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**"A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON ANCIENT & MODERN EDUCATION SYSTEM"**

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**Abstract**

This paper presents comparison between the ancient and modern education system. It highlights the basic pattern of ancient education which contributed quality manpower absorbs moral, social and civic values of the society. The present education system fills the gap between several reasons as a result of which the outcome is becoming self centric. This calls for several reforms in present education sector which can be implemented from ancient education for overall development of students as a human being. The quality of education greatly influences the quality of manpower for the societal benefits.

**Keywords-Ancient Education, Gurukul, Knowledge, Veda**

**1. 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.

[3] The other aim of ancient Indian education included preservation and enrichment of culture, character and personality development and cultivation of noble idea. It being completely residential hence student had to live at the guru's house and learn from him not only what was taught but also observe how his teacher responded in different situations arising in daily life and learn from it.

[4] Education was absolutely free. Each student used to meet the teacher separately and learn from him through separate instructions and guidance. Even student aiming highest philosophical knowledge was duty bound to do some manual labour daily such as collecting fuel, tending cattle etc. The quality of education was unparalleled as the students from all over the world had their first preference to India for higher education.

**Research Methodology**

Study is based on secondary data collected from books, compilations & Websites.

**Significance of the Study**

The study focuses on reviewing the ancient education system and to adopt the ancient education system in modern education system.

**Objectives**

To know about Ancient Education System

To know about Modern Education System

To compare the Ancient Education System & Modern Education System

**Basis of Ancient Education**

**Personality Development**

The foremost aim of ancient education system was to develop the overall personality and character. The strengths were induced that helped the society to be together. This was because the education started and with religious rituals with the sense of whole heartedly devotion for the cause of learning. The formal and education were given due importance. The pursuit of knowledge was pursuit of religious values. The quality traits such as self esteem and self confidence were tried to inculcate in pupils through education.

**Perfect Teaching Learning Atmosphere**

The classes were held in either open space on the bank of a river or in a jungle in quiet, calm and peaceful environment. Temple colleges were known for all the amenities such as hostels, classrooms, libraries and residential quarters for teachers.

- **Personal Attention to Every Student**  
The gurus were spiritual father. They used to nurse, feed and clothe. The students were taught based on his learning ability. Teachers never assumed themselves in the position of authority but were very gentle and sweet while dealing with the students. Teachers commanded full respect in society and honored even by kings.
- **Discipline**  
The gurukul contained students from rich to poor families. Every student used to lead a very simple life in ashrama. The discipline, rules and regulations were rooted in morality and religion. Any violation of rules was treated as a sin and subject to punishment.
- **Low Student Teacher Ratio**  
Due to low student teacher ratio, the individual attention could be given. The number of students on roll was limited. In the extreme situation, when it was not possible on the part of guru to impart learning, the assistance from senior pupils was taken. In the absence of guru, senior pupils played the role of gurus.
- **Free Education**  
The education was absolutely free. The pupils from well to do families such as princes used to pay Guru Dakshina. It had perfect autonomy. There was no involvement of external beneficiaries. Access to good education was independent of wealth but the emphasis was on the learnability. Shishyas were never compelled to offer a field, cow, horse or vegetables to his guru. Thus financial position was never a barrier to get the best education. It enhanced originality of thinking among them. The varna was based on karma. One could choose his profession and accordingly, his varna was determined.
- **Development of Civic Responsibilities and Social Values**  
The inculcation of civic virtues and social values was equally important objective of education in India. The Brahmachari after his education in the gurukulas went back to the society to serve the rich and the poor, to relieve the diseased and the distressed. He was required to be hospitable to the guests and charitable to the needy. Everyone had a responsibility to preserve the national culture and act as a transmission medium to spread the knowledge.

## VI. Basis of Modern Education System

The modern education system in India is really disappointing. It is a true barrier in the country's progress. Students in India are expected to cram up the books, chapters and syllabus and write their answers accordingly. And the one who possesses this robotic memory is truly a topper! Indirectly, this practice (which is considered as schooling & education) is ruining students' creativity and thinking skills. The concept of Think outside the box isn't much appreciated in the learning processes and schooling. Students are taught to be excellent in theoretical knowledge but what about practical knowledge? In India, no importance is given to practical knowledge in schools. In many schools, a subject like Computer is taught orally and students are told to mug up the question/answers of their textbooks. How ridiculous is this..! Even the literal meaning of notebooks has changed. Notebooks aren't used for making notes; instead they are considered as the mug-up books: students have to cram up each and every word of the limited question/answers in their notebooks for getting good grades. The main emphasis is on good marks, good percentage either by hook or by crook. And hence, rote learning plays a vital role in Indian education system. To many people, the lack of practical knowledge seems to be the real reason behind educated unemployed youth in India. Long school hours and homework, tuitions etc. make a student's life stressful. Teachers as well as parents have high expectations from students and if students fail to meet their expectations, these tender minds have to deal with depression and torture. This education system neglects the fact that every student has his own abilities, own potential and own interests.

## VII. Basis of compare the Ancient Education System & Modern Education System

- The basic difference between Gurukul and modern education system is that the Gurukul education is entirely consists of Vedas, epics, literature and archery and the modern education includes variety of subjects like science, math's, English etc.
- The students of the modern school are dependent on their parents for education who have to bear the increasing costs of education. While a Gurukul revolves around the concept that education should not be sold hence there is no fee structure.
- In general the whole society was responsible for the education of students. SO, they offer the Gurukul alms that are utilized by the guru, as well as the organization (Gurukul).
- Each student of the Gurukul after the education is completed education has to essentially bring Dakshina, for running of the Gurukul.

### VIII. Findings

*The followings are the findings from the study*

- Educations should lead to Skill development.
- The class should be Interactive from both student and teacher
- Low teacher ratio which leads to giving personal attention to each & every students
- Teacher should maintain time management
- A good teacher focuses on moral education which forms strong relationship with his/ her students and show that he/ she care about students as individual.

### IX. Suggestions & Conclusion

Both ancient education & modern methods of education have their own merits & demerits it can be suggested from above discussion that integration of both ancient & modern education methods is required for overall development of education system.

The level of education is one of the major indicators of welfare, prosperity and security of people in any society. Education is a process by which individuals are equipped with the skills of everyday life. More than a mere system of imparting and acquiring knowledge, education is regarded as an attempt to transmit the cultural norms of the group to its younger members. Thus, it ensured the continuing of social traditions and customs. Education can be a powerful instrument for shaping and modernizing the society.

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