

Comparative Analysis of India's Educational Systems in Various Eras

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Abstract- Education has been a part of human civilization right from ancient age. There have been great changes in the education system of India right from ancient age to modern age. Education should teach moral, social, ethical values along with skills and attributes. Education should not only teach means to earn livelihood but also be able to build characters and personality of an individual. Current modern education system is just increasing the literacy rate but its unable to develop educated people. This paper deals with the study of difference of education system that existed in ancient age, medieval age and today's current modern age. This paper also deals with the changes that can be adopted in current education system to make it more effective.

Keywords - Ancient Era, Medieval Era, Modern Era

I. INTRODUCTION

The great words of Swami Vivekananda 'Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man' is yet to be fully realized by today's society. Education system needs to be such that it cleans the body, mind, soul and attain self-realization of a student, and not only teaching professional skills. By this a student can develop into social and responsible citizen who can not only serve his family but can also serve his society as a whole. He needs to develop national values so that he becomes an asset to the nation and world as a whole. In ancient era students used to live with his Gurus in gurukuls where he used to study not only academic subjects but also used to learn how to lead a successful life. He used to involve in daily activities such as cutting wood from forest and help in cooking food, looking after cattle's etc. Since he used to live with his teacher, he used to learn how teacher plans and deals with the issues arising in daily life.

II. EDUCATION SYSTEM IN ANCIENT ERA

Ancient education system started with gurukulas as can be studied that there existed Dronacharya Gurukulas, in the epic of Mahabharat. Even from the Indus Valley civilization (B.C. 3300 approx.) excavation it has been found that, it had big libraries, universities etc.

There were various prominent universities set up which was globally renowned at that age such as Nalanda, Taxila, Pushpagiri, Vikramashila etc.



Fig. 1. Nalanda University

Nalanda university existed around fifth century AD in the state of Bihar, India, during the Gupta period. It was attacked and destroyed by Bakhtiyar Khilji in AD1193. It had classrooms, meditation halls parks and lakes. Students from different countries like China, Japan, Tibet, Korea, Sri Lanka, Indonesia came here for education. It had a big library with nearly 90 lakhs books. Nearly 10,000 students from across the globe lived in university dormitories and studied. There were nearly 2000 professors. The subjects taught were fine arts, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, politics and the art of war. Chinese Buddhist monk and traveler Hiuen Tsang studied in Nalanda university.

TAKSHILA:

This university was set up in the city of Taxila on the eastern bank of the Indus River (currently

in the country Pakistan). It was established around 5th - 6th century BCE. Students from all parts of India & Asia came here for gaining education. Taxila is the ancient world's first international university as considered by historians.



Fig.2. Taxila University

It consisted of lecture halls, dormitories, several monasteries. The school consisted of several monasteries without large dormitories or lecture halls where the religious instruction was most likely still provided on an individualistic basis. The subjects taught were mathematics, grammar, art, warfare strategies, philosophy, law, statecraft, defense, astronomy, astrology, medicine etc. It is moreover known by a great personality Chanakya who was a professor of economics and political science, here

The mode of learning was moreover oral. Knowledge of scripture such as Vedas Puranas, Gita, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Shastras etc. was imparted by Gurus to his students. Subjects like Algebra, Geometry, Grammar, Yoga, warfare, military, politics and even medicine etc. were taught. The mode of communication in those days were through oral means and debates and not much through books as it is modern age. Students used to listen with great concentration to his Gurus and used to understand the concept and memorize all the topics. Gurus used to take exams through debate, seminar, practical at frequent intervals. Maharishi Charak, Maharishi Panini, Acharya Chanakya etc. were great personalities during this age.

Gurukul, Goshti, Parishads, Ashramas were the centers of learning. These were mainly built in forest, along the bank of rivers, open spaces with natural beauty, pleasing and calm environment. So, these learning institutes used to be away from the population so that students have a pleasant atmosphere for learning. Saints, Sages, Acharya etc. were the teachers. Students used to come to

gurukuls and lived along with teacher and studied on individual basis until his education was over. There was no governing body to frame the curriculum, rather everything was managed by teacher. The great disadvantage was that only higher caste was allowed to receive education and even girls were not allowed to receive education.

III. EDUCATION SYSTEM IN MEDIEVAL ERA

During this age Mughals invaded India. Maktabas and Madrasas were set up by Islamic Leader. New Institutions, Cultures, Traditions were set by Turks, Arabs and the Islamic rulers. Mughal's education system had flourished over Brahmanic and Buddhist education system. In this era students didn't live with teachers as in ancient era during education period. Again, here also the mode of instruction was through orals, discussions, and recitations. Students were taught alphabets, words and then sentence, calligraphy and grammar, philosophy, history, geography, politics, mathematics etc. They learnt pahasas (i.e. tables). Students used to learn and memorize these things. There were no printed books. Maktabas was the place for primary education and Madrasas were for higher education. Emperor Akbar played a very important role for the development of education in Medieval Era. Delhi, Agra, Jaunpur, Bidar were Important educational centers in medieval era.

IV. EDUCATION SYSTEM IN PRESENT MODERN ERA

British empire who had captured India were responsible for introduction of modern education system in India. Macaulay education system was introduced in 18th century by British. Moreover, Christianity was spread in modern education system by Britishers. In modern education system science, technology, and innovations played a very crucial role in the education system in 20th century. Industrial Revolution has been the great outcome of modern education system.

Education became need and requirement for all levels of the society. Education became accessible to everyone i.e., rich poor, male, female and people of all ages. This has been never before.

But the negative aspect is that still we are buying engineering products made by outside world. The reason is that we are unable to innovate new product by ourselves. Innovation was the outcome of ancient education system which is not now. We have forgotten how to innovate, how to think. We are driven towards the western culture which is deteriorating the rich Indian culture. This may be due to invasion done by alien powers, totally dissolving old Indian education system.

Government has set up schools, colleges, university, technical skill centers and directly or indirectly Government become the governing body to frame curriculum, subjects, evaluation methods etc. Due

to very good government policies major part of the population has become literate. As per the Census 2021, literacy rate of India in 2021 is 74.04%. The male literacy rate is 82.14% and female literacy rate is 65.46%.

Education for all is the motto of modern education system. Women's education is given priority.

Since technology has taken a big leap IT platforms, electronics and electrical gadgets like computers, laptops, tabs, mobile, pentabs, good internet connectivity has changed the visualization of entire education system as it was never before. Even online platforms have become available such as MOOCS (Massive Open Online Course), coursera, nptel, udemy, live streaming of lectures, animation, videos etc. has made education very interesting and convenient for all.

The education in modern age is given through different levels like Primary level, secondary level, higher secondary level, university level etc. At primary and secondary school level, different subjects like mathematics, science, language, grammar, history, geography etc., is taught to all students. The mode of instruction could be local language or English language.

To get into higher secondary level students need to select anyone stream among science, arts and commerce. To get into higher education (i.e. Graduate Program) after higher secondary level students need to give entrance exams. Again, they have to select more specialized course among the selected stream at higher secondary level, e.g. A science student can select among engineering, medical, pharmacy, architecture etc. A commerce student need to select course among CA, ICWA, CS, Accountancy etc.

Higher education is moreover in English language and not in local language. Again, students need to visit education institute may be on daily basis and receive knowledge from teachers. They can get their doubts solved by teachers in classrooms. Not only academic subjects are taught but even co-curricular and extracurricular activities and performed. Even Yoga and Sports are taught and made compulsory.

Evaluation is done at frequent intervals through end semester exams, in-semester exams, weekly test, debates, competitions etc.

Higher educational institutions in Modern Era

For imparting technical knowledge Government has set up IITs, NITs etc. There are 23 IITs in our country. Students have to crack JEE (Joint Entrance Examination) entrance exam to enter into these institutes of national importance. Other institutes of national importance in technology field are Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT Pune) etc.

These institutes offer education related to technology at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level.

For management education Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are institutes offering management education at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level. Currently there are 20 IIMs in India in different states. To take admission in these colleges students have to clear Common Admission Test (CAT) For imparting medical education there are institutes like All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). Currently there are 23 AIIMS colleges in India out of which 19 are functional and the rest are under construction. NEET is entrance exam to get into any of these AIIMS college.

All the above institutes are fetched with world class infrastructure, laboratories, classrooms etc.

All these institutes are famous all around the world making are nation one of the great education centre.

The present education system is mainly based on the intelligence quotient I.Q aspects and void exists in emotional intelligence quotient E.Q. To enhance the quality of the present education system emotional intelligence subject should be implemented as mandatory subject at school & college level in Indian schools and universities. The ability of individuals differs based on their thought process and learning style. Students may learn through by logical analysis, by group discussions and by practical applications. But the present education system is not very accommodative for all learning styles. Indian classrooms are designed for typical assimilating learners (those who learn by watching and thinking). There is a focus on theoretical knowledge while practicals are treated as secondary. For imparting the present education academicians are adopting the various teaching styles, the stakeholders would be able to gain much more from the class and hence, be more capable of applying it in real life challenges.

This diverse and flexible system is helpful in enhancing the growth of the individual and learner got freedom in choosing a subject as per their choice which is self-driven approach.

Present education system is based on three aspects i.e., knowledge, skill & attributes. Knowledge can be gained by theoretical concepts, skill can be acquired by conducting the practical related to real life.

Different methodologies are adopted to deliver the present education which are as follows-

- a) Learning through technology tools
- b) Survey and feedback method
- c) Audio video learning
- d) Blending of conventional and innovative method

- e) Project based learning
- f) Activity based learning
- g) Enquiry based learning
- h) Holistic and multidisciplinary learning

But these three aspects of education system are followed only at few institutes and still need to be implemental in all institutes at national level.

V. CONCLUSION

Comparing the education in different era, we can say Modern era has lots of plus points. Education has become reachable to all. Lots of technological advancement has taken place which has been never possible before. Women, young, old, rich, poor citizens, everyone has been given right to education.

The negative takeaway is that practical is given a less weightage as compared to other era. For higher education fees are too high in many private institutes, so poor or middle-class students, at many occasions, cannot afford it. Even rural remote village students may find it difficult for higher education due to poor connectivity. Student-teacher relations is also deteriorating compared to ancient and medieval age. Current education system has laid lots of stress on students which has been never before, due to which they are committing suicide nowadays. Competition has increased as never before.

Government need to look into these matters such a stress free education, more inclination towards practical mode of education, making higher education affordable at it was in ancient age where education was free for all. Government can even make subjects like Moral Science and UHV (universal human values) compulsory so that students can develop ethical and social values and attributes, which is the need of time. A good education system can thus produce a product that will prove the vitality of old Sanskrit phrase 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' which means "the world is one family"

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