

Analysis of Bhagavad Gita in the Context of Indian Knowledge Systems: Towards Value Education for Students in the Present Scenario

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ABSTRACT

The study delves into the examination of the Bhagavad Gita within the framework of Indian knowledge systems, particularly focusing on its relevance in providing value-oriented education for students in the contemporary scenario. The lessons from Bhagavad-Gita serve as a catalyst for enhancing education, which holds significant importance. Agricultural nations like India have been addressing the deficiency of value in education. In addressing this issue, the teachings of Bhagavad-Gita play a pivotal role in imparting ethical education to students and assuming a more significant role in setting standards for institutional leaders. Ethical-based education is crucial for a multitude of factors encompassing genuine values, spiritual values, virtue, discipline, profundity, societal norms, political perspectives, practicality, didactics, global considerations, aesthetics, morality, functionality, religious beliefs, reverence, psychomotor skills, and more. This study concludes that integrating contextual education with the teachings of Bhagavad-Gita suggests a correlation between educational theory and practice for the betterment of society as a whole. Bhagavad-Gita elucidates the path to nurturing students in a righteous manner, fostering a transformative outlook, and equipping them for success in their careers and offering insights into fostering holistic development and ethical conduct among students in the present era.

Nonetheless, the current review suggests that the teachings of Bhagavad-Gita hold promise for both educators and students in fostering respect among them to enhance society at large.

KEYWORDS: Bhagavad-Gita, Teaching, Value Education, Student development

INTRODUCTION

The Bhagavad-Gita, a segment of the Mahabharata authored by Ved Vyasa, comprises 700 verses divided into 18 chapters. It encompasses profound philosophical concepts and practical guidance, commencing with a dialogue between Arjuna, representing humanity, and Lord Krishna, the supreme deity. Serving as both a conversation between Arjuna and Sri Krishna and a source of moral instruction from Lord Krishna to Arjuna, the Bhagavad-Gita addresses Arjuna's dilemmas and offers teachings on various aspects of life. These teachings include strategies for managing Arjuna's distress, insights into the paths of knowledge and action, discussions on modes of behavior, intellect, and the renunciation of action, as well as guidance on achieving inner peace and spiritual fulfillment. Topics covered range from the joy derived from self-discipline to the importance of self-awareness, the pursuit of wisdom, recognition of divine essence, ethical conduct, and the distinction between body and soul. The Bhagavad-Gita also explores concepts such as the three attributes of nature, the nature of the supreme spirit, the attributes of the afterlife, the significance of faith and knowledge, and the principles of action, happiness, and duty.

The Bhagavad-Gita is structured into three sections. The initial six sections, comprising 280 verses, elucidate the path of action known as Karma Yoga. Following this, sections 7 through 12, consisting of 209 verses, expound upon the path of devotion or Bhakti Yoga. Lastly, sections 13 to 18, containing 211 verses, highlight the path of knowledge or Jnana Yoga, which emphasizes the spiritual significance of individual soulhood and the teachings of spiritual value. Many social scientists, psychologists, philosophers, innovators, educators, and advocates for education emphasize the importance of nurturing and cherishing the mind for the acquisition of knowledge. However, the future destiny of a nation lies in the hands of its youth, who represent the leaders of tomorrow.

Many social scientists, psychologists, philosophers, thinkers, educators, educationists and educational concerns believe that intelligence is based on mind that is ability to develop mind and values mind; but the future of the nation depends on the present day children who are the leaders of tomorrow. Therefore, efforts should be made to provide the children a pleasant present and bright future which is only possible through value-oriented education, but it is generally seen that most of the children who are enrolled in schools do not attend the schools and suffers from value-oriented education.

As a result, efforts should be directed towards providing children with a meaningful present and a promising future, which can only be achieved through value-oriented education. However, it is often observed that a significant portion of children enrolled in schools and colleges do not attend classes and miss out on value-oriented education. Consequently, despite the necessity for aligning education with respect and ensuring school attendance, it remains a common occurrence for many enrolled children to be absent from school. Efforts must be intensified to ensure that young people receive the benefits of value-oriented education, thereby paving the way for a brighter future.

This review can be deemed critical from the standpoint that value education can be significantly influenced by the Bhagavad-Gita and its teachings. Consequently, it sheds light on a community whose existence may be relatively unknown to date. Through this review, it becomes apparent that there exists a collective of individuals who are impacted by the teachings of the Bhagavad-Gita and are invested in incorporating its principles into value education.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The Bhagavad Gita serves as a repository of our rich cultural heritage and traditions, offering practical solutions to various everyday challenges. It serves as a guiding light, illuminating the darkness in our lives and instilling confidence by providing answers to our questions. Among its many virtues, the Gita dispels the uncertainties of life and awakens students to their true potential. It epitomizes all customs and philosophies, offering unparalleled wisdom and fostering self-awareness.

Teaching the Bhagavad Gita to undergraduates and helping them grasp the significance of its divine message is essential, as students are shaping their intellect and future aspirations in pursuit of career excellence. A thorough understanding of the Gita's teachings can unleash their potential and equip them with the skills necessary for success, contributing to their academic and professional achievements.

This paper aims to identify, analyze, and evaluate the key elements that reinforce value-based education and its impact on Indian culture today and in the future. By addressing these aspects, it seeks to assist students in addressing educational challenges more effectively and flourishing within our society.

Recognizing the significant gaps in the study of Vedic scriptures and epics in the current educational context, as well as the prevailing social issues among students and young people, this study aims to explore specific components of the Bhagavad Gita that can aid in their personal and professional development.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The examination report titled "Analysis of Bhagavad Gita in the Context of Indian Knowledge Systems: Towards Value Education Objectives for Undergraduate Students in the Present Scenario" will focus on the following objectives:

- Understanding the significance and teachings of the Bhagavad Gita in fostering the holistic development of student beings.
- Analyzing the insights provided by the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita on contemporary issues relevant to today's students.
- Determining the ways in which the Bhagavad Gita can contribute to the personal and academic growth of students, and its impact on their lives.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This examination report adopts a strategic perspective influenced by an art-based hermeneutic understanding of sacred texts, as articulated by Janardan Ghimire (2013). By delving into personal experiences and sensations, the author establishes fascinating connections between the Bhagavad Gita and social conventions.

The study's primary focus is to explore the didactic implications of the Bhagavad Gita, particularly in terms of its application in the educational landscape outlined by India's National Education Policy-2020. Drawing from the insights of Gita Manishi et al. (2020), the examination posits that the Bhagavad Gita's teachings align with key aspects of NEP-2020, suggesting its timeless relevance in educational discourse.

Based on observations from Ambala's Sr. Sec institution, the examination underscores a growing inclination among students towards the Bhagavad Gita. It contends that contemporary challenges necessitate a more holistic approach to education, which encompasses personal fulfillment and life skills alongside traditional academic instruction, as indicated by Surina Sharma (2014).

Furthermore, Sood and Kavita (2016) conceptualize value education as an iterative process, intricately linked with the broader cultural context. Education, they argue, is an integral component of a multifaceted cultural framework, encompassing the development of reason, morality, and competence. Ultimately, the pursuit of truth, beauty, and goodness emerges as central tenets in the educational journey, encapsulated in the Sanskrit phrase "Satyam, Shivam, and Sundaram."

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The examination is inherently "exploratory" in its approach, emphasizing the role of systematic exploration in generating robust findings. The credibility and validity of the study's findings hinge on the strategies employed and implemented in the research process. In this study, insightful and systematic exploration techniques are primarily utilized. The examination focuses on conducting literature searches across various sources, including research papers, journals, newspapers, magazines, books, websites, web links, and other credible sources available. By leveraging a diverse range of authentic and transparent sources, the study aims to ensure comprehensive and informed exploration of the subject matter.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The concepts, significance, hypotheses, and criteria associated with respect-aligned education are underpinned by a profound understanding. Before delving into the factors that reinforce respect-aligned instruction, it is essential to grasp the importance of education, particularly value-based education. The term "respect education" holds varied interpretations among scholars in different contexts. Respect-oriented education aims at fostering personal growth across generations. However, contemporary education places significant emphasis on respect-based learning, perhaps explaining students' intrinsic motivation to excel academically.

The National Education Policy 2022 further underscores the importance of respect-based education. Yet, achieving respect-based education in India today poses challenges due to the demanding daily schedules and the lack of insightful information and commitment within educational institutions. Value education constitutes a fundamental aspect of teacher training and schooling. Consequently, the exploration of the teachings of the Bhagavad-Gita should be integrated into all humanities and social sciences courses at the university level.

EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE ACCORDING TO BHAGAVAD GITA

In today's world, education holds paramount importance as it is indispensable for securing employment opportunities. In the current competitive environment, obtaining admission and earning higher degrees have become crucial endeavors.

There are three main types of education:

1. Academic education, also known as "Laukik Vidya," focuses on acquiring knowledge and skills that lead to financial stability and pave the way for a prosperous future.
2. Spiritual education, or "Alaukik Vidya," encompasses disciplines such as Yoga, emphasizing the importance of maintaining mental and physical well-being to achieve daily goals and spiritual growth.
3. Transcendental education, known as "Brahma Vidya," delves into understanding one's true nature and reality. The Bhagavad Gita serves as a sacred text that encompasses all three forms of education, reminding students that the ultimate teaching is "Brahma Vidya."

In India, the ancient Gurukul system, Vedic schools, and the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita have traditionally integrated all three types of education. India has made significant efforts to revitalize its education system, emphasizing values, intelligence, dedication, discipline, and the pursuit of truth as essential components of education. These efforts aim to foster societal harmony and contribute to the nation's progress and development.

CONCLUSION

The Bhagavad Gita serves as a comprehensive guidebook for students, akin to the fundamental sciences of physics, chemistry, and biology in human existence. It is imperative for students to study the Gita with a scientific mindset and modern perspectives, integrating its teachings into their lives. In doing so, the Gita becomes a roadmap for career success and personal development, offering invaluable insights into navigating the complexities of student life. Given that student life lays the foundation for human existence, imbuing juniors with the wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita can lead to profound transformations, shaping them into exemplary, successful, and ethical individuals.

The integration of Bhagavad Gita teachings into education has shown promising progress and improvements within society. However, this study suggests that the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita can also benefit educators and faculties, enabling them to impart value-based education that enhances the well-being of society as a whole.

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