

Buddhistic Education – Aims, Curriculum & Method of Education

Semester: V

Introduction

- Buddhistic education emerged after the advent of Lord Buddha (~6th century BCE).
- It emphasized **spiritual development, moral discipline, and wisdom.**
- Originated in monasteries (Viharas), with Nalanda and Takshashila as major centers.

Aims of Buddhistic Education

- **Moksha (Nirvana):** Liberation from suffering
- **Moral and Ethical Living:** Right speech, action, livelihood (Eightfold Path)
- **Intellectual Development:** Logical reasoning and inquiry
- **Character Building:** Discipline and mindfulness
- **Social Welfare:** Emphasis on compassion and service

Core Philosophical Principles

- Four Noble Truths
- Eightfold Path
- Law of Karma and Rebirth
- Ahimsa (Non-violence)

Curriculum of Buddhistic Education

- **Religious Studies:**
 - Teachings of Buddha (Tripitaka)
 - Meditation and ethical code
- **Secular Subjects:**
 - Logic, Philosophy
 - Language (Pali & Sanskrit), Grammar
 - Medicine, Astronomy, Mathematics

Structure of Curriculum

- Divided into:
 - **Vinaya Pitaka** – Discipline
 - **Sutta Pitaka** – Buddha's sermons
 - **Abhidhamma Pitaka** – Philosophy and metaphysics

Method of Education

- **Monastic System** – Education provided in monasteries
- **Dialogue & Discussion** – Socratic method; question-and-answer
- **Listening** – Oral tradition
- **Meditation** – Focused practice for concentration and mental discipline
- **Example of Teacher (Guru)** – Emphasis on teacher as moral role model

Role of Teacher (Monk/Bhikshu)

- Highly respected and disciplined
- Guided students both intellectually and morally
- Provided free education to all, regardless of caste

Characteristics of Buddhistic Education

- Open to all (no caste or gender discrimination)
- Free and residential
- Emphasized personal experience over rote memorization
- Strong ethical and spiritual foundation

Centers of Learning

- Nalanda University
- Vikramshila
- Takshashila
- International students from Tibet, China, Sri Lanka, etc.

Contribution of Buddhistic Education

- Promoted **universal education**
- Laid foundation for **Indian and Asian philosophies**
- Spread to **China, Japan, Korea, Tibet, Sri Lanka**
- First organized system of higher education

Relevance Today

- Promotes values of **peace, non-violence, and mindfulness**
- Encourages **inclusive and holistic learning**
- Foundation for **value-based education**

THANK YOU