



## Influence of k-alid-asa Writings on the Development of Moral and Value Education

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### Abstract:

*Mythology is one of the most interesting to read or listen to for readers. Myths provide judgments about what we ought or ought not to do, and they also represent a certain way of viewing society. The dynamic and structure of value in this society, as well as the development of moral education, can be epitomised by its literature today. EM: Why do you think mythology has been such an enthralling subject for readers and listeners throughout the years? Some of the renowned works by Kalidasa include Abhijana Shakuntalam, which reflects our present truthfulness and duty, the clash of will, nature and human existence. Vikramovashyam is what tells us about the altercation between things as complicated as love, desires and destiny. Malavikagnimitram, which remarks on how we treat people according to our love state or the circumstances. Raghuvansham, the poem also idealises the moral character of society through religion, morality, justice and renunciation and war ideals. The epic poem Kumarasambhavam emphasises the value system of Young India, religious sacrifice and the astonishing aspect of natural beauty. Meghdootam is a poetic treatise on love, parting and the depth of human emotions. Sanghar, in essence, dictates the various seasons of Mother Nature. it inculcates respect and love for nature, which also generates responsibility and empathy among the people. This paper examines Kalidas' writings in the context of human values and moral education. Kalidasa's writings have a profound impact on the values and moral development of a student, teaching them to love their society, be honest and fair towards different religions, and practice sacrifice.*

**Keywords:** Indian Knowledge System, Moral Education, Value Education.

### Introduction:

This paper is about the poet Kalidasa, one of the central figures in the Sanskrit literary tradition. Kalidasa was a prominent poet, playwright, and lyricist in the classical Sanskrit and Prakrit languages. Kalidasa is believed to have been born in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries CE, in the Gupta Empire, near the Himalayas, around 300 CE. Although Kalidasa's works are very well known, not much is known about his life. Kalidasa's influence on the Indian knowledge system is far-reaching in the fields of literary drama and culture, as he is known as one of the major writers of the Golden Age of the Gupta period. His works set a standard for later

Indian writers and playwrights. His books teach the morals of today's society, such as honesty, fairness, and love. His novels, plays, and poems are very important in developing moral development, such as the ability to judge good and evil and developing emotional values. People are encouraged to make the right decisions in their lives and create value in life. Kalidasa highlights the importance of morals and values in human life through his various works. The play 'Abhijnan Shakuntalam' is about the love, marriage, separation and eventual reunion of King Dushyanta and the sage's daughter Shakuntala. The play follows the story of King Dushyanta forgetting Shakuntala due to a curse and later rekindling their relationship through a ring ('abhijna'). The play was originally written by Kalidasa based on a story from the Mahabharata, which tells the love story of King Dushyanta and Shakuntala, the birth of their son Bharata, and the naming of the Indian subcontinent. Vikramorvashi, written by Kalidasa, is a five-act Sanskrit play, the subject of which is the love story of King Pururva and the apsara Urvashi. This play shows how King Pururba falls in love with the nymph Urvashi, famous for her beauty, and how their love story progresses through various obstacles and dangers. The play Malavikagnimitram is about the love story of the Sunga emperor Agnimitra and an exiled maid, Malavika. Agnimitra is fascinated by Malavika after seeing her picture and resorts to various conspiracies to meet her. This love story includes the king's attraction to Malavika and the jealousy of the then-queen, among other incidents. Raghuvamsham, written by the great poet Kalidasa, is a Sanskrit epic poem, the subject of which is the history of the Raghu dynasty and the stories of their descendants. It highlights the important events narrated in the 19 Sargas of the Raghu dynasty, from King Dilip to Agnivarna, with special mention of King Rama and his ancestors. Kumarasambhavam is the story of the birth of Kartikeya, the son of Shiva and Parvati, who was commissioned by the god Indra to slay the demon Tarakasura. It is an epic poem written by Kalidasa, which narrates the birth and adolescence of the goddess Parvati, her marriage to Shiva, and the birth of their son Kartikeya. The poem deals with themes such as love, devotion, and war. The main theme of the play Meghadutam is the tragic story of a Yaksha's love for his wife. In his exile, his separation from her and his sending messages to her through clouds. A Yaksha is exiled to the Ramgiri mountain by the curse of Lord Kubera due to the neglect of his duties. Sitting there, he convinces a cloud to send a message to his wife on the first day of the month of Ashadha, which is the main theme of this poem. The theme of the play Ritu Sanghar is the description of the six seasons of nature—summer, monsoon, autumn, winter, and spring—and the reflection of human emotions (love, desire, etc.) with the change of seasons. In this poem, Kalidasa highlights the beauty and diversity of nature and the loneliness and emotions of the lover through these six seasons.

**Objectives: -**

- To understand the moral and value education.
- To analyse the influence of kalidas writings on the development of value education.
- To find out the impact of kalidas writings on moral education in the light of the Indian knowledge system.

**Rationale of the Study:**

In the current educational scenario, there is a growing need to enhance moral and value education to produce responsible and ethical citizens. The literary works of Kalidasa have profound thoughts on Dharma, duty, love, sacrifice, and nature harmony, particularly in his works such as Abhijnanasakuntalam and Raghuvamsa. Nevertheless, these literary works have been analysed from literary angles and not from the perspective of organised moral and value education. Hence, the significance of this study is that it tries to re-interpret Kalidasa's literary works from the perspective of the Indian Knowledge System and their relevance to modern value-based education.

## Review of the Related Literature:

**S. Sen(1996)** A paper titled “HUMAN VALUES IN THE PLAYS OF KALIDASA: SOME GLIMPSES” The framework of values within a society is most effectively illustrated through contemporary literature. This essay aims to examine the values that influenced the socio-political behaviour of the populace during the era of Kālidāsa. How pertinent are these values in today’s context?

Nature holds significant importance in the works of Kālidāsa. The first part of this essay addresses this dimension of his plays. This value is undoubtedly aligned with the growing awareness of ecological preservation in today’s world. The second part of the essay examines another crucial element of Indian philosophy: the notion that pleasure cannot be attained without experiencing sorrow and pain. The third part of the essay analyses the overarching social values that arise from the plays. The fourth part outlines the political and administrative principles that influenced the decisions of kings and rulers.

**W.Ruben (2022).** The document entitled “KALIDASA: THE HUMAN MEANING OF HIS WORKS” discusses Kālidāsa, the esteemed Indian classical poet renowned for his depictions of love. He crafted timeless images of affectionate women, particularly youthful brides who possess a childlike innocence. These figures evoke memories of Goethe’s Gretchen, who cherished her Faust beyond the capacity of language; of the fourteen-year-old Juliet and her Romeo as portrayed in Shakespeare’s verses or in Ulanova’s elegant and moving performances; of Raphael’s Sixtine Madonna, the virtuous and profoundly moving virgin mother; of Michelangelo’s Eve, who gazes from behind Jehovah’s garments at the newly formed Adam, destined to be her partner; of Princess Nausicaa and her affection for Odysseus, or the Greek Psyche and her beloved Amor. However, this appreciation would be incomplete if we do not also learn to adore Kālidāsa’s Sakuntalā, Pārvāti, and Mālavikā.

**Z.Kaur (2018).** A paper entitled “Ecocritical Study of Kalidasa’s Lyrics and Selected Poems of William Wordsworth”. This thesis is centred on an Ecocritical examination of the chosen poems by Kalidasa and Wordsworth from a comparative viewpoint. The primary aim of the thesis is to investigate the ecological awareness and aesthetics as reflected in the selected works; additionally, the thesis seeks to establish the organic connection illustrated between the natural environment and human culture in both poets. The thesis outlines the progression of Ecocriticism throughout history, addressing various aspects of ecocriticism, including ecology, deep ecology, social ecology, and romantic...

**P. De Costa (1949)** A paper entitled “The Imagery of Kalidasa and the Theory of Poetics”

The analysis of Kalidasa’s works presented here represents a significant shift from the previously established approach to the topic in two key areas. The information collected from this research leads us to the second facet of our inquiry, where we investigate the evidence concerning the interrelationship between Kalidasa’s literary artistry and the theory of poetics. Whenever deemed necessary, references have been made to earlier image processes, which allow us to explore the historical evolution of more refined forms from ancient times through the era of Kalidasa. The influence of Asvaghosa on Kalidasa regarding rhyme and assonance, along with the differing characteristics of the sound patterns of Bhavabhuti and Kalidasa, has been briefly addressed as a precursor to the comprehensive examination of Bhavabhuti’s poetic-dramatic techniques in relation to those of Kalidasa. To the extent that the literary evidence allows, we have been able to infer the purpose and role of poetry as perceived by Kalidasa, which stands in stark contrast to Asvaghosa’s view and is only partially accepted by Bhavabhuti. The comparative analysis of the poet and Bhavabhuti, along with certain insights from the more developed works, such as the Meghaduta and the Vikramorvasiya, has also enabled us to form reasonable perspectives on his life and character as a poet.

## Research Gap:

Though a lot of academic research has been carried out on Kalidasa, with a focus on literary aesthetics, poetic imagery, philosophical insights, and ecological awareness in his works like *Abhijnanasakuntalam* and *Raghuvamsa*, there is a large research gap in examining the entire works of Kalidasa from the point of view of structured moral and value education in the context of the Indian Knowledge System. The existing research is largely descriptive and literary in nature, and there is little focus on its application in pedagogy, curriculum development, or on developing a conceptual framework to explain how Kalidasa's stories can be used to enhance students' moral reasoning and decision-making capabilities. Moreover, there is a lack of synthesis of his major works to understand their combined impact on the development of value-based education in the modern era.

## Methodology:

Review of primary texts (*Abhijnanasakuntalam*, *Vikramorvasiyam*, *Raghuvamsha*, *Kumarasambhava*, *Meghaduta* and *Ritusamhara*). Review of secondary literature (books, journal articles, policy documents). Thematic analysis to synthesise insights. No empirical data has been collected; the study relies on qualitative interpretative methods.

## Discussion: -

### Objectives -1: To understand the moral and value education.

The evaluation that should be made to judge right and wrong is called moral education. These moral values enable a person to maintain consistency in their behaviour across different workplaces throughout their life. A person's sense of right and wrong, or right and wrong, comes into being as their life experiences grow, and the more a person's experience expands, the more central and stable these values become.

Values education is a process that helps students develop qualities such as honesty, compassion, responsibility, and respectful behaviour that help them contribute positively to their personal and social lives.

### Objectives -2: To analyse the influence of kalidas writings on the development of value education.

Kalidasa's writings significantly influenced the development of values education by incorporating deep social and cultural values into his narratives. One of the plays written by Kalidasa is *Abhijana Shakuntala*, from which we can learn about our values.

- **Respect for nature and environment:** *Shakuntala* grew up as a part of nature and had a deep love for the plants and animals of the forest. The play highlights the importance of environmental conservation and reveals the deep connection between humans and nature.
- **Purity and Morality:** Things like morality and self-control can also be learned from *Shakuntala's* relationship with King *Dushmanta* and the subsequent events.
- **Love and Devotion:** The play emphasises the importance of love, devotion, and dedication to each other. The love between *Dushmanta* and *Shakuntala* is a symbol of a deep love that endures even through separation and division.

*Vikramorvasiyam* teaches values like morality, love, relationships and self-respect, highlighting the importance of respect, compassion and love for each other. This play shows how a person's honour and dignity should be given priority, even in the realm of royal relationships and power.

- **Importance of Relationships:** The play shows how important love and respect for each other are. It also highlights the need to build and maintain relationships.
- **Personal Development:** It shows how this type of moral education helps a person become a better person and improve personally.
- **Love and Sacrifice:** The play shows how true love and sacrificing oneself for each other are noble qualities.

The play 'Maalvikagnimitram' teaches some values, such as the importance of love and relationships, love and loyalty, and the responsibilities and duties of a ruler. The play depicts Agnimitra's love for Malavika and the complexities of their relationship, which highlights the importance of love and loyalty.

- **Balance between personal and state life:** The play highlights the issue of maintaining a balance between King Agnimitra's personal life and royal duties, which emphasises the importance of maintaining the right balance between personal and state life.
- **Love and Loyalty:** Agnimitra's deep love for Malvika and loyalty are shown as important values in their relationship.
- **Patience and Perseverance:** This play shows Agnimitra's patience and perseverance in getting Malavika, which is important for achieving any goal.

Kalidasa's Raghuvansham teaches important values such as courage, determination, respect for duty and justice, and adherence to royal dharma.

- **Human Weakness:** This epic also portrays human stupidity and weakness, from which the reader can learn many moral lessons.
- **Courage and Determination:** The Raghu dynasty teaches that courage and determination are essential to face challenges and achieve greatness. The kings of the Raghu dynasty showed strong will and courage to protect their kingdom and values.
- **Enlightenment, Valour and Harmony:** According to organisations like the Sri Aurobindo Society, Raghuvanshyam is based on the three values of enlightenment, valor and harmony.

Kalidasa's epic Kumarasambhava teaches many values, such as perseverance, restraint, love, responsibility, and respect for nature. This poem not only tells the story of the union of Shiva and Parvati and the birth of Kartikeya, but also sets a shining example of moral and spiritual education.

- **Perseverance and Sacrifice:** Parvati performs severe penance to attain her desired Shiva, which symbolises perseverance and sacrifice
- **Respect for Nature:** Kalidas has described nature very beautifully here, which increases our respect and love for nature.
- **Sense of Duty:** When the gods search for a leader to defeat Tarakasura, Kartikeya is born through the union of Shiva and Parvati, which teaches an important sense of duty.

Meghdoot teaches us the values of separation, love, and love for nature. The Yaksha's separation and his plea to Megh show the depth of love and loyalty, which are important aspects of human character.

- **Cultural and Traditional Values:** 'Meghdoot' highlights ancient Indian culture, traditional concepts related to love and separation, and the way people express their feelings, which is part of a special cultural value.
- **Connection with Nature:** Yaksha uses clouds to send messages to his beloved, which connects people's feelings through nature. This highlights a deeper aspect of the relationship between humans and nature.
- **Separation and Love:** The main theme of 'Meghdoot' is the loneliness of an exiled Yaksha and his love and separation from his beloved, which highlights the value of love and relationships.

Ritu Samhāra does not directly teach values, as it is an original poetic poem by Kalidāsa that describes the seasons. However, its nature-based narrative provides a deep insight into the love of nature, the diversity of life, and the relationship between humans and the changing seasons, which indirectly helps in creating values about life and the world.

- **The relationship between humans and nature:** The deep connection between the mental and physical relationship between humans and the changing seasons is reflected in this poem. It creates a sense of respect for this relationship.
- **Fascination with creation:** The way every small element of nature, such as flowers, birds, and rivers, is brought to life in the poem, instils a sense of fascination and respect for creation.

### **Objectives -3: To find out the impact of kalidas writings on moral education in the light of the Indian knowledge system**

Kalidasa's writings have a significant impact on moral education by serving as profound expositions of the core values within the Indian knowledge system, such as **Dharma** (duty/righteousness) and the **Purusharthas** (four aims of human life). His works provide a comprehensive moral framework that guides human conduct and the balance of life's pursuits.

- **Upholding Dharma:** Kalidasa's characters, especially the kings of the Raghu dynasty in the *Raghuvamsa*, are models of righteous conduct (dharma). They collect taxes for the welfare of their subjects, engage in wars for fame (not loot), and marry to beget children for the continuation of their lineage, not purely for sensual pleasure. The message is that rulers must be virtuous to ensure the prosperity and moral fabric of society.
- **The Four Purusharthas (Dharma, Artha, Kama, Moksha):** Kalidasa artfully integrates the four goals of human life into his narratives, advocating a balanced life where material prosperity (*Artha*) and desire (*Kama*) are pursued within the bounds of moral duty (*Dharma*), leading ultimately to spiritual liberation (*Moksha*). He emphasises that without *dharma*, the unchecked pursuit of wealth and pleasure leads to chaos and moral decay.
- **Renunciation and Enjoyment (Tyaktena Bhunjeetaah):** In works like *Kumarasambhava*, Kalidasa explores the Upanishadic idea of "enjoyment by means of relinquishment". Parvati fails to win Shiva with physical beauty alone but succeeds through asceticism and penance, illustrating that true strength and fulfilment come from harmonising desire with renunciation and self-control.
- **Significance of Education and Austerity:** Kalidasa highlights the traditional Indian education system (*Brahmacharya*) where students, even princes like Dilipa, lived a life of simplicity and austerity in hermitages (*ashramas*) under the guidance of a guru. This phase of rigorous discipline

was considered essential for acquiring knowledge, developing character, and preparing for the duties of later life stages (*Grihasta, Vanaprastha, Sanyasa*).

- **Harmony with Nature:** A quintessential Indian worldview is presented where humans and nature are intertwined. The portrayal of the natural world is not just a backdrop but reflects the emotional and spiritual states of characters, teaching a sense of mutual respect and care for the environment rooted in a spiritual perspective, not just utilitarian value.
- **Ethical Dilemmas and Resolution:** His plays often involve complex ethical situations that require characters to balance personal desires with societal or spiritual duty. The resolution of these conflicts usually reinforces the triumph of order and righteousness, providing clear moral lessons for the audience.

#### **Conclusion: -**

A research topic exploring the influence of Kalidasa's writings on the development of moral and value education within the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) would conclude that his works served as a powerful aesthetic medium for reinforcing and transmitting core ethical ideals already embedded in ancient Indian culture. Kalidasa's literature is a rich repository of moral lessons, using compelling narratives and characters to illustrate the importance of righteous conduct, duty, social responsibility, and the pursuit of knowledge, making his writings highly valuable for moral and value education. The conclusion would be that Kalidasa's works are an invaluable asset to the Indian knowledge system, serving as an enduring and effective tool for value-based education, using the power of poetry and drama to inspire ethical behaviour and character building.

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