Holistic Development of Students

The main focus of Gurukuls was on holistic development of students which includes their physical, mental and spiritual development by imparting learning to the students in a natural surrounding where the *shishyas* lived with each other with feeling of brotherhood, love, kindness, respect and discipline. The essential teachings were in subjects like language, science, mathematics through group discussions, self-learning etc. Not only this, but the focus was also given on arts, sports, crafts, singing that developed their intelligence and critical thinking. Activities such as yoga, meditation, mantra chanting etc generated positivity and peace of mind and made them fit (Nikhil, 2019). It was also mandatory to do daily chores on own with a motive to impart practical skills in them. All these helped in the personality development and increased their confidence, sense of discipline, intellect and mindfulness which is necessary even today to face the world that lay ahead. So, the Gurukul system emphasized on moral values, cultural knowledge and life skills to create balance in individual's life.

Introduction of Modern Education System during Colonial period and its Defects

Unfortunately, before independence British rulers worked on the downfall of Gurukul education system and introduced a modern education system in the year 1835 by Lord Macaulay focussed on imparting western (English) education (Stephen Evans, 2002). Macaulay emphasized that English should be the medium of communication in govt. Offices and courts. After establishment of East India Company in India to make their trade prosper introduction of western education was their dire need. Speech delivered by Maculay in British parliament on 2nd feb.1835 showed their intention to dominate the India and destroy Indian education system and he quoted that "I have travelled across the length and breadth of India and I have not seen one person who is a beggar, who is a thief. Such wealth I have seen in this Country, such high moral values, people of such calibre, that I would conquer this country, unless we break the very backbone of this Nation, which is her spiritual and cultural heritage and therefore, I propose that we replace her old and ancient education system, her culture for if the Indian thinks that all that is foreign and English is good and greater than their own, they will lose their self- esteem, their native self- culture and they will become what we want them, a truly dominated nation".

During Colonial period, western education system focussed on English language and technology-based learning intended to produce skilled labour force and reap maximum benefits and restricted the education to rich and middle class. Poor somewhere deprived from right of education. It created self-centred, job-seeking individuals who are focused on making a living and there was a total absence of personality development, creation of moral conscience and ethical training.

One of the biggest flaws about this education is that it is more commercial in nature rather than an institutional concept that should impart holistic learning to the students. It devotes very less time for physical activity and the development of other skill sets that can assist a student to become a better human being.

Important Aspects of Gurukul Education System Over Modern Education System

Some people consider the Gurukul system quite peculiar because of some issues like residing with a teacher, absence of a curriculum or a set routine making learning for kids very difficult. However, the modern-day educationalist considering it backward way of teaching learning and realized that there are many teaching approaches from the Gurukul system that can be inculcated in the present-day educational system. We can consider various important aspects of Gurukul education system over modern education system.

- Gurukul system was emphasizing on theoretical and practical knowledge can make learning for students more powerful. But our present-day education just believes in bookish knowledge and rote learning which is not sufficient.
- Gurukul were located away from hustle and bustle of villages and cities, surrounded in calm and isolated environment amidst nature helps to build the mind and spirit relieves from stress and enhances their concentration level. Meditation methods were used to improve the concentration power of students. It also imbibes other values needed for holistic growth. The present day education mainly focuses on a rank based system instead of value based which is driven by their peers and over-ambitious parents who judge the knowledge of students only by academic performance leading to depression.
- In Gurukul system students always highly respect their teachers and share good bond with them. Student's behaviour moulded by guru by his guidelines. The need of present times is to ensure that teachers and students share a friendly relation and respect. This was present in the Gurukul system which can be inculcated today through use of activities, training workshops to bond with the students.
- As in Gurukul education system students used to live in the house of Guru and thought to follow given schedule were more disciplined and organised. But in modern scenario self control and discipline is somewhere missing not imparted in students.
- Gurukul education system was totally based on moral values and strong emphasis was given to moral and ethical values which helps in development of optimistic, calm and composed personality but modern education has overlooked moral and spiritual values that is harmful for community as whole. Infract, institutions are not fully aware how and when moral values should be teaching to the students
- In Gurukul education system students followed the principle of simple living and high thinking. Students of that era was more disciplined but nowadays the life style of our young generation has altogether changed they like to lead a life with full of fashion. They have given up the principle of Simple Living and High Thinking and focussing on its reverse i.e. High Living and Simple Thinking. The whole balance of the life is disturbed. In order to make their life healthy and balanced they should be made to realize the importance of ancient style of life.
- In Gurukul system equality was major priority of a teacher no discrimination was done among them but now a day's private schools want to admit students of elite class poor students are always treated in an inferior way.
- Gurukul education system focussed on providing knowledge, understanding and making students self-sufficient. The ancient schools followed the principle of education for self-sufficiency. Modern education lays stress upon preparing students to prepare themselves for their future life. Vocational subjects have been included in the curriculum in order to vocational education but much is needed to the done in this direction in order to achieve the desired aim.
- Gurukul education system was more learning centric not exam centric.

Need for Imbibing Traditional Values and Principles in Modern Education System

Swami Vivekananda famously said, "Education is the manifestation of perfection already existing in man". The education system of today is designed to serve the industrialized world, lacking in terms of providing versatile experience and skills for the students. Present education system is exam centric instead of learning centric (Patel, 2013). It creates self-cantered job-seeking individuals who are focused on making a living and not using their true potential. In present education system young generations facing serious problems in terms of moral ethical and spiritual values (Joshi, 2020). So, We need to create an education system that is based on ethos and cultural values of Gurukul education system, provide the practical learning not only theoretical and rote learning.

Though the modern education system introduced by Lord Macaulay helped to make our country globalised and self-sufficient, yet it also led to moral degradation. Self control, discipline, respect for elders, sympathy for poor is somewhere missing in this system so, introduction of ideas of Gurukul system can assist young generation in understanding the concept of a balanced life. This very ideology of balance should be taught to the kids from a young age so that they make informed decisions about work, food, exercise and the way they wish to live their life. This is the core of the Indian Knowledge Systems – it connects you with yourself, your community, and the creation. Especially, it provides practices in the form of traditional education, Yoga, Ayurveda and rituals that allows the knowledge to be practiced in a cleared and simple manner by the larger population. Imbibing and practicing this knowledge will be the key trait of aspiring leaders of the future as well.

National Education Policy 2020

Countries plan their education system to progress further (Rizvi& Lingard, 2009). After Independence different committees and commission were made to promote the education, to improve curricula and quality of education which was deteriorated in colonial period including Radha –Krishan Commission (1948-49), Kothari Commission (1964-1966), Acharya Narender Deva Committee, National Policy of Education 1968, the National Policy on Education (1986) and National Education Policy 2020 (NEP2020). NEP2020 was released by Government of India in July 2020 was a significant step for development of education in India. This policy aimed at promoting education from early childhood to higher education in India. Govt. of India is providing universal access of education through NEP2020 and also addressing challenges faced in present education system. The rich heritage, ancient Indian Knowledge and thought has been guiding light for this policy (MHRD, 2020)

Recognition and Integration of Gurukul System's Strength in NEP2020

In recent years, India is far behind in list of top-quality universities, so keeping in view the development objective of entire country and for promoting education at universal level NEP2020 introduced after 34 years (Verma, 2020). The Gurukul education system, which is a traditional form of education in India, has been given recognition and place in the NEP2020. This policy is focusing on not only cognitive capacities but also on fundamental capacities such as critical thinking and problem solving (MHRD, 2020). This policy can provide outlines for introducing traditional values in present education system. Here are some ways in which NEP 2020 can be the best way for introducing traditional values in today's education system:

- **Emphasis on Gurukul education Systems:** The NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of ancient Indian knowledge systems and aims to integrate them into the mainstream education system. The policy emphasizes the need to include traditional subjects such as yoga, Ayurveda, and Indian philosophy in the curriculum.
- **Promoting Multilingualism:** The policy promotes the use of Indian languages especially regional languages in education and aims to create a multilingual society. This will not only preserve the traditional values but also help students to connect with their roots and made education accessible in rural areas.
- **Encouraging Critical Thinking:** The NEP 2020 emphasizes the importance of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. By incorporating traditional values and knowledge systems, students can develop a deeper understanding of their culture and heritage.
- **Strengthening Cultural Integration:** The policy aims to promote cultural integration by creating a National Curriculum Framework that includes the diversity of India. This will help in creating a sense of unity in diversity and promote the traditional values of tolerance and acceptance.
- **Focus on Life Skills Education:** The NEP 2020 emphasizes the importance of life skills education, which includes values such as empathy, compassion, and responsibility. By promoting these values, students can develop a sense of social responsibility and become well-rounded individuals.
- **Experimental Learning:** In Gurukul education system students were learning by doing and practical experiences in the same way NEP2020 is also emphasizing experimental learning and Problem solving through skill enhancement courses.
- **Holistic Education:** The Gurukul education system focused on holistic development of students not just academics in same way NEP2020 also emphasizing physical, spiritual, cognitive, social development of students. The Gurukul system focussed on applied knowledge that prepared the

students in all fields of life. In present time NEP2020 can help in creating a perfect combination of academics and extracurricular activities along with teaching in the area of mindfulness and spiritual awareness to make the students better individuals

In conclusion, NEP 2020 provides several measures that can help in introducing traditional values in today's education system. By incorporating Indian knowledge systems, promoting Indian languages, encouraging critical thinking, strengthening cultural integration, and focusing on life skills education, the policy can help in creating a more holistic education system. So, NEP 2020 can be the best way for introducing traditional values in today's education system.

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