

Research Article

Educational Philosophy Of Srimad Bhagavad Gita

Losonita Hazarika,M.A

Email ID- losonitahazarika@gmail.com

ABSTRACT:

Bhagavad Gita literally means 'The Lord Song'.Mahatma Gandhi said on Gita "The Gita is a universal mother,she turns away nobody,her door is wide open to any one who knocks."Through Arjuna,Lord Krishna revealed the ultimate truth to human beings and peached the Gita.The Gita is not only a religious book but also a philosophical book.In the time of crisis,when the mind of man is tormited by doubts and is tornd by the conflict of duties,it has turned all the more to the Gita for light and guidance.According to the philosophy of Gita Education is the process of performing own duties for the attainment of peace,joy , satisfaction and salvation being rid of the three wraths(i.e. lust ,anger,fear) with steady mind and wisdom.

Key Words: Education, Philosophy, Bhagavad Gita

INTRODUCTION:

Lord Krishna wisely and cleverly transformed the fratricidal war between the 'Kauravas' and the 'Pandavas' into the great war, overthrowing the demonic powers of India at that time.

Bhagavad Gita literally means 'The Lords song'.According to Mahatma Gandhi 'The Gita is a universal mother, she turns away nobody, her door is wide open to any one who knocks.'"The Gita is not just about persuading Arjuna to fight for the sake of 'Khetriya Dharma'.Throught Arjuna ,Lord Krishna revealed the ultimate truth to human beings and peached the Gita.The Gita is not only a religious book but also a philosophical book that can guide mankind in every aspect of life.The Gita has 18 chapters,700 verses.The 18 chapters can be broadly devided into 3 parts,the first 6 chapters as 'karma yoga' middle 6 chapter as 'Bhakti Yoga' and last 6 chapters as 'Gyan Yoga'.The philosophy of Gita has a great education significance.According to S.P. Radhakrishnan - The chief problem facing as today is the reconciliation of mankind.The Gita especially suited for the purpose,as it attempts to reconcile varied and apparently antithetical forms of the religious consciousness and emphasizes the root conceptions of religion which are neither ancient nor modern but eternal and belong to the very flesh of humanity past present and future.

PHILOSOPHY OF SRIMAD BHAGAVAD GITA -- A BRIEF DESCRIPTION

" nasato vidyate bhavo nabhavo
vidyate satah"

Soul can not be killed by sword.It cannot be diminished or destroyed by fire ,air or rain.Neither soul is born nor it dies,it is immortal and eternal.

Man's realisation of God comes only through knowledge, action and devotion.obstacles to the realisation of God is our earthly affairs like name fame,relatives,loved ones, material properties etc.In order to get rid of these bonds

through the pursuit of knowledge, the senses first suffer and then human mind suffers. In fact, if there is no suffering, then the feeling of devotion does not arise. Devotion begins with the sadness that comes to Arjuna's mind.

The word 'samkhya' means knowledge. Pride and Ego originates from the instance of knowledge and Ego is the source of delusion. The Gita advises to give up addiction instead of giving up abandonment. In 'samkhya yoga' Lord Krishna advised Arjuna to give up the petty weakness of mind and to awaken the zeal to subdue the enemy.

Lord Krishna at first brings sadness to Arjuna's mind and removes the lust for pleasure. There is a tradition of imparting or receiving spiritual knowledge only between the teacher and student. Therefore in order to gain divine knowledge from Krishna, Arjuna renounces the worldly companionship and becomes a disciple of Lord Krishna. Lord Krishna first described to Arjuna the nature of soul and supreme soul, the relationship between organism and matter, nature of karma etc.

A person who gives up his desire for sense gratification and is satisfied only with the realisation of the soul. A person who is able to subdue greed, lust, desire, anger etc. is called a wise man. Samkhya yoga can be called as the crux of Bhagavad Gita because here the three yoga teachings of 'Jnana', 'karma' and 'Bhakti' are clearly discussed. According to Gita 'Karma is Dharma'. One should do one's duty according to one's nature. No one can remain inactive for a single moment. It is not necessary to restrain one's senses of action just by giving up one's deeds and becoming a monk. Selfless deeds for the service of God help in self-realisation. Only a wise person who is engaged in karma can attain self-realisation.

Salvation is also important- salvation seems to be the purpose of teaching Bhagavad Gita. Every human in this world is in a need of salvation from the type of experiences they are gaining. Students in school need salvation from fear, terror and punishment of teachers and pressure from parents.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF SRIMAD BHAGAVAD GITA

The Gita tells us what kind of education we need and why? what is the meaning of education? What is the aim of education? what should be the relationship between a teacher and a student? what is the method of teaching? The answers to these questions can be found by studying the Gita.

Meaning of Education:

According to Gita Education is the process of performing one's duties for the attainment of peace, joy, satisfaction and salvation being rid of the three wraths (lust, anger, fear) with steady mind and wisdom. In order to formulate the principles of education the divine teacher Lord Krishna has not imparted his wisdom to student as mere dictation like others. Gita answers the 'why' of such education. The human child in this world is not an empty being, he has inherent certain tendencies, instincts, mental dispositions etc. from his past life, parents give to child only his body but his physical apparatus and soul are his own. This explains the individual differences. The Bhagavad Gita reconciles the metaphysics and physics, 'nivritti and pravritti', physical entity and hereditary and environment of man and gives the principles of education clearly indicating that education is a spiritual social necessity.

Objectives of Education According to Gita

1. Self-realisation and Spiritual Development
2. Manifest the inner potential
3. Establishment of importance of duties in life
4. Modification of behaviour and development of personality

5.Development of intellectual and logical ability

6.Development of critical thinking.

Curriculum:

Curriculum should be for the all round development of the child.Two types of vidya should be imparted through curriculum--

1.Apara vidya(Physical knowledge)-Art , Science, Engineering etc.

2.Para vidya(Spiritual knowledge)-Knowledge of body,soul and Supreme Soul

Method of Teaching:

1.Conversation method : There was a entire conversation between Lord Krishna and Arjuna ,through conversation Krishna imparting knowledge to Arjuna.Hence conversation is a good method of teaching.

2.Question Answer method: In Gita Arjuna ask some questions to Krishna and clearing his doubt by the answer given by Lord Krishna.Students can clear their doubts by asking their queries.

3 Demonstration Method: To make Arjuna understand real nature of things like life ,death ,soul, supreme soul Lord Krishna give various examples and demonstrate the universal form 'Vishnuroop'.Therefore demonstration is a good method of teaching.Through demonstration abstract ideas can be easily delivered to the students.

4 .Self learning by rational analysis, learning by doing is a good method of teaching according to Gita.

Discipline:

Gita support internal discipline and self control.Ideal personality of teacher and deep scholarly efforts can save the untracked indiscipline among students.Faith on the instruction of Gita can remove the problem of indiscipline.

Role of Teacher:

The teacher should be a guide and facilitator .The teacher must teach his subject with great competence but when the issue of judgement is involved he should let the students free as Arjuna was finally left to decide himself whether to fight or not .The teacher must be a ideal person for the student.The teacher should understand the students and students problem before teach them.

Role of Student:

The most important characteristic of an ideal student is to surrender before the teacher accepting his ignorance of the subject he wants to know.Student should be devoted to his teacher as Arjuna devoted himself to Lord Krishna and should renounce the ego ,pride ,lust anger etc.Student should be obedient to his teacher.

Conclusion:

In the time of crisis when our heart and mind is in conflict of duties.Bhagavad Gita show us the path of light and provide guidance.Dr.S.P Radhakrishnan said , "For the proper adjustment of man to the new world an education of human spirit is needed.To make society we have to remake ourselves. The basic for evolving an educational system in which science and religion can harmoniously be blended is provided by the Bhagavad Gita."

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