



Education: An Introduction

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ABSTRACT:

Education is a life- long process. It is a knowledge which leads to the development of personality. It develops every aspect of human life. Education enhances the inner capacity of a person. The concept of education is as old as the origin of human being. Man is the most intellectual being in the creation. He endowed the power to receive knowledge, to think and imagine and reflect and speculate the fact. We can understand the concept of education by dividing into two parts – Eastern and Western concept of education. First evidence of education we found in Egypt civilization. The other hand Vedic education is the mirror of all the education. In ancient time education refers to the worship of God, stated to religion and fulfilment of public and civic duties and related to society and protection. It was pupil- centred education. Social skills were evolved through training in fulfilment of duties. Self- study and meditation play an important role. Education specially related to explanation and memorization.

Index terms: Education; Eastern concept; Western concept

INTRODUCTION

We always learn something for every moment and every day. So, our entire life process is simply an education. Education is a continuous and dynamic process. It is a process of development. It's never ending. It starts with the birth of an individual and then its goes on till the last day. It is an essential human virtue. He learns something at every moment and every day.

Education makes a life progressive, cultured and civilised. It is a learning process. The concept of education is dynamic. It has passed through many stages for different decades in the process of evolution and at every stage it has also changed its meaning according to the different existing needs of different society as well as the existing social conditions. This process is still in evolution. The demand of revision of the prevailing concept of education is yet.

The word 'education' has used frequently. In normal ways education means acquisition of knowledge, passing examination and receiving degree and diploma. Though it is learning process. Education is derived from the Latin word 'Educare' which means 'to bring up' or 'to nourish' means to develop the inborn qualities of a child to the null. Others says it derived from 'Educare' means to 'lead out' or 'to draw out of the best in child'. The third thought is that it derived from 'education' means the act of teaching or training means education is a process of development. The Hindi word of education is 'Shiksha' which is derived from the Sanskrit verbal root 'shas' which means to know. In short, we can say education is a process to inherent powers and capacities of a child.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Concept of Education

The aim of the education can be described as self-realisation. Today's system is based on the principle of growth, re-innovation and flexibility to adopt itself constantly to the demands of an emerging society. In ancient time the aim of education is knowing the truth of life. The greatest and perfect one ever reached by devotion, discipline and dire dedication of man. In India, core of ancient educational system is 'gurukul' where students resided with the Guru and his family, where they learnt life skills along with pursuit of scholarship. In the mediaeval times, methods of essential collective teaching were adopted and no attention was paid to the development of individuality. But the educationalists like Rousseau, Pestalozzi, Froebel and Nun etc again started emphasise the individual development as the aim of education in the present age.

We can understand the concept of education by dividing into two parts ---

1. Eastern education system--- a) Indian

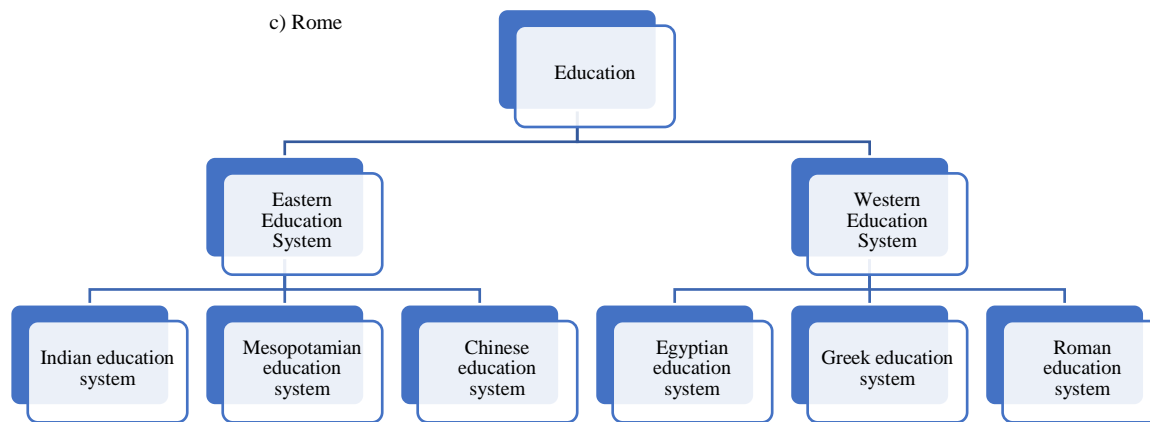
b) Mesopotamian

c) Chinese

2. Western education system-- a) Egypt

b) Greek

c) Rome



Eastern Education System

Indian education system

A very first education system of India is known as Vedic education system. The time duration of Vedic period is about 1500 BCE to 600 BCE. It is the oldest known education system of the world. Education was based on Veda (hymns, formulas and incarnation, recited or chanted by priest of a pre-Hindu tradition) and later Hindu texts and scriptures. In ancient India medical knowledge was existed and taught. The education was taught free, later it became rigid and restricted by social system.

The other Hindu scriptures is Upanishads dated 500 BCE. These texts encouraged an exploratory learning process where teachers and students were co- travellers in a search for truth. The teaching methods used reasoning and questioning. There was Gurukul system which was a residential school of learning. At the completion of studies student paid 'Gurudakshina'. The key language to be taught is 'Sanskrit'.

In India education passes through four 'Ashrams' into which human life is divided—

Bramhacharya Ashram--- This was the first stage of life. It is considered as the life of education and preparation.

Grihastha Ashram--- The second stage was the life of house holder. They have to perform their social responsibilities.

Vanaprastha Ashram--- The third stage was interpreted as the life of retirement and meditation.

Sannyasa Ashram--- It was the last stage where the individual cut off all social and family duties and leads a life of renunciation to attain his salvation.

According to the Upanishads education is divided into two categories--

Para vidya--- Para vidya means the highest point of degree or knowledge. It is related to the self or the ultimate truth. It is the transcendental knowledge which is beyond all limits of knowledge, experience and reason.

Apara vidya--- Apara vidya is for survival in the world. It gives us physical, social, intellectual, aesthetic training and qualifies us for group living.

The two-epic poem of that time was Mahabharata (estimated 8th century) and Ramayana (estimated date 400 BC and 200 AD). The epic explores themes of human existence and the concept of Dharma.

An early centre of learning in India is from 6th century BCE to 5th century AD by Buddhism.

Mesopotamian education system

The 'Sumerian' language was well developed in Mesopotamia in 4th millennium BCE. Literacy level of the Mesopotamian was high. Syllabary script became popular among them. In Babylonians times libraries found in most towns and temples. Women also became educated. 'Nineveh' library in Babylonia is the first systematically organized library in the ancient middle east which survivors in past today.

It is believed that 'Thales of Miletus'(585 BC) known as 'the first Philosopher' studied in Mesopotamia. Thales claimed that 'water was the first principle from which all else flowed.' Invention of wheel also credited to Mesopotamians.

Chinese education system

In Chinese language there are more than 40000 Chinese characters but only three and four thousand characters requires for knowledge. During Zhou dynasty (1014 BC to 256 BC) there were five national schools in the capital city of China. Confucius (551 BC – 479 BC) was a great Chinese philosopher and the founder of Confucianism. Today's civil service system were originally given by the Chinese education system which was known as nine rank system. In 605 A.D during the Sai dynasty, for the first time, an examination system was explicitly instituted for a category of local talents.

Western Education System

It is estimated that western education system was started about 3500 BC. The first evidence is of Egypt.

Egyptian education system

In Egypt fully developed hieroglyphs were in use at Abydos as early as 3400BC. The oldest known alphabet was developed in Central Egypt was a Hieroglyphic prototype. Text is carved in stone monuments and with ink on papyrus. Earliest formal school was developed in Egypt's middle kingdom under the directions of Kheti. The ancient Egyptian education system was elaborately formed and was structured to the current social and political needs of society. Hierarchy of social status and classes was maintained in education. Only royal offspring and sons of rich and professionals such as scribes, physicians and temple administrator were schooled. Mostly taught their father's trade. The purpose of the education was to maintain the structure of society. It was well ahead of his time.

Greek education system

Education in ancient Greek was vastly 'democratized' in the 5th century BC which is influenced by the Sophists, Plato and Isocrates. Aristotle founded 'Peripatetic school' and Plato founded 'Platonic academy'. The education system of the wealthy ancient Greek is called 'Paideia'. The education system of Greek was majorly divided between state- Sparta and Athens.

Athenian system ---

The era is of 508 – 322 BC. The education system of Athens consisted of two major parts.

Physical (Gymnastike)-- It is a physical education that mirrored the ideals of the military – strength, stamina and preparation for war.

Intellectual (Mousike) -- Mousike belongs with intellectuality of a person including music, dance, beauty, nobility, harmony, rhythm etc.

Around 420 BCX higher education became prominent in Athens.

Sparta system ---

The purpose of Sparta's education system was to produce and maintain a powerful army. They entered in military school (Agoge) at the age of six. The Spartan education system was about war and battle. Spartan girls could wrestle and fist fight and handle a weapon. After graduation from agoge at the age of eighteen they receive the title of 'Epebes'. The Phoenician writing system was adapted by the Greeks from the Proto – Canaanite script in around the 11th century BC. Which is similar to Egyptians hieroglyphics. Later it develops as a Cyrillic script. Russian, Aramaic script, Hebrew script, Arabi etc. Assyrians used clay tablets to write. Sheets and strips of bark from trees, the thick palm like leaves of a particular trees were used. Parchment (goat skin), Vellum (calf skin) were also used.

Roman education system

The first school in ancient Rome arose by the middle of the 4th century BC. The Rome education system developed arranged schools in tires. This system predominates in the modern world. A Roman students would progress through schools. Higher education in Rome was more of a status symbol than a practical concern. During the early middle age, the monasteries of the Roman Catholic church were centres of education a literacy, preserving the church's selection from Latin learning and maintaining the art of writing.

Medieval education system

Islamic civilization spread between 7th and 19th centuries. Muslims started schooling from 622 in Medina, a city of Saudi Arabia. Schooling at first was in the Mosque, later its separates next to mosque. The first separated school was 'Nizaniyah school' built in 1066 in Baghdad. The house of wisdom in Bagdad was a library, translation and educational centre for the 9th and 13th centuries. From age of six children started schooling. The first university was built by Muslims is All-Qarawiyn university in Fez, Morocco.

The first medieval institutions(universities) were established in Italy, France and England in the late 11th and 12th century. Ireland became known as the island of saints and scholars. Monasteries were built all over Ireland and these became centres of great learning. Cambridge and many other universities were founded at this time. Most of schools during this era were founded upon religious principles with the primary purpose of training the clergy.

In 1770 the first chair of pedagogy established at the university of Halle in Germany. Under the guidance of Wilhelm Von Humboldt, a new university was founded in Berlin in 1810 which became the model for many research universities.

In 20th century new direction in education included in Italy. Maria Montessori's Montessori schools and in Germany Rudolf Steiner's development of Waldorf education are the examples of child- centred education.

Conclusion

The pact of today's education begins from the civilization which arose different part of the world. Pythagoras, Plato, Aristotle, Hippocrates, Euclid, Plotinus, Galen, Sushruta, Charak, Aryabhata, Brahmagupta etc, the scholars accumulated a great collection of knowledge in the world and built on it through their own discoveries. Their contribution towards education is fundamental. Philosophers such as Socrates as well as the sophistic movement, which led to an influx of foreign teachers, created a shift from old education to a new higher education. Plato and Aristotle were his followers. In other hand Pythagoras was known as the master of all science and brotherhood. He gave the idea of proportions and ratios. He said "All is numbers". He known for his contribution to mathematics. He taught philosophy of life, religion and mathematics in his own school in Kratom, a Greek colony, e.g., sum of angles in triangle, Pythagorean theories, irrational numbers, five specific regular polygons and the earth was sphere in the centre of the universe.

If we see the eastern philosophers Charak- Sanhita is there. Shushruta known for his medicinal values and surgery. Aryabhata contributed 'zero' from which the number system gets classified. The other contribution of Aryabhata is value of Pie, root over, distance of earth, calculation of days etc. Chanakya gave new dimension to politics. He wrote 'Arthashastra', a brief sketch of power.

Today education is related to literacy. Commercialized and globalized education get mandatory. Education become more social and vocational instead of spirituality.

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