

Vedic EducationSystem

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Ancient Indian Education System

- Vedic Education System
- Brahmanic Education System
- Buddhist Education System

Vedic Education System

- There are different views on the identification of the Vedic Education System and its Period. Most of the scholars of Indian history believe that the composition of the Vedic period or Age is between 3500 B.C. to 1000 B.C.
- The word “Veda” means knowledge of various kinds. The Vedas holds a vital place in Indian society. Rig Veda, Sam Veda, Yajur Veda, and Atharva Veda are the four Vedas.
- Vedic education is mainly the education of Vedas.

Aims of Education during Vedic Period in India

- The aim of Vedic education was to realize the supreme and achieve Supreme Consciousness (Brahman). Ultimate objective to attain Moksh.
- Inculcation of a spirit of piety and righteousness was the aim of education.
- The chief aim was to unfold the spiritual and moral powers of the individual during Vedic period.

- Education for worldliness Happiness in the other world was given more stress than the happiness in the present world. This world according to them was unreal
- The objectives of education were perfection of the physical, mental and intellectual personality of the student.
- Inculcation of social and civic duties
- To develop vocational efficiency , healthy & positive attitude.

Curriculum

The curriculum during Vedic period, was dominated by the study of the Vedas and Vedic literature, spiritual and moral lessons. The subjects of instruction varied according to the vocational needs of the different castes from the Vedas and Vedangas in case of Brahmins, to the art of warfare in the case of Kshatriyas, and to agriculture and trade, arts and crafts in the case of Vaishyas.

Anthropology

Astronomy

Economics

Epistemology

Eschatology

Ethnology

Geology

Mathematics

Military Science

Philosophy

grammar, language

literature

Logic

Ayurveda

At the upper stage, the subjects taught fell into two categories:

- **Para-Vidya or Spiritual Learning:**
- The essential study of the four Vedas viz. Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samveda, and Atharvaveda. Also the study of Vedangas, Upanishad, Puran, Pitrya (the rules for the sacrifices for the ancestors) Vakovakya (logic), Ekayana (ethics), the Devavidya (etymology), the Brahmaidya (pronunciation) Siksha (the ceremonial), etc.
- **Apara-Vidya or Worldly Learning:**
- This included subjects like History, Ayurveda, Economics, Astrology, Physics, Surgery, Kalpa Vidya. Also, it includes the Rashi (the science of number), Bhut Vidya (the science of Demons).

METHODS OF TEACHING

- Recitation by the teachers and repetition by pupil, followed by explanation by the teacher, questioning by the pupil, and discussion between the teacher and the pupil.
- Two methods: Oral and Chintan.
- Sravana (listening to words texts as they were uttered by the teacher)
- Manana (the process of deliberation or reflection of the topic taught)
- Nididhyasana (or realization through meditation, represents the highest stage)

Student-Teacher Relationship

- **In Bhartiya Darshan ‘Guru’ has significant place.** The status of teacher was very high. They commanded full respect and honoured even by kings.
- The teacher,- taught relationship was cordial and conducive. Every student was required, while residing in the Gurukul, to serve his teacher compulsorily. Any violation of the Guru’s instructions was regarded as a sin and subject to stern punishment.
- **Guru was the spiritual father of his pupils. Gurus were taking care of their pupil in same manner as a father takes care of his son.**

- With '**Upanayan**' ceremony the disciple (shishya) gained the generous shelter and patronage of his gurus. The term 'shishya' indicates the following qualities.
- He is to be administered guru
- He is able to obey his guru
- He may be punished by his guru
- He is be wished by his guru
- He is to be Preached by his guru
- He is to be treated equality
- He is devoted committed to acquired wisdom

Duration of Education

- Those obtaining education up to the age of 24 years— Vasu
- Those obtaining education up to the age of 36 years – Rudra
- Those obtaining education up to the age of 48 years- Auditya

Forms of Education:

- **Gurukulas** were the dwelling houses of gurus situated in natural surroundings. The beginning of education was marked by the ‘Upanayana’.
- The age limit was varying from caste to caste.
- It was eight year, eleventh year and twelfth year, respectively for Brahmins, Kshatriyas and Vaishyas.
- The studentship lasted usually for twelve years.

Parishads: were bigger educational institutions where several teachers used to teach different subjects.

Sammelan: literally means getting together for a particular purpose. In these educational institutions scholars gathered at one place for discussions and competitions generally on the invitation of the king.

Women Education Vedic Era

- Women were highly regarded and had positions of power in society in the early Vedic Period.
- Women's education opportunities were equal to men.
- Women were allowed to take part in both home and religious rites.
- women were required to attend school since only educated women were capable of performing Vedic ceremonies correctly.
- Women were permitted to participate in the Upanayana (educational entrance rite) process.

- **Ghoshha, Lopamudra, Sulabha Maitreyi, and Gargi Kakshivati,** Dakshina Prajapathya, Vishvavar, Atreyi,, Godha,, Apala, Yami Vivasvathi, Lopamudra, Romasha Svanya,, Aditi Dakshayeni,, Ratri Bharadwaja, Vasukra Pathni, Surya Savitri, Indrani, Sarma Devasuni, Urvashi, Shashwati, Angirasi, Sri Laksha.

Later Vedic Period:

- The position of women in the later Rig Vedic period changed.
- During this time, it became a harsh patriarchal culture in which women's rights were seized.

Thank you