



The Rituals (Sanskaras): Milestone of Indian Culture and Education

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Abstract:

The rituals (sanskaras) are milestone of Indian culture. Vedic and Sanskrit literature is explaining the sanskaras in scientific approach. Men who want to perfect human being, for him these rituals are very important. There are two purposes of sanskaras, The first is cultural and the second is spiritual. In the cultural purpose of sanskaras are the turning points of life and need to be celebrated. Celebrations are very important ingredient of sanskaras. The cultural purpose said that enjoy the every moment of life. Spiritual purpose is that the man is connecting with the whole world and feels it in his human body.

Keywords: *Rituals, Indian culture and Education*

1. Introduction

Religion has deeply influenced Hindu life and education in all most their phases and spheres. Rituals (sanskaras) are ceremonies marking important events, such as the birth of a child; in the life of a Hindu. The Sanskrit word samskara translates to mean “Perfecting” and is believed to raise one to a higher spiritual plane. Traditionally there are sixteen sanskaras in Hindu.

The word “sanskara” is one of those word for which there is no single exact corresponding word in the translated as, “more, religious rite, ceremony socially observances, formalities and punctilious behaviour” But none of these words convey the actual meaning of the Sanskrit term sanskaras.

2. Key terms

2.1 Rituals

Rituals mean Hindus sixteen sanskaras that base of Indian culture and education.

2.2 Indian culture and Education

Indian culture and Education are highly connected with each other and in this study Education means non formal Education and The education system is highly affected by the rituals.

It is very difficult to define ‘sanskar’ in a few words. ‘sanskar’ has its origin the Sanskrit language. There is no word in other languages comparable to ‘sanskar’.

‘Sanskar’ is a process which transforms a person in to an ideal and outstanding personality by eradicating controlling the negative mental tendencies existing in him and by inculcating human values and qualities to make him more dynamic, discreet duty conscious and responsible towards himself as well as family and the society. There are two purposes of sanskaras the first is

(1) Cultural

The Variety of rites and Rituals to the Sanskar as help in the formation and development of Personality. The Hindu sages realized the need of consciously guiding and molding the character of individuals instead of letting them grow in a haphazard manner.

(2) Spiritual

According to the seers, sanskaras impart a higher sanctity to life. Impurities associated with the material body are eradicated by performing samskaras. The sanskaras are a form of spiritual endeavor an external discipline for internal spiritual edification. Thus, the entire life of a Hindu is one grand sacrament.

The samskaras are a series of sacraments, sacrifices and Rituals that serve as rites of the human life and so signify entry to a particular Ashram. All human beings especially the Dvija or twice born are required to perform a number of a sacrifices with oblations for Gods, ancestors and Guardians in accordance with the Vedic dictums for a Dharmic or righteous life. Each important milestone of a Human life is to be celebrated by undertaking a particular samskaras where in the significance of that milestone is ritualistically conveys. There are sixteen sanskaras in the vaidik sanskrit shastra. Those are...

1. Garbhadhan
2. Pumsavan
3. Simatonayana
4. Jata karma
5. Nam karana
6. Nishkarma
7. Annaprashan
8. Chaul karma
9. Karnavedh
10. Vidhyarambh
11. Upanayana
12. Vedarambha
13. Keshant
14. Samavartan
15. Vivah
16. Antyesthi

These sanskaras bind an individual to the community that nature the feeling of brotherhood. A person whose actions are connected to the others around him would definitely think twice before committing a lake of sanskaras give rise to indulging in individual physical pleasures and fanning one's animal instincts. The inner demon is aroused that leads to the degeneration of one self and the society as a whole. When a person is not aware of his morning in society he runs his own selfish race against the world and the greed to pitch himself over others leads to destruction of not only his self but the entire human community. So the sanskaras act as a moral code of the conduct for the society.

At last, the aim of education was merger of the own self with the Absolute Being. For this reason every individual must know his own self as well as the universal self. Rituals (samskaras) connected with education are many and several aspects of educational theory.

References

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