



## THE GURUKULA EDUCATION SYSTEM: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE OF “ALIPURDUAR DISTRICT” (WEST BENGAL)

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### ABSTRACT:

India has had a wonderful history of teaching through various mediums like the Gurukula, Guru-Shishya parampara etc. Ancient Gurukula System was an effective medium to teach and learn. In modern India people realising its importance also. To create ethics and honesty Gurukula plays a vital role. So here I am introducing some of importances about Gurukula.

**KEYWORDS:** Gurukula, Guru, Kula, Achariya, vaykarana.

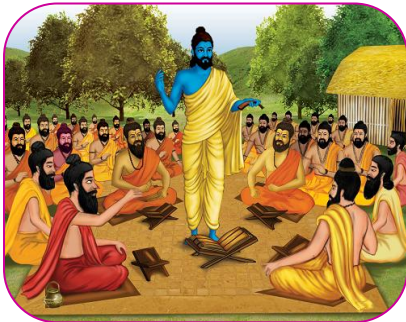
### INTRODUCTION

India was famous for its character building education. In ancient India education was “GURUKUL” centric. “Guru” means ‘Teacher’, and “Kul” means ‘Kula’ (extended family). The word “Guru” refers to whom, who removes the darkness of ignorance and gives light of knowledge (**Wikipedia**). ‘Guru’ in India—

Gururbrahma gururbishnu:  
gururdevo maheswara: |  
Guru: sakkhat parabrahma  
tasmai Sri guruve nama: ||  
( Suktimukatabali)

### EXPLANATION OF GURUKULA SYSTEM

In a ‘Gurukula’ , ‘Shishyas’ reside together as equals, irrespective of their social standings , learn from ‘guru’ and help ‘guru’ in his day to day life , including the carrying out of mundane chores such as washing clothes, cooking etc. **There was strict discipline and Gurukula system prevailed for education. Students had great respect for their teachers and the teachers were also devoted to the cause of knowledge without any economic motive (Relevance of Manusmrti in Modern Age, page no. 18).** Gurukula system was prevalent across the whole country .One perfect character was being made by education and guidance of a ‘guru’. In India Guru or Achariya worshiped as God—“**Achariya devo bhava**” (**Swami, Sharvanabda. Taittiriya Upanishad, page no-42**). They made such a personality, those personalities become inspiration to the next generation. In ancient India, during the Vedic period from about 1500BC to 600BC, most education was based on the Veda and later Hindu texts and scriptures.



A student after completing his education was called “SNATAK” after the formal felicitation ceremony. Student returns to his place to marry and follow his vocation. The prescribed age of education was till the age of 25, until which a student was expected to live a life of ascetic. As a famous verse mention the 5 ‘lakkhana’ (qualities) of an ideal student—

**Kaka chesta baka dhaynong swana nidra tathayba cha |  
Alphari grihatayagii cha vidyarthii pancha lakkhanam ||  
( Skandapurana)**

### CAUSES BEHIND THE EXTRAPOLATES OF GURUKULA SYSTEM

Now-a-days Gurukula is very rare to be seen. Because British officer Macaulay had taken a strong step to root out 'Gurukula education' in the year 1835 to rule over India forever. He thought Gurukula is the base of Indian intellect and character. He told that British cannot rule over India till the time Indian culture is present. For this reason he targets the root of Gurukula. The golden period of India was that time, when Gurukula system reaches at its highest level. But after that British government brought English education and modified ancient education and they banished Nationalism and cultural education from school and colleges. This is bitter truth that today's education is only fit to fill stomach only. Due to fall of character – murder, rape, theft are happens. Only one solution seems better and that is re-implementation of Gurukula education.

### GURUKULA OF ALIPURDUAR DISTRICT

Now the Gurukula system becomes again popular and it seems to be needful for present day society. As a result the Gurukula system is growing its wings again indifferent places of India. The society and the students are curious to know about the Sanskrit language, and Gurukula is the best alternative for this. The Gurukula system mainly based on Sanskrit education, but to compete with modern times beside Sanskrit – English, Computer and other vernacular languages are included as compulsory subjects. Yoga and spirituality are cultivated equally in Gurukula. We need some government policies to develop the Sanskrit education system in India.

Now I am introducing about a Gurukula which is situated in Alipurduar district as well as in Dooars. "Vedic Sanatan Gurukulam"-is serving their Sanskrit education from Khokla village of Joigaon. The Gurukula is running in a heritage temple called "Sureswar temple". According to oral tradition the temple was inaugurated by Vedantachariya guru Shankarachariya. Since 2017, with two teachers and four students the Gurukula started its journey. The founder members are Achariya Dhruba Gurugai and Achariya Shibras Shastrii. Their great motive was that to spread the Sanskrit literature in the land of Dooars, where living different language speaking people, various tribes and religious people. The aim of Sanskrit education is to develop ethics in human behaviour. We know Sanskrit is the mother language of all vernacular languages. However they have taken a great step to succeed their vision anyhow.

In the time of field survey the speaker, Pradhan Achariya (H.M.) Shri Dhruba Gurugai is given some suitable information about Gurukula. Now this Gurukula has 5 teachers and 21 students. They are cultivating Sanskrit language and Indian traditions. In this Gurukula the faculty members are-Pradhan Achariya Dhruba Gurugai, Acharia Shibras Sharma, Achariya Prabar Sandip Khatira, Pandit Sunil Achariya and Shri Ram Shastrii. Vedic text, ancient literatures are main subjects, but others modern subjects are studied here simultaneously. According to Indian tradition who has the knowledge of "BRAHMA" called 'Brahmana' but besides Brahmana sect here the pupils belonging from other community, like-local tribes, Nepali, Bihari and Bengali get chance to take education from this Gurukula.

The students of this Gurukula can educate here from 7<sup>th</sup> standard to 8<sup>th</sup> standard (up to Shastrii). After Shastrii they can admitted in the course of Pre Matric (Purva Madhyama). Chhanda, Alamkara, Vayakarana, Gita, Upanisada, Ramayana, Mahabharata etc. are initial subjects. There are extra curriculum activities included in their syllabus like-quiz competition, practice of general knowledge, music and computer which are also practiced by students and teachers.

The students of this Gurukula get up from bed at 5am and they take their bath and after that they chanting the suriya pranam mantra. At 6 o'clock they start their regular practice of chanting Gayatri mantra and offering puja to deities. They made a suitable distribution of classes from morning to night. The time of ved patha is from 6 o'clock to 8 o'clock. Later they take their breakfast; from 10 o'clock to 12 o'clock is the

time of study for literature. The lunch time is 1 o'clock at noon, from 2 o'clock to 5 o'clock is the time of study of vakayarana (grammar), they take their tiffin after 5 o'clock at evening and the dinner time is 10 o'clock at night. They go for the sleep after 10:30pm at night. Here in the boarding study – teachers and students living altogether, as it is called Gurukula.

According to the Achariya of Gurukula they have plan to starts "Kanyashree Gurukulam" only for the girls. This Gurukula is not recognised by the government yet, so fund collection is tough act. They submitted their prayer letter to government for recognition. Their monthly expenses are 40-50 thousands including feeding, books and others study materials, uniform etc. This amount of monthly expenses totally comes from donation of local education lovers. The salary of teachers is irregular but they are serving their excellent teaching methods without any self interest. In the area of Jaigaon Gurukula is become a popular institution. The people of Nepali community have a great participation to make continue this Gurukula. The knowledge of Sanskrit education, the knowledge of deities, Gita, ethics etc these subjects are studied in Gurukula. Here they are living happily. The students are also wanted to be teacher, doctor, scientist etc. They feel proud to be a part of it.

### CONCLUSION

"VEDIC SANATAN GURUKULAM" of Alipurduar also taking participation of Sanskrit education. I hope this Gurukula system would be a main stream education system in near future. Besides Bengali, History, Philosophy-Sanskrit is also an important subject which should continue in the institutions. Gurukula and the Sanskrit education are co-related. I hope India again can fill the importance of Gurukula and Sanskrit education system, which can be a part of bright education system of India.

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