

Dev Sanskriti Educational Initiative:**A Unique Confluence of Science and Spiritual Education****Dr. Shreepal Chauhan***Assistant Professor (Guest Faculty), Government College, Tendukhera, Damoh (MP), India***Abstract**

The present paper is based on an evaluative research study conducted on Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya established in 2002 by Akhil Vishwa Gayatri Pariwar and located at spiritual centre, Haridwar. This University combines the precepts of practical knowledge (shiksha) and spiritual education (vidya) to create truly enlightened students. These students would be well rounded and holistically developed human beings to achieve the highest levels in all fields, and channelize all their efforts towards the goal of a divine value based society with a simple and spiritual lifestyle. The extension of such an education in tribal dominated state like Chhattisgarh will help in the empowerment of the tribal communities who have very rich cultural heritage but lagging behind in life chances and quality of life. Such educational initiatives will not only help in sustainable development of the tribal population of the state but also enable them in combating insurgency and conflict situations through non-violent means, is the argument of the present paper. There are a big numbers of students from these tribal areas and getting world class education boosted by great Indian culture. This effort would definitely empower the life of these tribal people.

Key Words: Sanskriti, Education, & Scientific Spirituality**Introduction**

Dev Sanskriti stands for the values, conventions and practices, inherited from the sublime practices, of the rishis, saints and scholars of the celestial land of India. Education has been much professionalized and commercialized and educational institutions have been deviated from its fundamental basic aim of building a multidimensional personality of a student. As Majumdar and Madan have defined Sanskriti "The Sanskrit term for culture is Sanskriti. Both Sanskrit and Sanskriti are derived from *sanskar*, meaning ritual performances. Right from the day he is born, a Hindu goes through various ritual performances as a result of which he is

accepted into various roles, like that of an adult or a husband, in the course of his life. Sanskriti stands for the state of collective life which can be attained only after going through the various *sanskaras*. It is a process of refinement. It is interesting to note that Sanskrit was the urban tongue of ancient India. The ritual speech was Prakrit which is derived from prakriti, meaning nature. Man is born as a social being; he attains sociality by going through the *sanskakas*" (D. N. Majumdar and T. N. Madan, 2004:12-13).

Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya established in 2002 by Akhil Vishwa Gayatri Pariwar and located at spiritual centre, Haridwar, combines the precepts of practical knowledge (shiksha) and spiritual education

(vidya) to create truly enlightened students. These students would be well rounded and holistically developed human beings to achieve the highest levels in all fields, and channelize all their efforts towards the goal of a divine value based society with a simple and spiritual lifestyle. They would also derive benefits from both state-of-the-art facilities and tested traditional methods. The objective is not to produce mere bread winners but also molding themselves into responsible citizens for a developed and prosperous society. Both the teachers & students try to solve global problems through innovative methods keeping alive the Vedic tradition, Yoga, Yagna, Collective prayer and meditation are part of their academic routine. Along with competence development, student is also molded to be an excellent human being.

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Education

Education, understood as reading and writing and attending an institution is,

comparatively speaking, a modern notion. In no pre-literate tribe in India is education understood in this narrowed-down meaning. And what is true of Indian tribes is also true of most other pre-literate societies of the world. Accordingly, a broader view has to be taken of as to what constitutes education. Along with Lowie, Counts and Mead, we also may say that education is, in truth, the social mechanism of initiating the growing generation into their cultural heritage and the use thereof according to traditional methods. Thus, education may be called the preparation for the discharge of adulthood roles. It may be looked at as a process of recruitment which makes it possible for one to impersonate the various roles normally outlined by one's culture. Taken as such, education cannot be confined to reading to writing within the four walls of a school. Sociologically Education is one of the most important instruments of social change and development in human society as it brings consciousness and awareness among the people in society, makes changes in norms, customs and traditional ways of life in social environment. Socio-economic and cultural changes occurring in the society, may be directly and/or indirectly be attributed to the impact of rising level of literacy.

Society transmits cultural traits and socializes its members for different social roles by the education. The new members of the society are trained for participating in different types of social and economic activities. Emile Durkheim defined education as "the action exercised by the older generations upon those who are not ready for social life. Its objective is to awaking and develop in the child those

physical, intellectual and moral status which are demanded for him by both the political society as a whole and the special milieu for which he is specially destined” (Emile Durkheim, 1956:71). This action takes place in all societies but its form in a society differs in respects of its own diversity and complexity. The stage of development in a given society is responsible for the form of education.

Science

Science means knowledge and elucidation of truth. The discovery of the powers of Nature, their organization and the skills that make them useful to man is called science. Science can thus be called the unison of matter and consciousness. Science has made possible the progress of the human civilization. It should be noted that the knowledge of the use of matter is not enough; its righteous use should also be considered. The same criterion also applies to consciousness. In the absence of their righteous use, matter and consciousness are open to be abused. We all know that scientific and technological development may produce wealth, comforts and prosperity but not the elixir of peace, harmony and love. Science also remains narrow and incomplete without incorporating spirituality. Science without spirituality has no bonds of values and so there is an obvious danger of its becoming aristocratic and apathetic.

Spirituality

People use the word "spirituality" without understanding its true import. Only those who have developed a calm and clear-sighted intellect and are leading a life of

self-discipline understand its true meaning. The Sanskrit word for "spirituality" is "adhyatmam", which means, "Centered and established in the atma ". The essence of spirituality is atmagyana- to realize that our true self is the spark of the Cosmic Self-Spirit. To remain unshakably poised in this awareness means spiritual living. It is the ultimate aim of human life. Scriptures and philosophical treatises explain this truth by giving the example of an empty pot and the ether. An empty pot has nothing in it. The ether is also limitless empty space. Therefore the empty space within the pot can be considered as limited ether. If the pot is broken, the space contained in it merges back into the limitless space. Reality becomes apparent when the pot is broken. Similarly all apparently separate entities are mere bubbles over the limitless ocean of Being. We do not experience this truth because of our false sense of ego. In the example discussed, the pot represents our ego and the ether the universal Being. What is spiritual life?" gives wonderfully inspiring description in poetic prose of what spirituality is all about? Most of our conflicts and difficulties come from trying to deal with the spiritual and practical aspects of our life separately instead of realizing them as part of one whole. If our practical life is centered on our own interests, cluttered up by possessions, distracted by ambitions, passions, wants and worries, beset by a sense of our own rights and importance or anxieties for our own future, or longings for our own success, we need not expect that our spiritual life will be a contrast to all this.

Religion and Science – the twins

In the recent past religion and science have been taken to be opponents. Logic, proclamation and fundamental principles of one have been thought to be different from those of the other. They have been called to be mutually unrelated, and are classified as – science is practical and religion is abstract. So their directions were taken to be opposite to each other and it was agreed that a religious person does not need to learn science, and a scientist need not know what religion is.

But in reality religion and science are like twin brothers. They are like two major water streams emanating from the same mountain. Since they operate in different domains their external forms are different but still they aim to fulfill the same great purpose of search of ultimate truth. Their utility is like that of the two arms joined to the shoulders. They are not opposite to each other but instead, they complement each other.

Reconciliation of Science and Religion

Science tries to explore and understand the power that lies hidden in the core of matter. In religion terms it is the Supreme Soul that is the universal, immanent power, and matter is nothing but condensed particles of the gross (physical) manifestation of the eternal force of consciousness as energy. In reality, everything is energy and there is nothing else. Religion perceives it in the form of inner consciousness.

If the goal of both science and religion is ascending, expanding knowledge, attaining excellence and searching for truth, then both would never oppose each other. Presently,

science only presents information about material or perceivable components of Nature, but does not spell out its ultimate aim. So in the eyes of religion it is harmful for humanity. Similarly, the present forms of religious practices give acceptance to superstition, which science can never agree to. Each one should accept its flaws and attempt to improve without any prejudice.

Scientific Spirituality in DSVV and future plan

A department for the study of scientific spirituality was set up some time back. At present, scientific spirituality is a compulsory course for each and every program of the studies at DSVV. This activity is in its developmental phase. Course curriculum for PG Diploma is “The basis of scientific spirituality” in the I Semester and “Experiments of scientific spirituality” in II Semester. At Graduate level, i.e. for B.A. / B.Sc. students the course curriculum is:

Semester I- Basic structure of scientific spirituality

Semester II- History of scientific spirituality

Semester III- Scientific spirituality in different religions of the worlds

Semester IV- Scientific aspects of spiritual sadhanas

Semester V- Models of scientific spirituality

Semester V I- Basic structure of scientific spirituality in the management of life

For Post Graduate classes program, i.e. M.A. / M.Sc., the curriculum is more elaborate,

Semester I- Philosophy behind scientific spirituality

Semester II- Similar Elements in science and spirituality

Semester III- Research Methodology in scientific spirituality

Semester IV-This is a special paper on practical experiments of scientific spirituality on Yogic Science, Holistic Health, Practical Yoga, Indian Culture etc.

Future Plan:

Today, Spirituality has opened new dimensions in the area of Scientific Investigation. Science is now getting good help of spirituality in many areas like in Medical Science, Psychology and Cosmology etc. More and more people are returning back from modern science to ancient science (spirituality) to meet day to day life needs. Modern science is also providing more and more new evidences for applicability of Spirituality. As Research Work on Spirituality is the need of the age the Department of Scientific Spirituality has decided to establish a research cell. This cell will focus on the investigation on areas like

- Vedic Cosmology
- Spiritual Psychology
- Alternative Medicine, Surgery and General Health
- Spiritual Management
- Spiritual Politics
- Ancient Indian Engineering
- Ancient Indian Infrastructure and Architecture
- Spiritual Environment Healing
- Ancient Education System
- Ancient Social Sciences

- Ancient Law and authority

Why DSVV is Unique?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma Acharya has written at a place that the mission of his life has been to establish scientific spirituality. To make this end meet he has written volumes and also some small tracts. A number of his articles to establish the subject have been published in *Akhand Jyoti* as well. The studies and research in Brahmvarchas were initiated to combine the activity of Science and Spirituality. He had a dream of an ideal university which, of course, could be established only after a few years after his demise. In order to give an impetus to his mission it was considered appropriate to establish the department of Scientific Spirituality in Dev Sanskriti University.

DSVV is a unique university where chancellor takes Sessions on Geeta (*Shri Mad Bhagavat Geeta*) and Meditation (*Dhyan*) for not only Personality but Holistic development of the students. It is the only university where chancellor appreciates actions of the students and also take full interest in all type of Student related Activities. The University has revived the Vedic ceremony of Gyan Diksha (Invocation) for the new students for the first time in India. The art of Living is the core essence of all our endeavors and achievements. Secrets of self confidence, communication skills, and willpower are taught by the experts. A Scheme initiated by Honorable Chancellor gives a creative environment to the students through many Entrepreneurship workshops and programmes like, Handmade paper products,

Stitching, making Food items, Best out of Waste, using Solar Energy etc. A unique tradition where senior gives *Unnayan party* rather than taking a raging of new students. Unnayan is again a very Creative exposure for the new students and they get to know about DSVV with the help of Nukkad natak, cultural programmes, Songs etc. SSC stands for Spiritual Study Circle, a unique practical approach which is govern by the chancellor. Under the guidance of chancellor student make group (10-15 student) and do some Personal, Academic and Social activity. They don't waste time in gossips etc. Seminar on contemporary issues, global issues and spiritual issues are organized in abundance. The students undergo internship program for three month after the completion of their Course and contribute their time and energy in social issues. Four separate laboratories with modern instruments for *Psychotherapy, Yogatherapy, Yajanthrapy* and *Ayurveda*. Organization of Yoga shivirs by School of Yoga and Health twice a year for patients suffering from Obesity, Hypertension, Diabetes, Heart ailments and respiratory problems etc. Use of integrated and alternative medicine system and application of Naturopathy, Panchakarma, Physiotherapy, Pranic healing and Acupressure are used to cure the diseases.

Social Implications: The social implications of this venture are as follows:

1. To eradicate superstition prevailing the society due to unscientific and irrational beliefs.
2. To spiritualize humanity.
3. To establish moral/ethical value in human society.
4. To check the unscrupulous exploitation of nature.
5. To analyze and understand that the immoral thoughts, words and actions are largely responsible for natural calamities.
6. To explain that mental pollution is at the helm of all kinds of pollution explicit in nature.
7. To realize that human beings/living beings are intrinsically one.
8. To establish communal harmony and peace in human society.
9. The noble feelings of patriotism and nationality seem to be taking as awkward shape of hatred among Nations resulting in mad arms race endangering the existence of human race itself. Scientific spirituality can play a vital role to bring about a chance in the situation by awakening the conscience of those who are at the helm of affairs.
10. To set up the foundation for the formation of 'World Govt.', which will finally root out the possibility of any war among Nations.
11. In the united world all our resources shall be deployed for the welfare of whole humanity which unfortunately is not happening in the present situation.
12. The noble aim Ham Badlunge-Yug Badlega of Akhil Vishwa Gayatri Pariwar founded by Acharya Sri Ram Sharma can be fully realized through scientific spirituality.

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