

IMPACT OF NATURALISM ON INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM; WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE “SRIMAD BHAGAVATAM”

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Abstract

Education is a man making process. The main outcome of education is to creating humanity among the human being. The philosophy of Naturalism succours self-expression and self-preservation of human being. It focusses education through know the nature and from the nature. “Sree Math Bhagavatha” is the holly text of Hinduism, in this text, Ekadasha Skanda seventh, eight, nineth chapter expressed twenty-four teachers from the nature. Those thoughts are the foundation of Indian education system and also based on naturalistic philosophy

Key words : Naturalism, Srimad Bhagavatam, Ekadasha Skandam, King Yadhu and Avadhooda conversation

Introduction

Education aims at making each individual socially efficient. A good citizen can able to earn his lively hood without being drug on society. He is ready to dedicate himself to the ideas of the society. It is a creative and novel process of preparing future life. So many philosophies based on this process. Naturalism is one of the philosophies to construct the thoughts about man making education. Indian education system is closely related to naturalist philosophy. The glimpse of naturalism shows every stage of education system and time periods of Indian education.

Naturalism and Indian Education system

According to W.E Hocking “Naturalism is a type of metaphysics which takes nature as the whole reality. It is the belief that nothing exists beyond the natural world.” It stands for doctrine of follow nature in education. It wants all education to be in strict conformity for complete freedom to be given to the child in learning. The important aim of education in naturalism is self-expression and self-preservation. The process of education is to prepare future life.

In Ancient Indian education system namely “Gurukula system” followed this philosophy. Some methods of teaching in this system like observation to nature, teaching examples from nature etc reveals that this system is followed by naturalist philosophy. Under the British rules Woods despatch slightly followed naturalist system. After independence, each education commissions and curriculum review committee followed the essence of this philosophy.

Twenty-Four Gurus - From the Srimad Bhagavatam

In the Bhagavatam text, Ekadasha Skanda explained twenty-four gurus from the nature through conversation between King Yadhu and Avadhoodha . The Avadhooda (one who has shaken off all worldly desires) said to King Yadhu that, his happiness and contentment are the fruits of self-realization. He gained the necessary wisdom from the whole creation, through 24 Gurus.

These twenty-four gurus are explained in this table.

Table No 1
Twenty-Four Gurus - From the Srimad Bhagavatam

Sl.No.	Name of the Gurus	Teaching subject
1	Earth	Endurance and tolerance
2	Air	Detach like wind
3	Sky	All pervading and yet it has no contact with any other object
4	Fire	Splendour of self-knowledge and austerity
5	Sun	Man should store useful things and share impartially
6	Pigeon	Attachment is the basic cause of earthly thralldom
7	Python	Learn to be content with whatever we have
8	Sea	Remain unmoved
9	Moth	To control the sense of sight and fix the mind on the self.
10	Elephant	One should destroy lust
11	Ant	Even after the sage gathered enough knowledge and is distributing the same to his fellow beings when Lord Yama(gatherer) comes, the sage should be ready to forego everything and be ready to leave this world.
12	Fish	Man, who is greedy of food loses his independence
13	Pingala	Abandonment of hops lead to contentment
14	Fletcher	Surrounding all his sense organs to the Lord
15	Playful boy	Virtue of cheerfulness
16	Moon	Self is all ways perfect and changeless
17	Honeybee	One should stop amassing wealth
18	Deer	Should not get entrapped in any kind of attachment
19	Bird of prey	In order to lead a happy/peaceful and spiritual life one should leave the worldly possessions.
20	Maiden	Path to salvation should be carried by everyone individually
21	Serpent	Should speak limited, should not quarrel each other
22	Spider	Should not attach importance to worldly events
23	Cater pillar	The next life of a living being is decided by its own thoughts. So, at the time of death, one should think of the lotus feet of the Almighty
24	Water	Quality of purity

Summarizing the 24 Gurus:

The Earth represents the Dharma. The Wind symbolizes freedom of Truth. The Sun, Moon and Ocean emphasizing the unchanging Nature of Truth. The Sky shows the Infinite Nature of Self. The Spider reminds the Transient Nature of Material World. The Moth, Elephant, Deer and Fish warn against the Overwhelming of distraction caused by desires. The Pigeon, Honeybee, Kurari Bird and Pingala warn against the Worldly Attachments. The Child evokes the happiness of freedom from material care. The Python and Honeybee emphasize the benefits of simple living. The Fire and Water teaches the Power to Purify the Contamination of Material World. The Snake teaches to avoid any distraction caused by unwanted things. The Arrow smith, teaches to remain focused and concentrate towards the goal. The Caterpillar teaches that by concentrating on God, one can return to Godhead, the Ultimate Goal.

Conclusion

Observation to nature and learn from nature is the summary of this concept. The sign of this thought explicit Gandhiji's Wardha scheme of education, NCF, KCF and NEP 2020 follow this aspect in different manner like observation methods, issue-based curriculum, experimental learning techniques, project and problem-solving methods etc. The educational programme namely Mannezhuth is the example of learning through observation nature. This process of education will help to develop self-expression and self-preservation among learner.

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