

Inculcation of Life –Value through Education of the Bhagwad Gita

Pragya aggarwal

Associate professor Hindu college of education sonapat, India

Abstract

Education is a vast cycle and what we propose for one sector of education has repercussion on all the other sectors of education. If we wish our students to be value oriented it is necessary that our teachers must be value oriented.

We must do this because we aspire them to be rightly as vehicles of values for the benefit of our children and youths. By this very nature, a teacher is a transmitter, a messenger, a carrier. Our determination of what he has to transit will depend upon what we determine to be valuable for our children and youth. For this sacred task, The Bhagwadgita can be the only means to impart life values. The author has tried to delineate the structure of education in accordance to The Bhagwadgita to attain the goal of value-oriented education.

Perhaps there is no sacred book in the world equal to The Bhagwadgita in the pure sublimity of its teachings. It is an incredible work in itself as far as concept of character building is concerned. In fact, character is the most essential ingredient of humanity. How, let us see.

MEANING OF EDUCATION ACCORDING TO THE BHAGWAD GITA

We can imbibe true meaning of education by understanding virtuous knowledge as propounded by Lord Krishna. Virtuous knowledge is that by which we feel unity in diversity and see the abode of God in every creature. Thus according to the philosophy of Gita we can say that true education is that which enables one to see the existence of God in the soul of each living being. In the beginning of the war Arjuna was confused. Lord Krishna showed the whole universe in one person i.e. in himself brahma. Thus he explained to Arjuna that he can not kill any soul because it resides in the Brahma itself.

AIMS \ IDEALS OF EDUCATION

OF ONE'S DUTY (SWADHARMA IN ONE'S LIFE)

DEVELOPMENT OF INNER CONSCIOUSNESS.

DEVELOPMENT OF VIRTUOUS KNOWLEDGE As a corollary to the teaching of Gita we can explain ideals of education in six parts as below;

DEVELOPMENT OF VIRTUOUS KNOWLEDGE.

DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONALITY AND ITS REFINEMENT.

HARMONY BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL SOCIAL AIMS.

DEVELOPMENT OF INTELLECTUAL AND REASONING ABILITY.

ESTABLISHMENT OF IMPORTANCE

Like us all, our students too, are ignorant of virtuous knowledge. In the Gita Lord Krishna removes the ignorance of Arjun and induces him to this duty. So we may say that aim of education is to remove ignorance and impart virtuous knowledge.

DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONALITY AND ITS REFINEMENT

The personality of every man includes good and evil attributes, in other words, Kauravas and Pandavas dwell in every one of us. Lord Krishna awakens the virtuous powers latent in Arjun and inspires him to pursue the right path. This is what a teacher should do to his students. Thus the aim of education should be development of personality and its refinement.

HARMONY BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIAL AIMS:

In the battlefield Arjun is on horns of a regarding his individual freedom and social responsibility. His individual freedom lay in his decision to fight or not to fight. But his social responsibility demanded that for establishment of peace he should take part in the battle in order to punish the evil-doers. Lord Krishna induces him to take up his Gandiv(bow) for killing evil – doers and their associates. Thus we may infer that the aim of education should be to bring harmony between individual and social aim.

DEVELOPMENT OF INTELLECTUAL AND REASONING ABILITY:

Arjuna doubts in the utility of the battle. His doubt is the origin of the teachings of the Gita Lord Krishna uses the ability of the intellect, skill and reasoning in removing the doubts of Arjuna in order that he might take his own decision in choosing a course from the different alternatives. This should also be the aim of our education in the context of the teacher and pupil relationship.

ESTABLISHMENT OF IMPORTANCE OF ONE'S DUTY (SWADHARMA IN ONE'S LIFE):

A person can be happy only by establishing a balance between his rights and duties. Lord Krishna tells Arjun that there is nothing better than performing one's duty. It is very necessary to emphasize such an attitude before our students today. We can bring heaven on earth, if our students adopt such an attitude in life.

DEVELOPMENT OF INNER CONSCIOUSNESS:

Arjun wants to avoid war. Krishna does not want to compel him to fight against his will. So he takes recourse to reasoning and makes him conscious of his duty (swadharma) consequently, Arjun becomes ready to fight his opponents. Thus Lord Krishna, as a Guru and friend succeeds in awakening the inner conscience of Arjun. A teacher should follow this procedure in developing inner-consciousness in his students.

CURRICULUM

According to The BhagwatGita curriculum needs to insist on educating the young students in the art of living with values. Two kinds of knowledge have been mentioned in the Gita:

Apara Vidya

That is the knowledge of mundane affairs.

Para vidya

Which means spiritual knowledge or knowledge about God.

For the knowledge of mundane affairs different subjects related to any discipline such as arts, science, medicines, commerce and engineering etc. may be included. Para vidya is related to spiritual sphere which included knowledge of the soul, Bhrama, living beings and the universe. All of us know that in our present educational system, spiritual realm has been totally ignored. Its result is that desire for acquiring worldly pleasures and wealth has increased while spirituality has hardly any place in our lives. A man can not get eternal peace without spiritual knowledge. So in our educational system spiritual knowledge along with subjects related to mundane affairs should find a place judiciously.

METHODS OF TEACHING

According to Shrimad Bhagwad Gita methods of teaching should based on psychology of students. Firstly it should be purposive and based on the innate urges and interests. According to the human psychology three types of people are found so according to these, teaching methods can be different.

Knowledge based or intellectual people.

People in which emotions are strong.

Last are the people who wan to learn by doing.

In a student these stages occur at different times. At early childhood he can learn by doing so we should provide him education by self experience.

At childhood he imitate his teachers whatever teachers say is right. He respects his teachers and takes knowledge without any discussion at this stage imitation method is followed.

At adolescence stage his understanding increases and he does not accept the things as such said by the teachers or written in the books. He discuss on them so at this stage discussion method is preferred.

ROLE OF TEACHER

A teacher is a transmitter, a messenger, a carrier by nature. So our teacher must be value oriented because we want them to be rightly equipped as vehicles of values for the benefit of our children's. The secret of teaching values is to inspire and kindle the quest among the students by means of one's own example of character and mastery of

knowledge. It is by embodying values within ourselves that we can really radiate values to our students. A good teacher should therefore, have a sound physiological knowledge of the different parts of the being, of the different qualities that come into play in various actions, and of the rights laws of the development of personality in relation to the development of capacities and values of an integrated personality.

The responsibility of the teacher is to create self confidence in students in students so that they can put their ideas and get success in life. He should make child stress free and ensure him to success.

As Krishna says

“SARVA DHARMANI PARITAJYA

MAMEKAMSHARNAM BHAJ

AHAMTVAM SARV PAPE BHAYO

MOKSHYISH YAMI MA SHUCH”

Means that by leaving all dharma you come to me. I will make you free from all sins. A teacher should be optimistic and should fill optimism and enthusiasm in the students.

As Krishna says

KONTEYA, PRATIJANIHI, NA ME

BHAKTA PRANSHYATI

Means my students never fails. This confidence helps in building personality in students. Secondly a teacher should be loving sympathetic and should not hide any knowledge from students. A teacher should respect the feeling of students. The role of teacher according to the Bhagwadgita is to put the child on the right road to his perfection and to encourage him in his growth by watching, suggestions and helping, but not imposing or interfering.

All occasions of daily life should be utilized by the teacher to bring his student nearer to the realization of ideals. There are occasions, when children express wild impulses and passions, and often they are in revolt. Children have their own daily battles of loyalties and friendships, and there are moments of desperate depression and of violent enthusiasm. There are accessions when children get vexed, become sulky and go on strike. All these accessions are occasions for value oriented education with patience and perseverance, the teacher can utilize all these occasions to show the truth and light to awaken among the children the right sense and right direction of true progress.

An objective, right education should include two processes:

Firstly eradication of all the unwholesome influences, secondly protecting him from the evils of the society. In the Gita equates with the gardener and pupil with the flower, the flower is to be protected from the wrong natural forces, so that it unfolds itself naturally.

Inculcating right values through wholesome influence of parents, teachers, society and literature etc. Inculcating right attitude from the beginning in the child and last but not the least transforming wrong attitudes into right ones.

ROLE OF STUDENTS

Like Upanishads, this is the view of Gita that education should be provided to those students who deserve it. As we know education is every bodies right, but this is professional right of teacher that he provide knowledge only to the deserving candidate i.e. Satparte.

These are the qualities of a student:

He should be disciplined.

He should have eagerness to get knowledge. A student should respect teacher instead he watch the faults of the teacher.

A student should be dedicated towards his work and he must be polite, hard working and sincere.

A student should be enthusiastic with the dynamic energy.

When Arjuna asked for the Shreyas the highest to be achieved and Krishna imparts the same to him. Naturally te highest can not be a common knowledge and to comprehend it one requires patience, intelligence, Shradha, faith, concentration and focus effort. He should be Satvik in his diet. It helps in enhancing these qualities in the students.

If these qualities are developed in a student then the subject matter will shine in one's understanding like a clear crystal.

In The Bhagwad Gita one should read the verses 7 to 11 from chapter 13 where in Lord Krishna enumerated the twenty qualities required by a student to grasp the highest knowledge.

DISCIPLINE

The body by nature is a docile and faithful instrument but it is very often misused by the mind with its dogmas, it's excess and dissipations. It is these which are the cause of bodily fatigue, exhaustion and disease. The body must therefore be freed from the tyranny of the mind and the vital, and this can be done by training the bodhy to feel and sense the presence of inmost harmony and peace ad to learn to obey its governance.

ROLE\ IMPORTANCE OF BHAGWAT GITA IN EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY

The Bhagwat Gita tells us how we should conduct ourselves in our day to day life keeping God at the centre of our awareness and activities performing our duties with a sense of detachment and as a way of our sacrificial offering and accepting the God as the doer and facilitating and ourselves as mere instruments engaged in the act of liberation and self-realization.

The Bhagwat Gita is relevant even today as it was centuries ago. In many ways perhaps it is more relevant today it was before as our lives have become more complex and challenging due to pressure of modern life.

So, truly speaking, it is not war what Lord Krishna encourage but right action with a certain attitude. For emphasizing the importance of performing actions in human life no other context would have better suited. The purpose of the teaching of the Bhagwadgita is to sorrow from our lives.

The essence of concept is that every person must do his enjoined duties to the best of his ability as an oblation (ISHWARPITA BUDHIA), to God who is the true giver of such ability to al of us and when he attains the results of his action then he must have the attitude to accept it as a gift from God. Once the mind is trued to the idea of surrendering it becomes immediately qualified to receive the knowledge symbolically the fact that the Bhagwatgita is delivered in the context of war proves that no situation is exceptional for the deliverance of knowledge. The best teacher is one who not only preaches but also leads his life a per his teachings, we shall see how the words and deeds of Lord Krishna in the war field are in perfect harmony.

So The Bhagwadgita is totally relevant and play important role in education. It tells what the aim of education should be according to today's need, what should be the curriculum so that a student should be best benefited, what should be the diet and qualities possessed by the child to attain knowledge, what value should be imbibed by the teacher, how should be the discipline, what should be the role of teacher in value education, how should be their relation, and what should be the place etc. These all the problem oriented questions and are best solved by The Bhagwadgita. So, value education through The BhagwatGita directly or indirectly, attempt to help students answer some of basic questions they ask themselves, through positive approach and attitudinal change. Value clarification process will enable them to live by conviction rather than convention. Knowledge of values, attitudes, needs and their ideas and actual selves, will lead them to an awareness of self and others, thus making these interaction and responses more fruitful. It is estimated that once students have their values clarified, they can able to perform better, academically and socially. When the teachers are firm, friendly and fair the students develops a sense of purpose and direction which, consequently provides a basic for individual and unified collective action. It will also enables them to make choices which would help their personal growth and enrich the common good.