

## **PERIODS OF DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN EDUCATION: -**

The development of Indian Education can be divided under the following era,

- 1) Vedic era (3000B.C. to 500 B.C.)
- 2) Buddhist era (500 B.C. to 1200 A.D.)
- 3) Muslim era (1200 A.D. to 1700 A.D.)
- 4) British era (The pre-independence era, 1800 A.D. to 1947)
- 5) Post-independence era (1947 to till date)



# INTRODUCTION

- Period 600B.C. to 600 A.D.
- Institutional organisation
- Based on teachings of Gautam Buddha
- Buddha born in a royal family of Kapilvastu in 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.
- His father's name was Shuddhodhan and mother's name was Mahamaya.
- He was married to Yashodhara.

# Major tenets of Buddhism

- The teachings of Buddha was mainly oral.
- Buddha's philosophy are described as 'Tripitakas' -
  - (i) Vinayapitaka – Rules of conduct
  - (ii) Suttapitaka – Buddha's Sermon
  - (iii) Abhidhammapitaka – Exposition of philosophical theories.



# Aims of Education

- Development of personality
- Physical and intellectual development
- Religious and spiritual development
- Character building
- Promotion of social efficiency and happiness
- Presentation and spread of culture



# Buddha's Theory

- Buddha believes in Law of Karma
- Present existence of the individual is the effect of past Karma
- He believes in Rebirth
- Buddhist Philosophy doesn't believe in God
- The place of God is taken by the universal doctrine of Karma which governs the universe in such a way that no fruit of action is lost. A man gets what he deserves on the basis of his past deeds.
- Nirvan – It is the state of great pleasure and peace which can be attained through wisdom goodness and knowledge.

# Primary education

- The age for starting primary education was 6 years.
- Children have to study a children book named SIDDHIRASTU during first six months in which there were 16 chapters and 49 alphabets.
- In the beginning children imitate the pronunciation of teacher after that they start writing.
- Teaching method was oral and cramming was emphasised.
- The medium of instruction was Pali language.

# System of Education

- In Buddhist period, students have to stay in Sangha or Viharas.
- Students have to present themselves before the teacher to ask for permission which is known as 'Pabbja' which means 'to go out'.
- The boys went out of their families and joined the monasteries.
- After admission to Sangha, they could remain a monk, leaving their former caste, dress, character etc.
- All the castes were allowed to get admission in the monasteries



# Pabbja Samskar

- Minimum mandatory age for entering Viharas was 8 years.
- The entrance was permitted to students after shaving their heads, wearing yellow clothes and requesting the head monk of the Sanghas to allow them for admission.
- The monk asked them to take three vows – ‘I go into the shelter of Buddha. I seek the shelter of Dharma. I enter the shelter of Sangha
- No-one could get admission without the consent of his parents.
- Patients of infectious diseases, government servants, slaves and soldiers were not allowed to be admitted to Sangha.

# Rules for students

- Admitted students were called 'samner'. They had to follow the following rules-
- Not to kill any living being.
- Not to accept anything given to him.
- Live free from the impurity of character.
- Not to tell a lie.
- Not to use any intoxicating thing.
- Not to take food in improper time.
- Not to speak ill of anybody.
- Not to take interest in music, dance, play sports etc.

- The ten rules were essentially observed by the new monk. The teacher was called 'upjasya' , took all the responsibilities of the students upto the age of 20 years when they become mature and capable for 'upsampada'.



# Upsampada

- After completion of education of 12 years at the age of 20 years the Monk had to undergo the ritual 'upsampada' and then he become permanent member of 'Sangha' But only those Monks who had enough of spiritual knowledge were taken to Sangha.

# Qualification and duties of teacher

- Bhikshus were teachers. They must have spent ten years as monk and must have the purity of character, thought and generosity.
- He must have high mental order so that he might teach his students the religion and nobleness.
- There are two categories of teacher – Acharya and Upadhaya.
- Acharya may admit number of people who would have to live with him at his own house for minimum period of 12 years. He would not accept any fees.
- Upadhaya admits the students and imparts instruction on payment of fees. His pupils were to study the part of Vedas for a temporary period.

- Teachers were responsible for the proper education of students. He had to look after their needs affectionately.
- Teachers were responsible for the mental and physical development of students.
- He has to look after them at the time of sickness.
- Teachers were very close, affectionate, good and pure.



# Daily routine of disciples

- Regular service of guru was essential.
- In the morning students would arrange for water, look after teacher's meal.
- He would cook the food, feed the teacher and clean the utensils.
- He would go out for alms.
- He has to keep the place tidy.
- He could not go anywhere without the permission of the teacher.



# School Administration

- All the educational schemes were conducted by Sanghas situated in monastries and viharas.
- Educational institutions were based on federal system.
- Teacher and taught live together in viharas and monastries
- There was democratic organisation of educational institution.
- The gates of Sangha were guarded by scholars called Dwar –pandits.
- One learned bhikshu was appointed head of educational institutions.
- There was no external interference in administration of Sanghas.



# Curriculum

- Buddhist education was mainly religious and its aim was to attain Nirvan.
- Buddhist philosophy believes that women, wealth and ornaments are the real bindings so only those can achieve salvation who leads non-attached life i.e. monk like.
- The curriculum was religious which included teachings of Buddha and Dharma-shastras and Sutta, Binaya and Dhamma Pitak.
- Vedas , puranas, grammar, astrology, astronomy, vdangas Medicine, magic , ayurveda, politics, culpture, mathematics etc were included in the curriculum for general students.
- The knowledge of sanskrit was necessary for higher education.
- The study of elephants ,horses, archery ,snake charming was also there.
- Thus both worldly and spiritual aspect of education were included

# Methods of teaching

- Method of teaching were based on oral dicussions,preaching,repition, debates were used as techniques of teaching and learning.
- Seminars were also conducted to discuss major issues.
- Mental and moral development was emphasised to attain Bodhisattva.
- Although art of writing was developed but due to shortage of writing material the method of teaching was verbal.
- The methods of teaching were question –answer, discussion,logical arguments,tours,coferences arranged on full moon day and first day of month,meditation in solitude.
- Other method of teaching was evidences which were – theory,cause,example,cotradictio,evidence,argument and induction.
- The medium of instruction was common language.
- The centres of education were Takshshila,N alanda and Kashi.

# Women education

- Previously women were not allowed to get education.
- But after thr request of his disciple Anand Buddha allowed women to enter the Sangha.
- Bhikshus are not permitted to give education to women in alone.
- Women were considered inferior to men.
- General women were not allowed to get education

# Vocational education

- Bhikshus were given various types of education in handicrafts weaving, stitching of clothes etc.
- Agriculture, trade, commerce, animal-husbandary were also taught.
- Education in architecture, sculpture and painting helped in construction of beautiful monasteries
- Education of medical science is the gift of Buddhist period Charak Dhanvantari were the great Ayurveda acharya.

# Demerits of Buddhist Education

- Decline of Buddhism.
- Weakness of country.
- Hatred for handwork.
- Neglect of women education.
- Neglect of worldly life.



# Contributions to Indian education

- Provision of vocational education.
- Provision of education of worldly subjects.
- Encouragement to local languages.
- Provision of primary education.
- Democratic organisation of educational Institutions.
- Centre of International Education.



Thank You

