Life skills in education - perspective through Bhagavad Gita concepts

Abstract:

Our academia is familiar with the educational theories and life skills thoughts developed in the West. However, we have inadequate information about our own historical and cultural thoughts in relation to life skills and education, despite their importance and comprehensiveness. In the Bhagavad Gita, I noticed some of the life skills in educational philosophy are present. This paper deals with the interpretation Bhagavad Gita based on life skills and education. It provide some basis for philosophies from West and East. From methodological perspective, this paper is interpretation of historical scripture that has established interesting links to cultural practice and personal experiences. Bhagavad Gita is greatest contribution of India to the world. In the present research paper, researcher has attempted to find the effect and implication of Gita in present scenario.

Introduction

Bhagavad Gita, philosophical discourse of Lord Krishna to persuade the reluctant Arjuna to fight. In the battle field Arjuna was stuck when he saw his relatives as opponents. To motivate him Lord Krishna preached Bhagavad Gita as a counselling to do his duty while multitude of men stood by waiting Krishna gave education to perform his duty as a prince, as a warrior, as a righteousman to fight against evil and restore peace and order. The central teaching of the Gita can be beautifully summarised in this sentence of Annie Besant: ‘It is meant to lift the aspirant of lower levels of renunciation. Where objects are renounced to the mother heights where desires are dead and where the to go dwells in the calm and ceaseless contemplation, while his body and mind are actively employed in discharging the duties that fall to his lot in life.’ Gita is the holy grail of life skills and education because it is the essence of all doctrines and philosophies. It is providing the purest knowledge of self realization.

Bhagavad Gita and life skills in education:

Gita says the real meaning of education is receiving to virtual knowledge but question arise ‘what is virtual knowledge?’ whenever we see or we feel the universe in diversity and God exists everywhere. True knowledge is that which teach us to see God in each soul. The Lord says that supreme of all purest knowledge and it’s essence that knowledge was derived from the detailed study of Vedas and different kinds of Upanisads. Gita specially stresses on the importance of soul and it is a confidential part of knowledge: simply knowing that the pure soul is different from body which is going to be finished. The soul remains same and becomes immortal. It us always active. In order to formulate the principles of education the divine teacher has not imparted his wisdom to his student as mere dictation. Gita answers the ‘why’of such education. The human child in the world is not an empty being. He inherits certain tendencies, instincts, propensities of character, mental dispositions and so on from his past life. Gita reconciles metaphysics and physics, nivritti and pravrtti, psychical entity; and hereditary and environment of men and gives the principles of education clearly indicating that education is spiritual-social necessity. It is a value and its edifice cannot be built on sand. Teacher is militant enough to keep the soul and body of his student as well as his own together. The student according to Gita is not a disciple but a learner.

Here comes the concept of life skills to decide importance of learning. Firstly, in order to progress in life we need to strikes the chord of realistic and grounded approach. To attain success, we need to be master of certain specific traits – the fighter, the problem solved, the knowledge seeker and
mostly important the risk taker. Gita says one need to be good communicator, every one have heard of mischievous of Krishna yet smart doing. He knew what it to convince people and sell your ideas. Gita has reflected much about mediation and it’s importance. Mediation is considered as inner peace. Students mind that always revolve around making scoring good marks all the time cannot really concentrate in mediation. When a students mind is not at all stable and thinks of success. Then it’s failed attempt of mediation. The student, according to Gita, must shun three great vices – kama, Krodh and Lobha in his personality.

Objectives of Life skills in education according to Bhagavad Gita:

1. Development of virtual knowledge.
2. Development and modification of personality.
3. Adjustment in individual and social aims.
4. Development of internal consciousness.
5. Development of intellectual and reasoning ability.
6. Establishment of importance of duties in life.

Curriculum on the basis of Bhagavad Gita:

Two types of knowledge:

1. Physical – Art, Science, Engendering etc.
2. Spiritual – knowledge of body and soul.

The Bhagavad Gita teachings are stands not only for renunciation of action but also for the renunciation in action. It is emphatically stated that samnyasa does not mean the renunciation of action, but of interest, desire and attachment.

Methods of teaching life skills:

1. Conversional method
2. Question-answer method.
3. Demonstration method.
4. Contemporary method- rational analysis with proper analysis.
5. Learning by doing.

Meaning of life skills education in Bhagavad Gita:

Education is the process of cultivating completeness in human being. Life skills implies knowledge skill, ability and wisdom for karmic and sharing life. Perhaps, our wisdom tradition supports me. In view of Radhakrishnan and Moore(as cited in Bhawuk 2012, P.164) the Bhagavad Gita is a synthesis of all Vedic ideas and wisdom and it was developed through the instructional process. It may be looked upon as a discourse by a Guru to a Chela who has fully determined upon the renunciation of worldly desires and aspirations but yet feels certain despondency, caused by the apparent blackness of his existence (Rao & Bannerji, 1912, p. 2). Marsella(as cited in Bhawuk, 2011,p.24)sees the His as psychology of the eastern civilization. While Bhagavad Gita is known as an instruction module, the philosophy of life and psychology.

In my understanding, the steady wisdom itself is taken as motivation for right action and it can also be conceived as the concept of education I. Materialistic pleasure is temporary, can be lost any time but steady wisdom never drags us towards loss. This state may be a stable emotional condition. Stability in thinking and action, freedom and a self directed state. Stability is a component of wholeness. Gita states that one who perform an action with controlled mind and wisdom is wise. On
the basis of this Leaman (2000) argues that Gita's message to the mind occupied with the pursuit of intellectual, ethical and social standards, the mind that insists on salvation by the observance of established Dharmas, the moral law, social duty and function of the solutions if the liberated intelligence, to live a Dharmik (morality, accountability, righteousness and commitment in one’s duty) life can be associated with education according to Gita and such an education makes human Dharmik thereby developing skills to raise vice against injustice of any sort, involve in welfare of living beings, be impartial to truth and discern between human and inhuman.

Students in schools are in need of salvation from fear, punishment from teachers and pressure from parents. Gita describes the possibility of a state in which we can actually rise above cognition, emotion and behaviour and present karma yoga as a process to achieve this state. In Bhagavad Gita education and life skills is considered on basis of worldly spiritual progress

Conclusion:

Success comes only when we put all the knowledge to use. The Gita introduces our inner personality, which reasons and discriminates the mind, is the centre of emotions and impulses. After reading the Bhagavad Gita, one can the understanding that it is our valuable historical asset of knowledge and it demands deep study and interpretation. The moral teaching ethical action skills that run through the whole of Gita is not only an emergence need to our country but of the world community. One can get fruit from the Bhagavad Gita according to the intention and level of thinking and understanding. Therefore, the Bhagavad Gita can be taken as educational philosophy for life skills because it has got all components of life philosophy.

References:

5. www.goodreads.com