

A Study on Gurukul Education System

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Abstract: *India has consistently boasted of its extensive heritage in the realm of education and learning since antiquity. It is widely recognized that individuals from Europe, the Middle East, and Portugal migrated to India in pursuit of a high standard of education. The Gurukul Method was one of the education systems that was widely utilized in ancient India. The subject matter covered a wide range, including Sanskrit, the Scriptures, logic, and metaphysics. The knowledge and insights acquired were transmitted across generations. However, this system was implemented during the Colonial period when the British established schools with a restricted curriculum to subjects like science and mathematics. The previous system emphasized outdoor activities, whereas the new program placed greater emphasis on academic pursuits. Yoga, meditation, and singing, among other activities, fostered and endowed one with positivity and contentment. They were frequently required to perform routine tasks independently in order to impart practical knowledge. All of these have contributed to the development of one's persona and increased self-assurance, intelligence, sense of discipline, and awareness, all of which are still necessary to confront the actual world that waits. This article discusses the Gurukul method of education and its distinction from contemporary education.*

Keywords: Gurukul, Education system, Traditional learning

I. INTRODUCTION

India has consistently boasted of a profound heritage in the realm of education and learning since antiquity. It is widely recognized that individuals from Europe, the Middle East, and Portugal migrated to India in pursuit of an improved standard of education [1]. The Gurukul Method was one of the education systems that was widely utilized in ancient India. One might inquire precisely what a Gurukul system is. It was a conventional form of education with origins in the Indian subcontinent dating back to approximately 5000 BC. It was more prevalent during the Vedic period for students to receive instruction on a variety of subjects and learn how to live an informed and well-rounded existence. In reality, Gurukul served as the residence of the Acharya, or instructor, and a repository for students until their academic pursuits were concluded [2]. The educational history of India can be traced back to ancient times, during which the Gurukul method was implemented. Under this structure, pupils resided at the residence of their instructor until the teacher believed that they had fully imparted the knowledge. The subject matter covered a wide range, including Sanskrit, the Scriptures, logic, and metaphysics. The knowledge and insights acquired were transmitted across generations [3]. However, this system was implemented during the Colonial period when the British established schools with a restricted curriculum to subjects like science and mathematics. Although the previous system emphasized more time spent in nature, the focus of the new program shifted towards academic pursuits [4][5].

Gurukul, guru (instructor), and shishya (student) were all regarded as equals, and they resided in close proximity or in the same dwelling. Because this guru-shishya relationship was so sacrosanct, no fee was charged by the instructors. However, it was mandatory for the pupils to present the instructor with a gurudakshina as a token of appreciation [6]. The subject was primarily compensated with money or a special assignment; it had to be beneficial to the instructor. Providing students with the opportunity to learn in a natural environment characterized by the Shishyas' fraternity, humanism, affection, and discipline was the primary objective of Gurukuls. Fundamental lectures were conducted via self-study, group discussions, and other means, covering topics including research, mathematics, and language [7]. In addition, singing, sports, handicrafts, and art and design were emphasized, all of which fostered the development of their intellect and critical thinking [8].



Figure: Gurukul Schooling

Various activities, such as singing, yoga, and meditation, fostered and endowed one with positivity and contentment. They were frequently required to perform routine tasks independently in order to impart practical knowledge. All of these have contributed to the growth of one's persona and increased self-assurance, intelligence, sense of discipline, and awareness, all of which are still necessary to confront the actual world that awaits. An efficacious education ought to impart all-encompassing knowledge, which should consist of the subsequent:

Dhi – Intelligence

Dharma- Values

Daksha – Skills.

Gurukul System Vs Modern Schooling System:

One notable distinction between gurukul and contemporary education is that the former exclusively covers Vedas, epics, literature, and archery in its curriculum. In contrast, modern schooling encompasses a wider range of subjects, including science, arithmetic, English, and more.

Contemporary students rely on their parents for financial support, as the escalating expenses of education are their responsibility. Gurukul institutions, which operate under the principle that education ought not to be commercialized, do not impose a fee structure.

The education of students was fundamentally the responsibility of the entire community. Thus, they contribute to the gurukul organization as well as the gurukul alms utilized by the guru.

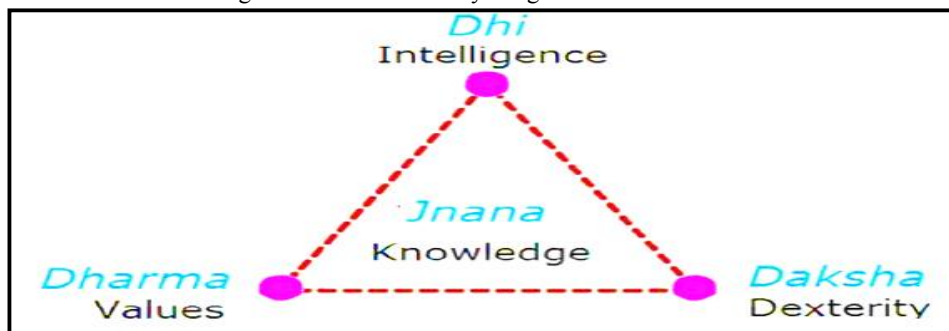


Fig. 2: Gurukul Education Structure

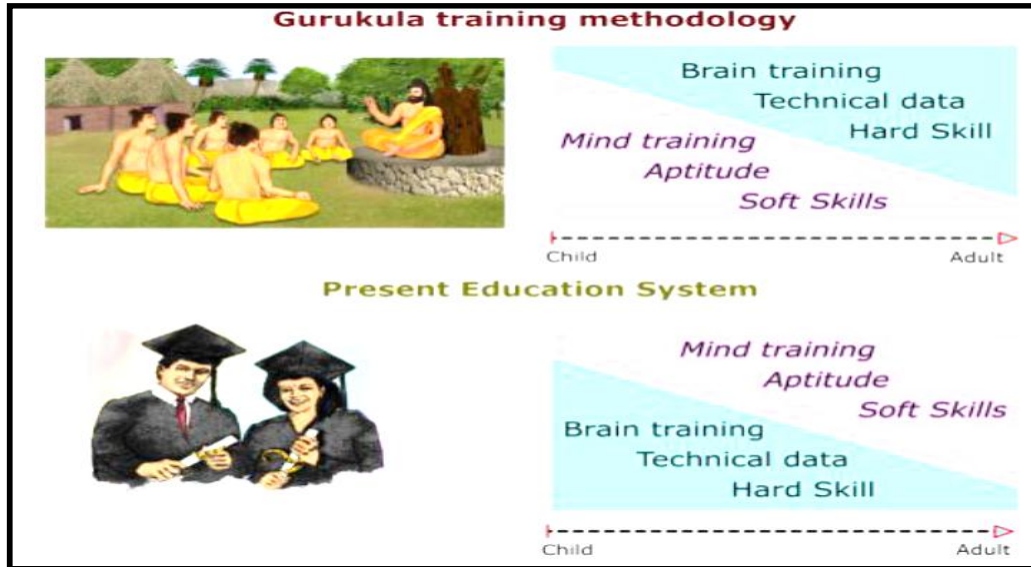


Fig. 3: Difference between Gurukul and Modern Education System

However, the contemporary educationalist adopted a retrograde perspective and discerned that the Gurukul method possesses a number of instructive methodologies that can be integrated into present-day educational systems. The subsequent synopsis will additionally aid in comprehending the functioning of the Gurukul systems.

Education	
Hard Skills	Soft skills
Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literature - History - Geography - Social Studies - Civics - Fine Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - painting - Sculpting - Dance - Music - Drama 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mind development - Communication skill - IQ intelligence Quotient - EQ Emotional Quotient - Inter Personal Relationship - Team Building - Moral Values
Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physics - Chemistry - Biology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zoology - Botany 	

Fig. 4: Difference between Hard Skills and Soft Skills

In contemporary education, students can only acquire knowledge effectively through hands-on experience. Unfortunately, our present educational system continues to rely solely on memorization and insufficient book knowledge. The practical skills emphasized in the Gurukul curriculum ensured that students were well-prepared for any aspect of life. Presently, this can be accomplished by integrating academics and extra curriculums more effectively and by providing instruction in positive thinking and spiritual awareness so as to transform students into better persons [9].

A holistic perspective: The contemporary curriculum primarily emphasizes a rank-based system that is incentivized by animosity towards peers. Parents who are overbearing and assess their children's abilities solely based on their academic performance feed the flames. Conversely, by implementing the Gurukul systems within value-based frameworks, it is possible to illuminate the child's unique qualities and enable them to thrive in their respective domains

of interest. This would foster the development of a decent character in an environment devoid of intense competition and high levels of stress, both of which are known to induce depression.

English system	Indian traditional Gurukula system
FIRST	FIRST
Brain <i>Buddhi</i>	Mind <i>Mana</i>
Hard Skills	Build a receptacle
Teach - Arts	Develop Soft Skills
- Science	
LATER	LATER
Soft Skill training	Technical Training
Communication	
Inter personal relationship	- Arts
IQ	- Science
EQ	

Fig. 5: English System Vs. Indian System

The relationship between instructor and pupil: In the present era, it is crucial to ensure that instructors and pupils share a cordial rapport and mutual regard. It appears that when children perceive the guardian as trustworthy and at ease, they are more likely to emulate their behavior. This was a characteristic of the Gurukul method, and it is possible to instill it in students through training courses that incorporate contemporary practices.

II. CONCLUSION

India has historically placed great emphasis on its extensive heritage in the realm of education and learning. It is widely recognized that individuals from Europe, the Middle East, and Portugal migrated to India in pursuit of an improved educational standard. The Gurukul Method was one of the education systems that was widely utilized in ancient India. The subject matter covered a wide range, including Sanskrit, the Scriptures, logic, and metaphysics. The knowledge and insights acquired were transmitted across generations. However, this system was implemented during the Colonial period when the British established schools with a restricted curriculum to subjects like science and mathematics. The previous system emphasized outdoor activities, whereas the new program placed greater emphasis on academic pursuits. Yoga, meditation, and singing, among other activities, fostered and endowed one with positivity and contentment. Regular tasks were frequently to be completed independently in order to impart practical knowledge. The overarching purpose of implementing Gurukul systems in Indian education is to facilitate children's comprehension of the concept of a prosperous existence. This philosophy about harmony should be instilled in children from a young age so they can make educated decisions concerning employment, sleep, exercise, and the way they wish to live their lives.

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