

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF GURUKULA EDUCATION AND MONTESSORI EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

The education system of country depends upon different factors like the type of teacher pupil relationship and the scope of freedom and discipline, besides the cultural factors which it operates. A education system of country does not function in isolation or in a vacuum. Education is the most important invention of mankind. Gurukula system was full of practical training of life; Montessori system gives training through using sense organs activity classes. The Gurukula system of education is just another education system that is quite similar to the residential schools and Montessori of today. The modern education system focuses on grades more than the students themselves. The school has no interest in the character development of the students. Anything and everything is about the exams. So we should change the education system as it is in ancient time. The goal is to help the child maintain their natural joy of learning. The teachers are dynamic link between children and prepared environment. The aim of education should be to teach sociability along with maximum mental development. The government should implement this education system and spread to all kinds of people. Curriculum should enhance the constructive qualities of the students. Educational institutions should work towards positive peace.

Key words: Sadhana, Sandeepany Sadhanalaya, Acharya, Attire, Asramam

INTRODUCTION

Education moulds the character and personality of an individual. While Aristotle felt that the purpose of education is to create a sound mind in a sound body. Aurobindo regarded education as a process of building the human mind and spirit .The education system of country depends upon different factors like the type of teacher pupil relationship and the scope of freedom and discipline, besides the cultural factors which it operates .An educational system of a country does not function in isolation or in a vacuum.

The tremendous changes that are taking place in the world and their impact on education, components like Economics of education, Child rights education, Education for peace etc are becoming a part of curriculum of teacher education. Education cannot remain immune to the changes that are taking place in the society and the prospective teachers have to be familiar with the changes that are influencing the education system. In fact the planners of education need to make teacher education future oriented if it is to effectively meet the needs and the challenges of the prospective teachers.

HISTORY OF EDUCATION

Starting in about 3500 B.C, various writing systems developed in ancient civilizations around the world. In ancient India, during the Vedic period from about 1500 B.C TO 600 B.C most education was based on the Veda and the later Hindu texts and scriptures. Education at first freely available in Vedic society became more

rigid and restricted over the time as the social system dictated that only those of meritorious lineage be allowed to study the scriptures, originally based on occupation ,evolved ,with the Brahmin.

MEANING OF EDUCATION

Education is the most important invention of mankind. The word Education is like a diamond which appears to be of a different colour when seen from different angles. It is as basic to civilization, and social survival, as reproduction and nutrition are essential to biological evolution. Education of man does not begin at school, it begins at birth. It ends not when he graduates from the university but at his death. Hence education is a lifelong process. “Any modifications brought about in the behavior of an individual as a result of his interaction with the environment constitute learning.

GURUKULA SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

In olden days the great scholars were sent to Gurukula way of learning where in apart from the read education the guru would teach all the intricacies of life such as manners, ethics, how to be calm and how to accept challenges and how to get over emotions. Now in this modern era we seldom find such Gurukula and we are having access to Montessori way of learning for the beginner’s .Are we getting all these inputs which we were destined to get through Gurukula by persuading the new way of education.

Gurukula system was full of practical training for life while Montessori system gives training through sense organs activity classes. This system is an advanced form of Gurukula system. In modern era education should be given in Montessori way. Situations have changed and we should provide education as per the need of our time. Children should have knowledge of electronic gadgets.since they have to work on them in future. The methods which were used in Gurukula have changed. These days global community is developing. So they should have knowledge of other languages also.

The Gurukula system of education is just another education system that is quite similar to the residential schools and Montessori of today. A lot of people tend to associate Gurukula system of education with Hindus and the system of education where exclusively Hindus scriptures are taught.

In the Gurukula system the students are required to stay and study at the hermitage of a teacher who imparts to them all the necessary skills required for them in their future. Most of these children came in from various backgrounds.

Some were affluent while some others were poor. But once they were part of the Gurukula they were all treated with equality. There was nobody superior or inferior in the eyes of the teacher except for academic prowess. As it is the same method followed in Montessori education also. In future the government should undertake this system and must be relevant to all without any discrimination. In Gurukula education the students were taught the importance of service and were expected to do the daily chores around the hermitage.

Holistic education is a philosophy of education based on the premises each person finds identity, meaning, and purpose in life through corrections to the community to the natural world and to humanitarian values such as compassion and peace.

Children were sent to the Gurukula at the age of 9 or 10 and stayed there until there were about 16 or 17.This phase of a person’s life is when their character moulding basically happens. It is not science and history that was taught to the children. They were not just sermons. They were discussions. Children were encouraged to ask questions .They were not expected to just absorb everything the teacher taught them without questions. By the time they were done with their studies these youngsters were well groomed.

ASHRAM DISCIPLINE

Sandeepany sadhanalaya as its names states, is the abode of sadhana. Apart from classes, students are expected to study and reflect in the teachings learned and spend time in contemplation. It is a sacred place where one turns in-word to understand the self. During the stay of two years the student follows the instructions of the Acharyas and a strict disciplined way of Brahmacharya life. Attending all classes is mandatory with no exceptions.

ATTIRE

Students are required to wear white clothes (sari for women and kurta for men). The colour white stands for the pure resolve in each one's heart to evolve on the path of spirituality. The purity of the white in which they cloth themselves bathes the students in a peaceful aura and serves to spread a feeling of serenity all around. Pyjama or salwar are allowed during seva yoga class and in student rooms.

YOGA

Since students will primarily be sitting down for class and their personal sadhana, it is essential to maintain their physical health. These yoga sessions are encouraged as times permits. Apart from this, students are also encouraged to take daily walks or exercise in their rooms. As this same procedure followed in Montessori Education also.

DIET

The basic food for lunch and dinner is rice, sabji, dal and chapatti, with a few exceptions. Boiled food is also available in a limited quantity for those who buy or purchase food from outside.

THE LIFE STAGES

The life stages such as infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and are developmental phases each with its own biological, psychological, and social characteristics, through which individuals pass over the course of their lives.

The modern education system focuses on grades more than the students themselves. The school has no interest in the character development of the students. They are only concerned with the marks the students score. But in Montessori education focuses only on the character of the students. Basically it teaches to the children from, manners, ethics and values as Gurukula Education. so in the beginning they well trained in basic manners grace and courtesy. This brings value of education to the children who learn in Montessori way.

The modern education system has teachers governed to abide by strict schedules of teaching with the certain amount of syllabus to complete within a stipulated time. They just drone on and with only one thing in mind "Examinations". Anything and everything is about the exams. So we certain changes they should be made in the by merging advantages of Gurukula and Montessori system.

Montessori Education

The founder of Montessori is recognized as one of the pioneers in the development of early childhood education. The Montessori Method is way about thinking who children are. It is a philosophy that respects the unique individuality of each child. Dr. Montessori believed the worthiness, value and importance of children. Her method does not compare child neither to norms nor to standards that are measured by traditional

educational systems. It is founded on the believe that children should be free to succeed and learn without restriction or criticism.

Another important skill it teaches is self –reliance and independence. It helps a child to become independent by teaching them or a skill .which is prepares them for practical life .Repetition of activities is an integral part of life. As it is same procedure followed in Gurukula education. The main goal of Montessori is provide a stimulating, child oriented environment that children can explore, touch, and learn without fear. The Montessori education and Gurukula education are both methodologies and educational philosophy is formed from clubbed together. The Montessori Method was developed from observations of students which set of universal characteristics of children and was created for each level of development.

As an educational approach, the Montessori Method is focus is on the individuality of each child in respect of their needs or talents, as opposed to the needs of the class as a whole. The goal is to help the child maintain their natural joy of learning. The Montessori Method encourages independence and freedom with limits and responsibility. The youngest children are guided in practical life skills, domestic skills and manners. These skills are emphasized with goal of increasing attention spans and hand eye co-ordination.

The Montessori Method states that satisfaction contentment and joy enables the child to participate in daily activities. The philosophy of linear development underlies traditional methods of education. Education in Montessori classroom is “self- activated” each child takes the initiative in choosing from a range of available materials and activities in a carefully prepared class room environment.

Below are the some points followed in Gurukula education and Montessori education.

1. The teachers are dynamic link between children and prepared environment.
2. Teachers carefully evaluate the effectiveness of their work and the design of the environment every day.
3. Teachers observe and evaluate each student’s individual progress.
4. They respect and protect their students’ independence. They know when to step and set limits or lend a helping hand, and step back and interfere.
5. Teacher facilitates communication among the children and help the children how to communicate their thoughts to adults.
6. They are peace educators consistently working to teach courteous behaviors .
7. Montessori education and Gurukula education are teaching to students “philosophy of life”.

GOALS OF MONTESSORI TEACHING

The goal of Montessori is to provide a stimulating child- centered environment which children can explore, touch, and learn without fear, thus engendering a lifelong love of learning as well as providing the child the self-control necessary to fulfill that love.

The aim of education is to teach sociability along with maximum mental development. The mental development of child comprises of the development of intellect, mental capabilities, imagination, thinking emotion and other mental process.

Today the world is passing through rapid changes. In such a situation we cannot and should not resist change, “John Dervey “a progressive educator, calls education as the development of all those capacities in the individual, which will enable him to control his environment and fulfill his possibilities.

Our educational heritage had been singular and had been the object of admiration even of our political or religious opponents. During pre –historic period, India had been a inexhaustible store of knowledge in every science and art .The students of this country reached the highest watermark in the study of Astronomy, Astrology, mathematics, medicine, literature, philosophy, logic, Grammar, chemistry, engineering, oceanography and architecture .

Historical evidence proves that most of Indian knowledge in various fields moved from this country to Europe via Arabia. The aim of education has also evolved from a narrow theological curriculum to the modern conception of education to the embraces the whole life of the child. There was a time when education aimed at improving the prospect of clan: then it worked in the interest of a nation the ultimate aim of education is to create a healthy spirit of internationalism.

Merits of Gurukula and Montessori education

The responsibility thrown on a particular students trains him for that work and makes him bold and well behaved the students are marked out to become the leading sprit in the society: the spirit of public service and self sacrifice is cultivated: and the democratic discipline is inculcated, several students at the difference stages at the same time, it must have be a valuable training for the monitors themselves.

CONCLUSION

The government should implement this education system and spread to all kinds of people. Our Indian education system needs some changes, and education should be applied in the lifelong period also. Curriculum transforms minds of innocent children. For promoting this competent curriculum teachers are needed to teach the subject. It can be promoted with the help of suitable curriculum and efficient and sincere teachers. Teachers should accept the challenging role. Curriculum should enhance the constructive qualities of the students. Educational institutions should work towards positive peace.

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