

# OUR VEDIC SYSTEM AND EDUCATION

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Education is the means through which the aims and habits of a group of people lives on from one generation to the next. In its narrow, technical sense, education is the formal process by which society deliberately transmits its accumulated knowledge, skills, customs and values from one generation to another, e.g., instruction in schools. Systems of schooling involve institutionalized teaching and learning in relation to a curriculum, which itself is established according to a predetermined purpose of the schools in the system. Systems of schooling involve institutionalized teaching and learning in relation to a curriculum, which itself is established according to a predetermined purpose of the schools in the system. Education means to develop the knowledge, skill, or character of students. But this definition offers little unless we further define words such as *develop*, *knowledge*, and *character*.

According to our Vedic wisdom we have to live our life according to varnasrama dharma. In Bhagavad-Gita Lord Krishna explain to the Arjuna that I created this varnasrama dharma so that by following it one can easily surpass this vicious cycle of repeated birth and death and go back home back to Godhead. According to varnasrama dharma one has

to do his specific duty according to his Varna i.e. Brahman, ksatriya, vaisya and sudra. In Bhagavad-Gita chapter 3 text 5 Lord Krishna said

**Na hi kascit ksanam api jatu tisthaty akarma-krt**

**Karyate hy avasah karma srvah prakrti-jair gunaih**

Translation:- Everyone is forced to act helplessly according to the qualities he has acquired from the modes of material nature therefore no one can refrain from doing something, not even for a moment.

It is nature of the soul to be always active, so one has to engage his/her senses in some kind of activities regularly and the best activity is engaging oneself in the devotional service of the Lord.

Brahmans are the knower of the Vedas and they are supposed to teach other about the knowledge of the absolute truth. Ksatriya's are the ruler and protector of the people in general. Vaisya's are the business communities and sudra's are the working class of the society who do all kind of hard work. And according to the vedic wisdom there are four asramas such as brahmacharya, grahastha, vanprastha and sanyasa asram. In brahmacharya asram one has to undergo training under his spiritual master while following the vows of celibacy. In Bhagavad-Gita chapter 4 text 34 lord Krishna said

**Tad viddhi pranipatena pariprasnena sevaya**

**Upadeksyanti te jnanam jnaninas tattva-darsinah**

Translation:- One should approach a spiritual master, inquire from him submissively by rendering service unto him. The self-realized souls can impart knowledge unto you because they have seen the truth.

Further Lord Krishna states that in grahastha asram one has to fulfill the householder duties by taking care of his wife, children and old parent, giving charity according to one's capacity and doing devotional service to the lord

Then come vanaprasthasram one has to abstain himself from family life and constantly engage in devotional service of the Lord.

And last stage of human life is sannayas asram where one has to cut all the knot of this material world and just remember his relation with the Supreme Lord and by doing so one can leave his material body and go back home back to Godhead. Srila Vyasdeva compiles the four Vedas, puranas such as Mahabharat and there are srutis and smiritis which one needs so learn but unfortunately today education system does not talk about Vedas or varnasram which explain us the real meaning of life. Today's education system is in the hands of people who are just wanted to earn money out of it. It is like a money minting factory for them, people in general are become greedy, lusty and selfish and devoid of all Vedic knowledge which is very much necessary in this kali-yuga.

- **There is no disease equal to greed.**
- **There is no enemy greater than anger.**
- **There is no sorrow that is greater than poverty.**
- **There is no happiness equal to wisdom.**

**But in today's modern life style everything is lost like**

- **Belief in God has declined.**
- ***Dharma* has disappeared.**

- **Atheism is on the increase.**
- **There is no respect for the *guru*-preceptor.**
- **Devotion to God, respect for our ancient culture, and tradition has been given farewell.**
- **There is no patronage for true education.**
- **Only bread-earning education has become the order of the day.**
- **These, alas! Are the signs of modernity!**

So we need to think about it and all of us should try to create such education system which is based on Vedic system of education, we need to create Gurukul system of education and should respect our culture and tradition which is rich in values and knowledge. We should teach our students the real meaning of life i.e. to know the Supreme Brahman and the knowledge of body, mind and soul, our real identity as a soul and not body as spoken by Lord Krishna in Bhagavad-Gita in chapter 2 text 23

**Nainam chindanti sastrani nainam dahati pavakah  
na caiman kledayanty apo na sosayati marutah**

Translation:- The soul can never be cut to pieces by any weapons, nor burned by fire, nor moistened by water, nor withered by the wind.

Body is made out of five elements like earth, water, fire, air, and ether, but soul is indispensable which never deteriorates like body in Bhagavad-Gita chapter 2 text 13. Lord Krishna explains

**Dehino smin yatha dehe kaumaram yauvanam jara  
Tatha dehantara-praptir dhiras tatra na muhyati**

As the embodied soul continuously passes, in this body, from boyhood to youth to old age, the soul similarly passes into another body by death. A sober person is not bewildered by such a change.

The most important knowledge is to understand varnasram dharma and one has to fulfill his/her duty according to his varna and asram and while doing so one has to remember constantly the Supreme Personality of Godhead- Sri Krishna

## References

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