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A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF HOLISTIC EDUCATION OFFERED BY SRI SATHYA SAI LOKA SEVA GURUKULAM

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Abstract

The objective of this survey is to understand the implementation of the ancient gurukula system of education in the modern times at Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva Gurukulam and to establish that this model is nation building holistic education.

Index Terms – Holistic Education, Educational Management Model, Gurukulam Education System, UNESCO.

Introduction:

The objective of this survey is to understand the implementation of the ancient gurukula system of education in the modern times at Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva Gurukulam and to establish that this model is nation building holistic education. The principles of Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva Gurukulam as derived from shloka of Ramayana

sarve veda vidah sūrāḥ sarve lokahite ratāḥ ||
sarve jñānopasampannāḥ sarve samuditā guṇaiḥ |

As said by Nelson Mandela- “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” The education system which we are following is heavily influenced by the West, and its importance to theoretical and worldly knowledge, focusing on the path ‘Education – Employment – Material – Enjoyment.’ But it will not lead man to peace, harmony and self-satisfaction. Contrastingly, the ancient education system, as reflected in the Vedic approach, aimed at both Enlightenment and Emancipation – ‘sā vidyā yaa vimuktaye.’ This system focused not only on individual growth but also on contributing to the betterment of the world. Students under this system excelled not just in subject knowledge but also made significant strides in scientific inventions and discoveries. They were equipped with valuable skills such as development skills, management concepts, and problem-solving techniques. Crucially, the Vedic system placed a strong emphasis on imparting value-based education, shaping the character of individuals and instilling in them a sense of responsibility towards society.

Holistic education is the wholesome approach of imparting knowledge where the focus is mainly on the overall development of the child rather than imparting just academic and bookish knowledge to the student. Holistic Education deals with the individual development than the intellectual development. It tries to create a good human being in the society and not just an intellectual individual.

Holistic Education tries to nurture every aspect of the child's growth – intellectual, emotional, social, physical, artistic and spiritual. This is the essence of holistic education, a philosophy rooted in the Gurukula system, where equal importance is given to both Para and Apara aspects of learning.

This proposal advocates for a return to holistic education, drawing inspiration from the Gurukula system. By embracing a philosophy that goes beyond academics and values every aspect of an individual's development, we can better prepare the younger generation to lead the world in the future. A holistic education approach becomes not only beneficial but essential for navigating the complexities of our dynamic world and contributing meaningfully to the betterment of humanity in whole.

Role of Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva Gurukulam:

The education offered by SSSLSG gives the child freedom to choose his / her field of interest and opportunities to learn it along with his regular academic pursuit. It takes equal importance in imparting the child both Para and Apara aspects of education. Which of course is holistic education as it not only emphasises on the academic aspect of the education but also emphasises on the intellectual, emotional, social, physical, artistic and spiritual.

The daily schedule is divided on the basis Satvic, Rajasic and Tamasic Kalas and the knowledge is imparted accordingly. This helps the child to excel in holistic education as it is in tune with the nature.

This educational institution emphasises on imparting high quality academic education, rightly balanced with moral and spiritual values like, service to mankind, compassion for fellow beings, understanding of the spiritual culture of India and its practice in daily life.

As a result of this holistic education, every child who studies in these portals will become

"Sarve Jnanopasampannaha – The one who has acquired all kinds of knowledge.

Sarve Samudita Gunaihi – The one who is the repository of all good qualities.

Sarve Vedavidaha Dheeraaha – The courageous one who has knowledge of all Vedas. Discrimination between right and wrong.

Sarve Lokahithe Rathaaha – The one who is constantly engaged in service of the universe.

Materials and Methods:

The research problem is to establish that the gurukula model followed in Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva Gurukulam is indeed the holistic education in both ancient and modern perspectives of education. This in turn helps in nation building for a harmonious and a happy society.

The objectives of the study are

- To establish the correlation between ancient and modern definitions of holistic education.
- To find the significance of equal importance given to both Para and Apara education in this gurukulam.
- To elucidate the routine followed by gurukulam in line with the Sathvic, Rajaseic and Tamasic Kalas and the significance.
- To correlate the daily routine to the para and apara aspects of education.
- To prove that the system followed in this gurukulam is indeed for nation building.

Both qualitative and quantitative methods are used in suitable proportion to understand the data in this Case study research. Both preliminary and secondary data helps in validating the data in view of the basic principles of the institution. Data will be analysed with statistical packages and logical arguments as applicable.

Results, Discussion and Conclusions:

This study involves collection of data from the current students, teachers, parents, stakeholders and also the alumni of the institution which results in a better understanding of the system and ease of implementation. Data is collected through feedback forms, In this survey questioners, interviews, one on one or group interactions helps to generate rich qualitative data through discussions.

For a detailed analysis and understanding the correlation between the different aspects a descriptive table is shown below depicting the flow of methodology. This institution has formulated the routine on the basis of three kalas – Satwik, Rajasik and Tamasik. A day is divided into 3 equal parts i.e three 8hrs. The first part is 4am to 8am and 5pm to 9pm is the Satwik time where all the pleasant things like prayer, meditation, scriptural study etc are learnt; next part is from 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm is the Rajasik time where all academic things and rigorous things are learnt; final part is 9pm to 4am and 12pm to 1pm is the Tamasik time where children are left for resting. These activities and kalas are in line with the bio clock and nature, so it helps the child to learn different aspects more effectively. The flow of reasoning will start from the schedules during different periods of the day, how they are attributed to different kalas, how these routines contribute to the Para and Aparas aspects of education, How the four ideals of gurukulam (based on what Saint Vasishtha said to be the qualities of a graduating student) are composed of various facets of daily routine and finally how the four ideals of gurukulam on holistic education (ancient perspective) is mapped to four pillars of holistic education by UNESCO (modern perspective) and finally how the holistic education of gurukula indeed produces nation building citizen.

Table represents the daily schedule of SSSLSG and relation to UNESCO pillars of education.

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>kalas</u>	<u>Aspect</u>	<u>SSSLSG Principles /UNESCO Pillars of education</u>	<u>Values for Nation Building</u>
4.00am - Getting Up 4.20am - Prayer 4.50am - Physical activity 5.50am - Drink 6.00am - Bath 7.00am - Breakfast 7.30am - GK/news 8.00am - School prayers 5pm to 9.00pm – Prayers & scriptural studies	Satwik Kala	Para Vidya	sarve veda vidah Dheeraaha - Learning to be sarve lokahite ratah Learning to live together	Spiritual values Social values
8.00am to 4.15pm – Academics	Rajasik Kala	Apara Vidya	sarve jñānopasampannāḥ Learning to Know sarvaiḥ samudito guṇaiḥ Learning to do	Material values Intrinsic values
9.00pm to 4.00am and 12.00pm to 1.00pm - Rest	Tamasik Kala			

Conclusion: This study establishes that the routine followed in Sri Sathya Sai Gurukulam in tune with Satwic, Rajasic and Tamasic Kalas infact leads to holistic education in accordance with both ancient and modern definitions and holistic education is infact Para + Aparas vidhya in equal proportions and finally that this holistic education prepares Gurukulam students to be nation builders.

Reference:

- Moral Education – A Practical Approach – K Rama Rao; Sri Ramakrishna Aashram, Mysore, 2019.
- Value Orientation – A source book on value education; Ramakrishna Institute of Moral and Spiritual Education, 2005.