
The Bhagavad Gita and its Effects on Present scenario of Education

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ABSTRACT

Bhagavad Gita is one of the most popular books of Hindu mythology: It is considered to be the greatest contributions of India to the World. In the present research paper, the researcher has attempted to find the effect and implication of Bhagavad Gita in the present scenario of education.

KEYWORDS: *Srimad Bhavadgeeta, Educational Implications, Education in India, Prasthantrayee.*

INTRODUCTION

Bhagavad Gita simply means 'The Lords' Song' where the philosophical discourse of Lord Krishna, to persuade the reluctant Arjuna to fight in the ragging battle against the Kauravas, has been systematically recorded. Contained in the Bhisma-Parva of the Mahabharata, the greatest Sanskrit epic, the lessons preached by the lord are cited in the sacred book of the Hindus, holding relevance in the present scenario, also.

Arjun faced mental turmoil when he saw his very own dear relatives against whom he has to fight. He withdraws out of fear and surrenders his will to fight. At this juncture, Lord Krishna, playing the charioteer, pitches in and motivates Arjuna, slowly, so that he regains his lost confidence. The Bhagavad Gita preached on the battle field of Kurushetra is counseling done by the supreme to his devotee, while multitude of men stood by waiting. Krishna enlightens the doubting warrior to perform his duty as a prince, and as a righteous man, to fight against evil and restore peace and order. , in the region and the Country, on the whole.

The crux of the Gita can be beautifully summarized in this sentence of Annie Besant: 'It is meant to lift the aspirant from the lower levels of renunciation, where objects are renounced, to the loftier heights where desires are dead, and where the yogi dwells in the calm and ceaseless contemplation, while his body and mind are actively employed in discharging the duties that fall to his lot in life.'

The Gita tries to contemplate a philosophy of karma based on janana, supported by Bhakti, in a beautiful manner. The real meaning of education is to impart knowledge and wisdom. True education would provide children not only an intellectual stimulation, but also a real purpose in life. The Bhagavad -Gita is referred to as the king of education because it is the essence of

all doctrines and philosophies. It is the purest form of knowledge that gives direct perception of the self, by realization.

METAPHYSICS OF GITA

The important metaphysical point of teaching in Gita is being. Gita advocates "*Nasato vidhyata bhavo nabhavo vidyate satab*" (of the unreal there is no being and of the real there is no non-being.) The soul is eternal (nitya), unborn (aja), indestructible (avinashi), undiminishing (avyakta), all-pervasive (sarva-gata), unthinkable (achintya), and immutable (avik rya), unmanifest (avyakta). Soul cannot be killed by sword, it cannot be diminished or destroyed by fire, air or rain can diminished it. The soul is neither born, nor it dies; it is out and out, immortal and everlasting. He, who finds the ultimate reality seated equally in all beings and un-perishing within the perishing bodies, sees it truly. Bhakti (devotion) as per the scripture is a disinterested service to God, so it's a form of Karma. The Lord himself lifts up his devotees from the 'ocean of birth-and-death' and the love of God becomes divine and supreme, in all aspects.

Gita describes four kinds of devotees-

1. *Arta* (The suffering one)
2. *Jigyasu* (Seeker of truth)
3. *Artharth* (Self-interested one)
4. *Janani or Gyani* (The wise man)

Bhagavad Gita represents the unique amalgamation of action, devotion and knowledge. Man is, generally, of complex intelligence, will and emotion. Intelligence entails upon a philosophy, will to philosophy of action and emotion to philosophy of devotion. Pure Action or *Karma* and ceaseless devotion or *Bhakti* must go on in one's life, without any interruptions from the external circumstances. A state of Yoga or union, arises in such beings and the individual with absolute yoga is *sthita-prajana*- i.e his intellect is rooted firmly in higher reason to attain highest state of Brahman, *Brahmishthiti*, (where one is never bewildered). This is the ultimate stage from which the doer can never falls down. A yogi therefore experiences development of internal consciousness, intellectual and reasoning ability and also understands the importance of duties in life which get established in him, by and large.

Curriculum as propounded in the Epic

An individual must acquire two types of knowledge, *Gyan*, in one's lifetime -One , Physical comprising Art, Science and Engineering and the other , Spiritual comprising knowledge of body and soul.

The teaching of the Lord does not stand out for the renunciation of action, as wrongly perceived by men but it propagates for renunciation in action. It is emphatically stated that *Samnyasa* does not mean the renunciation of action, but doing the work full of enthusiasm, giving up, desire and attachment. It also indicates the giving up the fruit of all work. Actions are within our sphere; fruits are not our concern. We should never be attached to the fruits of actions and at the same time, we should never be inactive, or losing out on action.

INSTRUMENTS OF TEACHING

Holy Scripture exhibits the following methods :

Conversational or dialogue method, seeking Answers through Questions, Demonstration method where the guru exhibits a skill to his disciples before their performance, Contemporary method where rational and proper analysis of a problem is done; to enhance problem solving abilities and the Learning by doing method, where the students engage in a practical to understand the theoretical concepts of a subject.

DISCIPLINE

The moral of Bhagavad Gita entails upon the discipline of life and performance of one's duty without attachment to the result, in a sattvic way. Gita rightly strikes at the root of the problem. Ideal personality of teachers and their deep scholarly efforts can save the untracked and undisciplined students. The faith inculcated by adhering to the instructions of Gita, can eliminate the problem of indiscipline, doubt and anomalies that are prevailing in the Indian education.

CONCLUSION

In this era of virtual and exponential expansion of information, all over the globe, that makes the students or knowledge seekers bewildered as to what and how to acquire, the holy Bhagwat Gita can serve as a beacon, in the turmoil of knowledge and intellectual ocean. Students have access to information like never before but their education is more of skill-based. They gain expertise in one field or sometimes many, with the belief that it will guarantee them success. But the ever changing and expanding world makes their knowledge outdated within few years or maybe couple of months, making them further puzzled, in the maze of education.

The Gita guides one slowly to the inner personality of one's being. The intellect, which reasons and discriminates the mind, and is the centre of emotions and impulses, sharpens as one indulges in reading it. The students can realize and become wholesome beings with the spiritual understanding and internal exploration of oneself. Deep inside, lie all the unanswered queries of the mind and heart that one keeps looking otherwise, in books. Concentration increases as one forsakes the desire of fruits of labor, and doors of new avenues open to the seeking mind, which is attune with the universe. *'Explore thyself'*, forms the basis of Education system, then all the intellectual, physical, mental and spiritual health becomes clear and robust, in the being. Probably that must have been the reason that our seers and sages knew everything from an intuitive mind and we seek nowadays knowledge outside of ourselves. So, by connecting with the Gita one can embark on a journey to transform one's life from that of mediocrity to that of excellence.

Through my paper, I wanted to draw some insights, to the knowledge acquired by referring the Gita and how can its' underlying philosophy of education can be applied in the present scenario. Further, if properly explored, it can be helpful in uplifting the status of current education.

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