

# Save Sanskrit, the Soul of India

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## Abstract

*Sanskrit as a language is losing its charm in Indian educational spectrum . There are many misconceptions regarding this soul and pious language in India. This research article analyses the basics of fallacies doctored for this language and creates a way out to strengthen its presence in Indian educational system.*

Sanskrit being Vedic language is of paramount importance in Indian heritage and for all in our Education System. Some persons regard it only as a classical language like Greek, Latin and Prakrits which are dead languages. Truth is all together different . The controversy flows from the position the Sanskrit-lovers take, most of them seem to be ignorant of the nature of Sanskrit language and literature. That is why their views are opposed by Sanskrit-lovers in the country and the persons belonging to this camp favour not only inclusion of Sanskrit language in the curriculum but also advocate that it should be made compulsory for at least some years of schooling.

Sanskrit literature is the store-house of classical wisdom. It is indispensable for Indian students not only because of the grandeur of Vedas. Upanishads and Puranas but also because of its cultural importance. Sanskrit culture stands for definite fundamental values, supremacy of rural order, integration of human personality and above all faith in the supreme soul. In the words of Dr. Agenda Parsed, Sanskrit is the language of India's culture and aspirations, the language in which all her pact greatness, her rich thoughts and her spiritual aspirations are enshrined. Sanskrit is the speech in which the civilization of India ever since its formation in the Vedic period has found is expression for over countless centuries.

For many centuries past Sanskrit has provided the principal basis of unity in India. It is still the vehicle and medium utilized to perform all religious and social customs and rites of Hindus in every nook and corner of not only India but all over the world.

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As a language Sanskrit is the most perfect one in the world. Sir William Jones announced to the world in 1876 that Sanskrit is a language, more perfect than Greek, more captions than Latin, and more exquisitely refined than either. Sanskrit has given vocabulary, common syntax and also common declensions to the North Indian languages. It has also its influence on the Dravidian languages. Thus it is the common bond of unity among all the languages.

Sanskrit is the only language which has weathered all storms and stresses during the passage of time. Those who call it dead language are simply laboring under delusion. In fact it is not Sanskrit that is dead but their spirits that have become insensitive for their own language, literature and culture.

A.B. Keith has rightly remarked: "It is a characteristic feature of Sanskrit intimately connected with its true viability, that unlike Medieval Latin, it undergoes important changes in its prolonged literary existence, when even today it is far from ended."

Though Sanskrit cannot be presented the position that it enjoyed in the past yet its study is indispensable and quite useful for widening the intellectual, historical, cultural, philosophical, emotional, social rural and international outlooks of the Indian youth.

To quote **Mahatma Gandhi**, "I quite agree that the study of Sanskrit is sadly neglected. I do not believe that such a study is a waste of time and effort; I believe it is an aid to the study of modern languages. This is more true of Sanskrit than any other ancient language So far as India is concerned and every nationalist should study it because it makes a study of the provincial languages easier than otherwise."

We should not be afraid of teaching Sanskrit to young children even in Primary school under the impression that it will be an additional burden. In the words of **Dr. Penfield** "The brain of a boy in his teen age is not the same as that of a child. During the earlier period the child is depositing within the brain, language units which he will later utilize for all additions to his vocabulary."

Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru was right when he said "If I was asked what is the greatest treasure which India possesses and what is her heritage, I would answer unhesitatingly it is the Sanskrit

language and literature and all that it contains. This is a magnificent inheritance and so long as this endures and influences the life of our people-so long will the basic genius of Indian continue. Apart from its being a treasure of past it is, to our astonishing degree for so ancient a language, a living tradition. I should like to promote the study of Sanskrit to explore and bring to light the buried literature in this language that has been almost forgotten." Truly Sanskrit is the soul of our Vedic knowledge.

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