

Ancient Indian Gurukuls and Modern Trends: Building the Education of Tomorrow

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Abstract:

The ancient Indian education system was diverse and rich, aiming at the intellectual, physical, and spiritual advancement of individuals. It was well-structured and holistic approach to learning that aimed to cultivate knowledge, character, and wisdom. It played a significant role in shaping Indian culture and influencing educational philosophies worldwide. It made a close-knit environment to ensure personalized attention and practical learning between guru-shishya. The medium of instruction in Gurukul was Sanskrit, and education was imparted orally, focusing on memorization, comprehension, and application.

The curriculum included a wide array of subjects and Spiritual or moral education was deeply integrated, emphasizing values like discipline, respect, and self-realization. Texts like the Vedas, Upanishads, and Dharmashastras were central to learning, along with works of grammar, logic, and literature.

Education was accessible to those willing to learn, but societal hierarchies often influenced the extent of access. Like Women, in some contexts, notable examples include figures like Gargi, Maitreyi and lopamudra, who were prominent philosophers mentioned in Vedic texts. Women often studied subjects like philosophy, arts, and scriptures in privileged households or specific learning centers.

Centers of higher learning, such as Takshashila, Nalanda, and Vikramashila, attracted students and scholars from around the world. Nalanda attracted students and scholars from countries like China, Korea, and Central Asia. Subjects taught included Buddhist philosophy, grammar, logic, medicine, and the fine arts. The university had a vast library, often referred to as "Dharmaganja." And takshila one of the earliest universities in the world (dating back to around 600 BCE), one of the earliest universities in the world (dating back to around 600 BCE). Scholars such as Panini (author of the first Sanskrit grammar) and Chanakya (author of Arthashastra) were associated with this institution. These institutions were known for their comprehensive curricular, rigorous teaching methods, and academic freedom.

Overall, the ancient Indian education system was a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical wisdom aimed at the holistic development of individuals and the betterment of society. But today we all know, children spend 7-8 hrs in school/ College, 2-3hrs in homework/ assignment, 2hrs of tuition, 1hr of travel. Totally 13-14 hrs, students waste their time doing things that don't have any significant role in their lives and lose their precious childhood instead of their personal growth.

Youth are foundation of a country so we should have more focused to make them skilled and productive which contributes directly in country's overall development. But unfortunately mostly high educated, high skilled and billionaire population started shifting in abroad from back few years due to lack of awareness and opportunities in our country. So we should have some revolutions on modern education system and teach our kids about their history, tradition, glory and culture that make them proud and comfortable in themselves. Which motivate them to stay in country and contribute their skills and knowledge in development of india. Every individual citizen of country should connected to their roots, tradition and culture to understand their real worth. We all have to understand that "Without stairs of past, you cannot arrive at the future!"

Keywords: Gurukul system, Indian education system, ethics, Indian scholar, skill and knowledge, holistic development, country's development

