

Gurukul and Modern Education System in India: Holistic Outlook

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Abstract— It is an undeniable fact that the present day society, which nurtures the younger generation, faces serious shortcomings in terms of moral, ethical, spiritual and Dharmik values. Parental pressures on children are increasing at an alarming rate, with stress to focus on the competitive examinations alone, taking a greater toll on the young mental framework. Children are getting alienated from the crucial aspect of personality development through moral and ethical training. The pointless pressure has taken the reallocation of educational parlance from a holistic approach towards education to farcical rote learning. Unfortunately, the standard of education has drastically deteriorated in the last couple of decades due to lack of infrastructure and degradation of moral capacities. The present paper mainly emphasis on the gurukul and modern education system, its pros and cons

INTRODUCTION

Gurukul system of education existed during ancient times where students used to reside at guru's place and learn everything which can be later implemented to find solutions to real life problems [1]. An emotional bond between a guru and shishya was must before practicing teaching learning process. The guru imparted the knowledge of everything such as religion, sanskrit, scriptures, medicine, philosophy, literature, warfare, statecraft, astrology, history and many more. The learning was not only to read books but correlating it with the nature and life. It was not memorizing certain facts and figures and writing the answers in examinations [2]. The education was based on vedas, rules of sacrifice, grammar and derivation, understanding secrets of nature, logical reasoning, science and skills necessary for an occupation. The ancient education system in India had explicitly recognized that the supreme goal of life is self realization and hence it claimed to be unique in the world in several aspects like the society did not in any way interfered with the curriculum of studies or regulating the payment of fees or hours of instruction

Modern Gurukul System in new India

Education has always seen the heavy hand of the whimsical nature of time, when considering a nation with a turbulent history as that of India. Education has been the most opted avenue of expressing freedom of will while inculcating the spirit of thought and moral conscience to a more transcending level. In spite of such rich connotations, the present educational system seems to be devoid of this very essence, promoting mindless acquisition of knowledge to suit vocational pursuits. Consequently, both teachers and students have been completely deprived of the exceptional amenities that could foster a better standard of living.

Students need to have supple minds that are capable of analytical thinking, while integrating complex core concepts that aid them to evolve as human beings. They need to build an infallible foundation of scientific and technological knowledge, while staying true to their roles in the planet. This is possible through deep levels of determination, focus and concentration, that is enshrined in Gurukul learning. This is the reason why Gurukul systems are considered to be the best places to facilitate a sound learning environment.

Gurukul System

The kernel of Gurukul system of education is intrinsically based on time tested values and principles. It envisions its strength in developing a native sense of concentration and interest while enhancing a child's knowledge and development of the brain. The wards in the Gurukul are oblivious of outer distractions, living in close proximity of a teacher, where greater emphasis is laid on students mental, cognitive, spiritual and physical wellness. The system functions on the well-rounded holistic development of a child, enshrining values such as discipline, self-reliance, right attitude, empathy, creativity, and strong moral beliefs. Initiating children into such an enriching atmosphere in the early stages helps them hone their perceptive skills and critical thinking from a tender age, giving them an edge over others.

Modern infrastructure

Gurukul systems have a vibrant significance in Indian history, holding prominence over the sheer quality of education disseminated. At present, age-old concepts have amalgamated with modern culture to facilitate the progress of an enlivening learning environment for students. Traditionally, Gurukuls have always emphasised on the importance of practical knowledge. Similarly, Gurukul systems today believe that bookish knowledge and rote learning are mere tools of time, not sufficient enough to demonstrate the true value of human existence. Gurukuls provide practical knowledge under modern infrastructure including practical laboratories with state-of-the-art facilities and technology. The curriculum prepares student to excel in all fields of life, creating a perfect blend of academics and extra-curricular activities, making the educational journey remarkable.

Ambience

Often, Gurukuls are located at picturesque places enmeshed in absolute serenity, far from the hustle and bustle of city life. It is here that tender minds are encouraged to have a balanced, analytical vision, ensuring an ambience where education is objective yet rewarding. Location plays a central role; being ensconced amidst nature, devoid of any worldly distractions offers an environment which is most conducive to learning. Self-reliance is one of the most crucial values that one imbibes from this isolation – one of the greatest values to

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inculcate as a human being. The serene ambience of such schools is ideal for education and holistic growth.

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Holistic education

At present, with parents becoming ambitious to make proud statements about their kids academic performance, students are driven by the feeling of animosity by competing with their peers. Replacing rank-based system, Gurukul builds a value-based and value-added education system which identifies and promotes the uniqueness of each student, allowing them to excel in their area of interest. One can visualise a better educational environment which builds the character of a student, and not drag them down.

AIMS OF EDUCATION FOR THE STUDENTS IN THE GURUKUL

The aim of acquisition of the supreme knowledge:

This amounted to acquiring that knowledge which could help one to forget worldly pleasures and understand the Brahma (God), in other words, to attain immortality. This kind of knowledge was considered above everything else. It was to be different from virtue, vice, cause and effect and the past and present.

The character development aim:

Training of the will-power was considered necessary for character development. Towards this end the student was required to -think of only good things. He had to observe various rules of moralities. He had to study Vedas and the other supplementary texts daily. The Upanishad warns a student to shun bad conduct if he wants to develop his character.

The complete development aim:

The complete development aim amounted to controlling of senses and practicing introversion. This was considered as the ideal method for complete living which meant all-sided development. The various duties to be performed daily in the Gurukul had to lead to the realization of the goal of all-sided development

The individual and the social aim:

The daily disciplinary life in the Gurukul meant to develop in the students many individual and social virtues. A student was required to be truthful all his life.

With the development of the body, mind and heart the student was trained to develop some such virtues which could make him a socially efficient individual. He was required to be free from deceit, diplomacy, pride and falsehood. He had to believe in giving charities.

The spiritual development aim:

The performance of Yagyas (Yajnas) was considered above everything else. The various Upanishads have explained the qualifications that were considered necessary for spiritual development.

The Kathopanishad has introduced the term 'introversion' as the best method for spiritual development. This meant that a student had to shut himself up to the external world and was advised to look entirely within himself.

Education for culture:

During the Upanishadic day's hospitality was considered as a compulsory social obligation, and it was raised to the position of a religious duty also. To offer food to a passerby or to a guest was regarded as equivalent to a sacrifice.

The principle of truth was honored as the highest virtue. The habit of cleanliness was considered as a trait worthy of cultivation by all. During the Upanishad age the preservation and development of culture of the race was given the highest importance in education

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ANCIENT GURUKULA AND THE MODERN SCHOOL

Advantages of studying in Gurukula:-

- The teachers of "Gurukula" confer knowledge regarding Hindu religion, Vedas and give them a practical view of life. Their principal objective is to make them good human and teach them human values. So in Gurukula human values are very important for the teachers of Gurukula.
- Their system of education was different from today's education system, in Gurukula, they help to improve the character of the student.
- The mode of communication was "Sanskrit" all the lesson was given in the Sanskrit language. They make them aware about the culture, traditional and virtues and promote the tradition of Hindus. The student develops their skills more efficiently and becomes more disciplined.
- The instructions given by the "Guru" has been the most vital things, and the students of Gurukula have to follow the instructions of the teacher or Gurus. The dress worn by the student was Dhoti & kurta there is no special dress code for the student. The gurus of Gurukula teach the student how to deal with any situation in life.

The Advantages Of Studying In Modern School

- Modern school is almost different from the "Gurukula" in modern school the teacher uses a different kind of teaching tools and technology to understand the concept more easily. With the rapid development in various technology, the education system is almost changed. With the production of computer, it is become essential to gain knowledge regarding the computer.

- The mode of communication for mostly every School becomes English or Hindi. The tradition of communicating in Hindi is almost gone. But there are still some schools who still taught there student Sanskrit. With modern technology the schools are more developed they teach sports and another type of facilities to their student. For the comfort of the student, the schools mostly place Air-conditioner or fan to give education with comfort.
- The children have to wear a well-ironed uniform with belt, badges and I.D card becomes compulsory. The teachers teach and guide student about every subject like mathematics, English, Hindi, science, etc. but all the changes are not bad with time we have to change our, so the school also being improved. In that time there were only a few, and one guru is enough for the students. But with the increase in population and development the schooling part also get extend and changed.

MERITS OF GURUKUL SYSTEM

1. The Gurus had colossal information and knew how to instruct the most burdensome of the things.
2. This Parampara used to take as much time as is needed and because of this, the students used to turn out in a meticulous form.
3. They used to acquire a particular style and inculcated high levels of efficiency.
4. The student used to have a high regard for the Guru and discipline was sought after.
5. Much of the teaching was practical and there was parcel of advantages of this style of education.
6. The environment given to the student ensured he would turn into an artisan or an accomplished person in his field of interest.

DEMERITS OF GURU SHISHYA PARAMPARA

1. The student did not get much exposure as he was under the tutelage of a single Guru.
2. There was no day and age designated for the course. The understudy needed to rely upon the educator entirely.
3. The old framework did not engage the hypothetical aspect of art.
4. The student additionally needed to perform everyday house chores for the master.

CONCLUSION

One needs to comprehend the reason for Gurukul: how it worked, what society resembled in the past and how the objective of Gurukul training can be accomplished in the present day setting. It is not just a case of copying the past. There must be an adjustment and a mix of both cutting edge instruction and convention if the gurukul framework is to survive and affect today's general public. The objective of the new age gurukul education should be to prepare students in a manner that they do not just have the learning of the current training framework, but also beyond that. Gurukul graduates should not feel substandard compared to their peers.

It is evident from the above mentioned facts that Gurukul system is the path towards a healthier, conscientious world.

We should progress with this vision to educate young minds and foster ethical, social, moral and spiritual values through holistic learning.

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