



Cover Page



EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF BHUDDHISM IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT

Bharati Samal

Assistant Professor Teacher Education (Political Science),RNIASE , Cuttack

Abstract

The goal of Buddhist education is to attain wisdom. Buddhist philosophy is regarded as the path to perfect ultimate wisdom. The Buddha taught that the main objective of our practice or cultivation is to achieve this ultimate wisdom. He further emphasized that everyone has the potential to realize this state, as it is an intrinsic part of our nature, not something obtained externally. However, most of us remain confused due to misconceptions and are therefore unable to realize this potential. If we break through this confusion, we can realize our true intrinsic nature. Thus, Buddhism is an educational system aimed at understanding and realizing our own inner nature. It also teaches absolute equality, which stems from the Buddha's recognition that all sentient beings possess this innate wisdom and nature. Therefore, there is no inherent difference among beings. Differences exist only because we have lost our true nature and become confused. The degree of delusion has nothing to do with the true nature of the individual. The Buddha's teachings guide us toward realizing this innate, perfect, and ultimate wisdom. With such wisdom, we can solve our problems and transform suffering into happiness.

Keywords: Buddhist Education, Enlightenment, Equality, Self-Realization, Buddha's Teachings, Spiritual Development, Transformation of Suffering

Introduction

Buddhism is one of the earliest philosophy, and its teachings are applied even today. There are many followers of Buddhism all around the world. The role of teaching in Buddhist education is very important. Because the education implications have a strong role to play in the lives of the Buddhist people, it is imperative that you should understand the features of Buddhist education and the role of teachers in Buddhist education. Buddhists have many methods to impart their education. Buddhism is based on the teachings of Gautama Buddha. He was born as a royal in the Kapilvastu family in the 6th Century. Buddhist education system (200B.C to 200 A.D) was founded by Lord Gautam Buddha. Gautam Buddha was primarily an ethical teacher and reformer and a philosopher. He was concerned mainly with the problems of life. He avoided the discussion of metaphysical question because they are ethically useless and intellectually uncertain. He always discussed the most important

questions of suffering, its cessation and the path leading to its cessation. Buddha's philosophy is described as 'Tripitakas'. Vinayapitaka – Rules of conduct, Suttapitaka – Buddha's Sermon, and Abhidhammapitaka – Exposition of philosophical theories. Buddhist Education offered to impart education to all. Many people shifted to Buddhist system of education. It was for the first time in India that education was institutionalised on a large scale during Buddhist movement. It is also a historical fact that with the arrival of Buddhist era great international centres of education like Nalanda, Takshashila, Vikramshila, Ballabhi, Odantapuri, Nadia, Amravati, Nagahalla and Saranath were in prominence. Educational centres in Buddha period developed in Viharas and Sanghas.

Significance of the Study

This study is important because it shows how Buddhist educational principles like mindfulness, compassion, and moral values can improve modern education. It helps in developing students' overall personality by focusing on intellectual, emotional, and ethical growth. It also promotes a peaceful, stress-free learning environment and contributes to building a more responsible and value-based society



Cover Page



STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Educational Implications of Bhuddism in the present context

Objectives

The objectives of the study were as follows:

1. To highlight the importance given to education by Mahatma Bhuddha
2. To study the general philosophy of Mahatma Bhuddha
3. To study the educational philosophy of MahatamaBhuddha
4. To study the educational and social scene.
5. To find out the changes occur in educational and social scenario of India with the
1. efforts of Mahatma Bhuddha
6. To study the impact of educational ideas of Mahatma Bhuddha
7. To study the impact of educational ideas of Mahatma Bhuddha on different aspects of
modern education

Methodology

This study is philosophical and historical in nature. So the descriptive method was used. The investigator used the primary as well as secondary sources concerning the educational ideas of Mahatama Buddha. This study was completely based upon library work.

Features of Buddhist Education

Buddhist education is primarily based on the teachings of Gautama Buddha, aiming at the attainment of Nirvana—the ultimate state free from suffering, desire, and the cycle of birth and death. Education was universal, open to all irrespective of caste, gender, or social status, promoting equality and self-development.

Teachers, mainly monks (Bhikshus), played a central role and maintained a respectful and affectionate relationship with students. They were expected to possess purity of character and guide learners towards moral and spiritual growth. Education was imparted in monasteries (Viharas and Mathas), which attracted students from countries like China, Japan, Tibet, and Sri Lanka, contributing to international cultural exchange.

The system combined religious, philosophical, and practical knowledge such as spinning, weaving, medicine, and arts. Instruction was usually delivered in Pali, the common language of the people. Discipline, moral conduct, and simplicity were key features of student life. Along with spiritual teachings, secular subjects were also included, making the system balanced and practical.

Educational Implications of Buddhism

Buddhist philosophy has deeply influenced education by emphasizing moral conduct, self-discipline, and wisdom. The teachings guide individuals towards a righteous life through self-awareness and ethical behavior.



Cover Page



2 2 7 7 - 7 8 8 1



Four Noble Truths

The Four Noble Truths explain that life involves suffering, caused by ignorance and desire. However, suffering can be overcome by following the right path. This understanding helps in shaping responsible individuals and a value-based education system.

Eightfold Path

The Eightfold Path provides practical guidance for right living, including right view, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, and concentration. It promotes self-control, ethical behavior, and mental discipline, which are essential educational values.

Theory of Karma

Buddhism teaches that actions determine outcomes. Individuals are responsible for their own happiness or suffering. This principle encourages responsibility, hard work, and self-reliance in learners.

Concept of Morality

Morality (Shila), meditation (Samadhi), and wisdom (Prajna) form the foundation of Buddhist education. Moral conduct is considered essential for personal and social development.

Concept of Wisdom Wisdom is the ultimate goal of education. It develops through learning, reflection, and experience, leading to true understanding and enlightenment.

Ideological Contributions to Education

Buddhist education promoted equality, freedom of thought, and democratic values. Corporal punishment was discouraged, and emphasis was placed on holistic development—physical, mental, and spiritual. The system also encouraged practical skills, social service, and community welfare.

Ancient institutions like Nalanda University influenced modern education systems through structured curricula, admission processes, and organized teaching methods. Collective learning, debates, discussions, and meditation were important teaching techniques.

Modern Relevance

Buddhist education continues to be relevant today by promoting peace, ethical living, environmental awareness, and balanced economic thinking. It emphasizes compassion, cooperation, and sustainability, which are essential for modern society.

Conclusion

Buddhist education is a holistic system focused on moral values, wisdom, and self-realization. Its emphasis on equality, discipline, and practical knowledge makes it highly relevant even today. By integrating these principles, modern education can contribute to the development of responsible and enlightened individuals.

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Cover Page



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