

CHALLENGES IN TEACHING SANSKRIT IN MODERN EDUCATION SYSTEMS IN THE CONTEXT OF SOCIAL ATTITUDES.

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Abstract

Modern education systems focus on fostering intellectual growth of students. This research article aims to shed light on the challenges in teaching Sanskrit in modern education systems with regard to social attitudes. The New Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) places emphasis on integration of traditional knowledge systems, including Sanskrit into modern curriculum. Sanskrit plays a crucial role in preserving the heritage of India while also fostering skills that are valuable in various academic pursuits. Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) emphasizes experiential and contextual learning, where knowledge is firmly grounded in real-world situations and practical experiences (Sehgal, 2023). The NEP 2020 introduced several reforms aimed at transforming India's education system. It seeks to revive and promote Sanskrit considering its importance in understanding India's cultural roots. However, it also acknowledges the difficulty of language and limited practical application in routine life. The article also presents probable solutions to overcome the challenges in teaching Sanskrit.

Keywords: Sanskrit, Teaching, Education, NEP 2020, Social attitudes

INTRODUCTION

Sanskrit is regarded as the ancient and holy language of India. As the repository of India's classical heritage, Sanskrit plays a central role in preserving ancient knowledge across disciplines such as philosophy, literature, arts and science. Classical texts such as the Vedas, Upanishads, and epics like the Mahabharata and Ramayana are written in Sanskrit. It has also been the medium for the classical works on grammar, poetry, and drama. Modern education systems focus on fostering intellectual growth. The NEP 2020 advocates for the integration of Sanskrit with subjects like medicine, mathematics and astronomy, demonstrating its historical contribution to these fields. It encourages the teaching of Sanskrit as an elective language in schools and suggests its integration in higher education.

Challenges in teaching Sanskrit in the context of social attitudes

Complexity of language: Sanskrit is often perceived as a difficult language. Sanskrit's script, syntax, and lack of spoken usage can make learning difficult (Jha, 2009). Its complex grammar and archaic vocabulary present distinct challenges for students. The language's structure with its verb conjugations can be difficult for many students as well. Teaching these structures in an engaging way may also be a challenge for educators.

Lack of relevance: Sanskrit is viewed as something only relevant to religious studies, thus declining its presence in mainstream education. The primary issue is the perception that Sanskrit is irrelevant in today's fast-paced world, where languages such as English dominate global communication. Sanskrit is not used as a medium of communication and therefore students tend to opt for languages that give immediate career benefits.

OBJECTIVES

To identify the major challenges in teaching Sanskrit in modern education systems with regard to social attitudes.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a qualitative analysis approach and utilized secondary data. Research articles, books, and reports analyzed to construct an overview.

DISCUSSION

One of the major Challenges is the perceived difficulty of Sanskrit. The complex grammar rules often discourage students from pursuing Sanskrit studies. To overcome this perception, updated curriculum designs and creative teaching methodologies may be applied to teach Sanskrit in a more engaging way. Another marked challenge is the lack of relevance of Sanskrit. It is less attractive to students seeking practical language skills for career growth or employment. To counter this perception, it is important to highlight the practical applications of Sanskrit, such as its usefulness in fields like Ayurveda, Astronomy and linguistics. By emphasizing the contemporary relevance of Sanskrit, we may resume interest in the language.

CONCLUSION

In the context of social attitudes, Teaching of Sanskrit language faces considerable challenges such as complexity of language and lack of relevance in the modern education systems. By providing innovative teaching strategies and updated curricular frameworks, it is possible to make Sanskrit an influential part of modern education.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author has no conflict of interest.

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