



Relevance Vedic Education System in Present Era

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Abstract:

Ancient Vedic education is a reflection of the mantras and practices of the Aryan sages which fulfilled the various needs of the individual and society. The ideals of Vedic education were the Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita and other sacred books, especially for all-round spiritual development and attainment of infinite knowledge. Section one deals with the characteristics of Vedic education. Second Section of this present Study related with the ancient philosophy such as holistic development, civic responsibility, psychological wellbeing and spiritual and ethical training. Vivid curriculum patterns included different subject matters appears in section three. Teaching method of Vedic education was popular in the global world like Shravan, Manan, Nidhidhyasan, Debate-discussion, question – answering system which has gained importance in the current education system in recent years. Finally, last section deals with the importance or relevance of Vedic education in present era. Presently, Innovative teaching strategies, experiential learning, collaborative learning, comprehensive school concepts are borrowed from ancient Vedic education.

Keywords: *Present Era, Vedic Education, Gurukul, Debate-Discussion, Critical thinking, Holistic development.*

Introduction

The oldest and most glorious education system in the world was the ancient Vedic education system. According to some viewpoints it had existed from 1600 BC to 600 AD. The India was first country to establish a top-notch educational system. Ancient Vedic education is a reflection of the mantras and practices of the Aryan sages which fulfilled the various needs of the individual and society. The ideals of Vedic education were the Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita and other sacred books, especially for all-round spiritual development and attainment of infinite knowledge. The old Gurukul educational system was highly regarded worldwide due to its numerous features, life and scientific management style, and variety of skills and knowledge given from an early age. Current theories, conceptions, inventions and discovery are mostly derived from the Vedic literature and wisdom. Numerous researches have delved deeply into scientific, spiritual, psychological and behaviour understanding by studying Vedic literature. Ancient Vedic education was not just about earning money or earning a living in the student's life. It was a strategy that emphasized achieving spiritual goals, self-realization, attainment of salvation, attainment of supernatural knowledge, development of personality, harmony with nature, and morality values, ethical training and character

building where as modern education primarily emphasizes on attainment of a paravidya, employability, vocational education, critical thinking and earn money. Through individualized and experiential learning, the educational philosophy of Vedic education placed a strong emphasis on cultivating wisdom, spiritual enlightenment, and societal ideals. An effort has been made to demonstrate the applicability of Vedic education within the framework of national policy 2020 through this study.

1. Characteristics of Vedic Education System:

Gurukul System: Students received direct teaching and hands-on experience while living with their teachers, or gurus.

Holistic Education: Vedic Education focused on all round development i.e. spiritual, physical, and intellectual development of the pupil rather than stereo type education.

Moral development: Vedic schooling placed a strong emphasis on moral growth. It might support students in upholding moral and ethical standards in their social and personal lives.

Ethical Values: Vedic education practised on ethical training focusing on dharma (righteousness) and Karma (duty) truthfulness, and self-discipline.

Subjects Taught: comprised the study of scriptures as well as astronomy, medicine, logic, philosophy, mathematics, grammar, and the arts.

Oral Tradition: Memorization and recitation were prioritized in the oral transmission of knowledge.

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2. Philosophy of Vedic education system

- **Holistic Development** – Ancient Vedic education stressed on all round development and character making. Moral ideals were instilled in students to be followed throughout their lives.
- **Spiritual and Religious values** – Education without spiritual and religious qualities was not regarded as education at that time since the Vedic educational system placed a strong emphasis on faithfulness and the establishment of religious values in addition to moral standards in students. It was thought that religious principles should be instilled in students from an early age.
- **Civic responsibilities and Social values** – Students of Vedic Education also had civic obligations after completing their education at the Gurukul. They were expected to return to society and contribute in many ways to improve and evolve it
- **Enlightenment** – In order to reach complete enlightenment, students had to learn the value of both the body and the soul through the Vedic Education System. The system incorporates spiritual components such as prayer, chanting and religious rites on significant occasions, with an emphasis on human enlightenment.
- **Character building:** Teachers also emphasized the learning of sensory control as a means of promoting the development of character. During their time of learning, they were known as the “Brahmacharis”. It helped to create a sense of responsibility, unity, integrity and respect to others.
- **Moral & Ethical Values:** Vedic education Stressed on moral development. It could help students to maintain moral and ethical standard in their personal and social life. It stressed on ethical training of

an individual focussing dharma (righteousness) and Karma (duty) and always guide one with principles of ethical living.

- **Mental Health and Well-being:** Practices from the Vedic system, like yoga and meditation, provide useful resources for boosting resilience and mental health in light of the growing concerns about stress and mental health among students.

3. Curriculum:

The curriculum of the Vedic Education System was extensive and diverse, covering a wide range of subjects with the aim of equipping students with both practical skills and spiritual insight. Nalanda University's ancient Vedic education program covers fundamental subjects.

Vedas and Scriptures: For imparting life lessons, the four Vedas—the Vedanga, Brahmanas, Aranyak, and Upanishad—were the primary emphasis of Vedic instruction. The Vedas, Upanishads, and other holy writings were recited and interpreted for the students, who also learned about rites, songs, and philosophical discussions.

Grammar: Sanskrit Vyakaran (Grammar) and Nirukta essential part of curriculum for helping the students to comprehend the Vedic text accurately. The knowledge of sacred writings and successful communication were made possible by a mastery of Sanskrit grammar and linguistics.

Sanskrit: During the Vedic era, the Sanskrit language was regarded as a scientific language, and its literature was believed to promote human peace and unity.

Philosophy and Ethics: Understanding difficult philosophical ideas, moral behavior, and the tenets of dharma—which helped students live moral lives were emphasized.

Mathematics and Astronomy: Geometry, arithmetic and algebra are the part Ganita.. Astronomical and mathematical expertise was highly prized, and courses that addressed celestial occurrences helped students develop their analytical and observational abilities.

Astronomy and cosmology: Astronomy and cosmology known as Jyotisha. This subject included the study of celestial and cosmic cycles essential for calculating the timing of rituals and understanding time bodies planet motions,

Medicine and Ayurveda: Students studied anatomy, physiology, herbal remedies, and holistic health practices as part of the ancient medical and health science known as Ayurveda. Arts and Sciences:

Music and Arts: This included music, dance, medicine, and natural sciences, promoting creativity and a deep understanding of the natural world.

Ethics and Morality: Moral principles and ethics open throw the study of Dharma Shastra text on law and morals codes where integral for character development and social harmony.

Logic and Debate (Nyaya): Logical reasoning and debate emphasize to develop critical thinking argumentation and analytical skills specially for philosophical discussion.

Economics and politics (Arthashastra): Practical subjects like state craft economic and governance were tort particularly through text like the Arthashastra preparing students for administrative roles.

4. Methods of Instruction:

Memorization: In Vedic time, memorization of learning matters is essential of part of learning. Teacher and student both recite verses repeated times to memorize these matters.

Oral Teaching: Because of a shortage of printing and writing supplies, particularly paper, books were created by hand. This time printed material was not available immensely. So teacher conveyed the lessons to the students verbally. The students paid close attention to the teacher and memorized the texts with dedication.

Introspection: Introspection method encompasses at three stages: Shravan (listening to the teacher), Manan (Meditation) and Nididhyasan (realization through meditation).

The Question-Answer Method: In the Vedic period, it was common to use a question-and-answer approach along with discussions. Students posed questions, and the teacher provided explanations. This method required students to comprehend their subjects effectively.

Debate and discussion: The Brahmavāda or Brahmodya were the names given to these kinds of conversations. It was known as the Vidyā vivāda or Vidyā vicāra in Classical Sanskrit literature because the educated men who participated in the discussion rationally addressed a variety of issues pertaining to philosophy and religious treatises.

Critical thinking: In Vedic education ‘Anvikshiki’ means ‘science of enquiry’ that emphasize on critical thinking. This type of thinking assists individual to analysis, interpretation, evaluation, and judgment.

Experiential learning: The Vedic educational system placed a strong focus on experiential learning through field trips, everyday activities, ritual participation, and other real-world encounters

Use of Illustration, Examples, Sutras, Stories, Maxims, etc.: In Vedic education system Guru or Teacher used illustrations, examples, stories, maxims, etc. during teaching time. Guru teaches things from known to unknown and from unknown to known.

Gurukul system: One of the most prominent teaching methods in the ancient Indian educational system was the Gurukul system, which was centered around the tight relationship between students and their master, the master-Shishya. Agra-Shishya or Pupil-Teacher System

Discipline: In the Vedic era, self-discipline was seen as the finest discipline. This is why corporal punishment was also used, and Brahmachari discipline was required for everyone to control their senses.

5. Why Vedic Education is so important in present time?

Cultural Preservation: One source of ancient knowledge that can aid in this cultural preservation is the Vedic educational system. It guarantees the continuation of a cultural legacy by ensuring that long-standing customs are not lost but rather transmitted to subsequent generations.

Educational Reforms: Alternative pedagogies that promote holistic development should be investigated, according to NEP 2020. These issues may be resolved by the Vedic system’s emphasis on morality, critical thinking, and hands-on learning.

Global Competitiveness: The importance of innovative educational methods that produce gifted, imaginative, and flexible people is increasing as knowledge economies expand. The Vedic educational system’s emphasis on interdisciplinary learning and intellectual development aligns with these world trends.

Mental Health and Well-being: Practices from the Vedic system, like yoga and meditation, provide useful resources for boosting resilience and mental health in light of the growing concerns about stress and mental health among students.

Interdisciplinary Learning: New Education Policy 2020 strongly emphasises Interdisciplinary Learning. The Vedic Education System leads interdisciplinary learning by incorporating arts, sciences, and spirituality into a cohesive educational experience.

Holistic Development: Academic success and technical proficiency are frequently prioritized over moral and ethical growth in modern schooling. Character development is highly valued in the Vedic Education System, which helps pupils develop qualities like honesty, compassion, humility, and self-control.

Innovative Pedagogy: The Vedic Education System promotes learning methods that are experiential and focused on the student. This approach to education fosters critical thinking and creativity, motivating learners to challenge beliefs, evaluate information thoughtfully, and create inventive solutions to intricate issues.

Conclusion:

Due to its philosophical ideas, extensive curricula, methods of instruction, creative teaching techniques, Gurukul system, life and scientific management approach, and other skills that provide a comprehensive framework for education in the modern era. The ancient Vedic educational system was honored globally. During this time, education was intricately linked to moral and spiritual development rather than just imparting professional knowledge and abilities. The 2020 education policy suggests adding disciplines like yoga, ayurveda, medicine, and Sanskrit language. Additionally, NEP 2020 placed a strong emphasis on experiential learning, holistic growth, creative learning, and a collaborative approach to learning. The demands of the time's society influenced the development of this educational system. The Vedic education debate system has gained importance in the current curriculum in recent years. All of the aforementioned significant contemporary approaches to learning and thinking, including the seminar system, debate and discussion system, Gurukul system, collaborative learning, and creative thinking, are influenced by ancient Vedic education. The Mudaliar Commission's comprehensive school and the American comprehensive school concept also borrowed from ancient Vedic education of Nalanda.

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