



LILABATI MAHAVIDYALAYA

Estd.- 2013
Affiliated to the University of North Bengal
JATESWAR * ALIPURDUAR * PIN CODE- 735216 * WEST BENGAL.

Ref. No.....

Date.....

Special lecture on role of value education on 21st century in india

Date: 22.09.2023

Invited Speaker: - Mrs. Sutapa Das, Asst. Professor, Alipurduar Mahila Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Department of Education.

Introduction:

The 21st century has brought transformative changes to societies around the world, and India is no exception. As the country navigates rapid technological advancements, economic growth, and sociocultural shifts, the role of value education has become increasingly vital. In a diverse and complex society like India, value education addresses more than just academic knowledge; it focuses on the development of ethical, moral, and social competencies that are essential for personal and communal well-being.

Value education in India has historically been intertwined with cultural and religious teachings, but its contemporary role extends beyond these traditional boundaries. Today, it encompasses a broader range of ethical and social issues relevant to modern life. This evolution is driven by the need to prepare students not only to excel in their careers but also to become responsible and empathetic citizens in an increasingly interconnected world. As educational institutions and policymakers strive to incorporate value education into the curriculum, understanding its objectives and outcomes is crucial for assessing its impact on society.

Objectives:-

The primary objectives of value education in the 21st century in India can be categorized into several key areas, each aiming to address different aspects of students' personal and societal development:

1. Instil Ethical and Moral Values: One of the foremost objectives is to foster a strong sense of ethical and moral responsibility among students. This includes teaching principles such as honesty, integrity, respect for others, and accountability. By instilling these values, value education aims to guide students in making ethical decisions and leading lives that contribute positively to society.

2. Enhance Social Responsibility: Value education seeks to cultivate a sense of social responsibility and civic engagement. Students are encouraged to understand their role within the community and participate actively in social and environmental initiatives. This objective is particularly relevant in a country like India, where societal challenges such as poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation require collective efforts.

3. Develop Emotional and Social Intelligence: Emotional intelligence—understanding and managing one's emotions, as well as recognizing and influencing the emotions of others—is critical for personal and professional success. Value education helps students develop these skills, enhancing their ability to build healthy relationships, resolve conflicts amicably, and collaborate effectively with others.

4. Promote Cultural Awareness and Tolerance: India is characterized by a rich tapestry of cultures, religions, and languages. Value education plays a crucial role in fostering an appreciation for this diversity and promoting tolerance and mutual respect. By learning about different cultural perspectives and values, students are better equipped to live harmoniously in a multicultural society.

5. Support Holistic Development: Value education aims to integrate ethical learning with academic growth, ensuring that students achieve a well-rounded education. This holistic approach supports not only intellectual development but also personal and social growth, preparing students to handle the complexities of modern life with a balanced perspective.



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Students Participations:-

1 There are 85 Students participate in this special lecture which is organised by department of education and all Asst. Professors and Teachers of Lilabati Mahavidyalaya participate in this special lecture.

Speaker highlights of this special lecture: -

Professor Sutapa das present about the role of value education in 21st century in India very nicely. She highlights about Definition of values and concept value. She also given importance to different types of values education and its objectives and why value education is an essential in the present context in India. And She says educations without values is waste of money, Energy, and time.

Outcome: -

The integration of value education into the educational framework has led to several positive outcomes, reflecting its impact on students and society:

1. Strengthened Character Development: Students exposed to value education programs often exhibit improved character traits such as honesty, empathy, and resilience. These qualities are evident in their behaviour and interactions, contributing to a more ethical and responsible society.
2. Increased Civic Engagement: Value education encourages students to engage with their communities and participate in social causes. This increased civic involvement helps address societal issues and fosters a sense of responsibility toward societal development.
3. Improved Social Skills: The development of emotional and social intelligence through value education results in better interpersonal relationships and communication skills. Students become more adept at handling social interactions, resolving conflicts, and working collaboratively, which benefits both their personal and professional lives.
4. Enhanced Cultural Sensitivity: Exposure to diverse cultural values and perspectives helps students appreciate and respect cultural differences. This cultural sensitivity is essential for promoting social harmony and reducing prejudice in a multicultural society like India.
5. Balanced Academic and Personal Growth: By integrating value education with academic curricula, students achieve a balanced development that combines intellectual proficiency with ethical and moral grounding. This comprehensive approach supports overall student success and prepares them to navigate complex societal challenges.

Conclusion: -

In the 21st century, value education holds a pivotal role in shaping the future of India. As the country faces rapid changes and challenges, the importance of instilling ethical values, social responsibility, and emotional intelligence cannot be overstated. Value education provides students with the tools they need to become not only successful professionals but also compassionate and responsible individuals.

The objectives of value education—ranging from instilling ethical principles to fostering cultural tolerance—are essential for preparing students to contribute positively to society. The outcomes of value education demonstrate its effectiveness in strengthening character, enhancing civic engagement, and promoting holistic development.

As India continues to evolve, it is crucial for educational institutions, policymakers, and communities to support and enhance value education initiatives. By doing so, they ensure that students are equipped with the values and skills necessary to thrive in a complex and interconnected world. Value education, therefore, remains a cornerstone of a progressive educational framework, guiding students toward a future marked by integrity, empathy, and social harmony.



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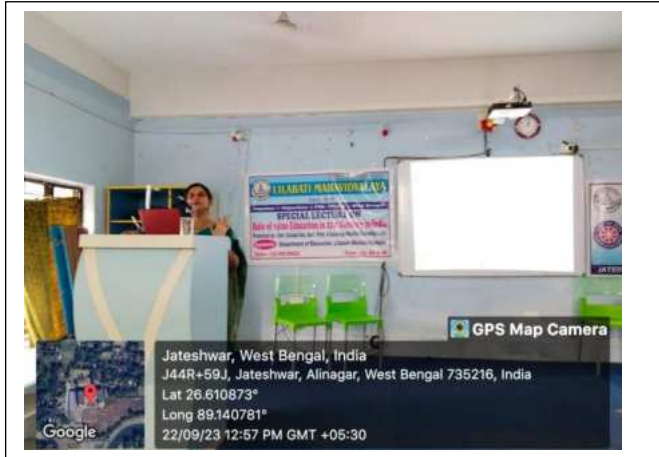
Photo Gallery



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Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti (Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

Sponsored Lecture Series on

JAGADGURU SHRI SHANKARACHARYA VYAKHYANMALA (Contribution of Jagadguru Shri Shankaracharya for Unity and Spirituality in India)

Date: 21.03.2024 (Thursday)

Organised By:

LILABATI MAHAVIDYALAYA

JATESWAR, DIST: ALIPURDUAR (W.B)

Resource Person

SI No	Name	Designation
1	Dr. Sudip Mandal	Assistant Professor Department of Sanskrit, University of North Bengal
2	Ms. Jayeeta Roy	Assistant Professor Department of Philosophy Alipurduar Mahila Mahavidhyalaya
3	Dr. Sankar Chatterjee	Associate Professor PG Department of Sanskrit, Acharya Brojendra Nath Seal College, Coochbehar
4	Ms. Sutapa Das	Assistant Professor Department of Education Alipurduar Mahila Mahavidhyalaya

Introduction:-

Jagadguru Shri Shankaracharya, commonly known as Adi Shankaracharya, stands as a towering figure in the history of Indian philosophy and spirituality. Born in the early 8th century CE, his profound influence has shaped the spiritual and philosophical landscape of India. His work not only revived the ancient Vedic traditions but also contributed significantly to the unity and spiritual rejuvenation of the Indian subcontinent. This essay explores his contributions towards achieving unity and spirituality in India, illustrating his vision, philosophical innovations, and the lasting impact of his teachings.

Objectives:-

1. To Examine Shankaracharya's Philosophical Contributions:

- Explore his role in the development and propagation of Advaita Vedanta.
- Analyze how his interpretations and teachings revitalized and unified diverse spiritual traditions.

2. To Understand the Historical and Social Context of His Work:

- Investigate the socio-political and religious environment of 8th-century India.
- Assess how Shankaracharya's actions responded to and influenced contemporary social challenges.



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3. To Evaluate the Impact of His Establishment of Monastic Institutions:

- Study the significance of the four mathas (monastic centres) established by him.
- Examine how these institutions contributed to the dissemination and preservation of his teachings.

4. To Assess the Legacy and Continued Influence of His Work:

- Review the enduring relevance of Shankaracharya's teachings in modern India.
- Explore how his philosophical and spiritual frameworks continue to inspire unity and spiritual inquiry.

Contribution to Philosophical Unity Development of Advaita Vedanta

Adi Shankaracharya's primary philosophical contribution lies in the formulation and popularization of Advaita Vedanta, a non-dualistic school of thought within Hindu philosophy. Advaita, meaning 'non-duality,' posits that the ultimate reality (Brahman) is a singular, undivided essence, and that the apparent multiplicity of the world is an illusion (Maya). By asserting that all individual souls (Atman) are essentially one with Brahman, Shankaracharya provided a unified framework for understanding the nature of existence and consciousness.

This philosophical standpoint served as a corrective to the prevailing dualistic and ritualistic practices of the time, which often led to sectarian divisions. By emphasizing the fundamental unity of all existence, Shankaracharya's teachings offered a common ground for diverse spiritual practices and beliefs, fostering a sense of shared purpose among various groups.

Revitalization of Vedic Traditions

During Shankaracharya's time, the Vedic tradition faced challenges from competing philosophies and local religious practices. His revival of Vedanta was not merely a philosophical endeavor but also an attempt to restore the coherence and relevance of Vedic teachings. By systematically addressing and refuting rival schools of thought, Shankaracharya reaffirmed the authority of the Vedas and streamlined their interpretation, thereby reinforcing their central role in Hindu spirituality.

His commentaries on the Upanishads, the Brahma Sutras, and the Bhagavad Gita were instrumental in clarifying and consolidating Vedic thought. Through these commentaries, Shankaracharya demonstrated the profound philosophical depth of the Vedas and made them accessible to a broader audience, further enhancing their role in spiritual unity.



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Impact on Social and Religious Unity

Response to Sectarianism:

In the 8th century, India was marked by a proliferation of sects and diverse religious practices. Many of these sects were characterized by regional, linguistic, and doctrinal differences, which sometimes led to conflict and division. Shankaracharya's emphasis on non-duality and universal Brahman transcended these sectarian divides, offering a philosophical basis for reconciling disparate religious perspectives.

His approach was not merely abstract but also practical. By engaging in dialogues with proponents of different schools of thought, he sought to harmonize and integrate various religious traditions. His intellectual rigor and debate skills helped in dispelling misunderstandings and fostering a more inclusive approach to spirituality.

Establishment of Monastic Centres: -

Shankaracharya's establishment of four major mathas (monastic centres)—at Sringeri, Dwaraka, Puri, and Jyotirmath—was a strategic move to institutionalize and propagate his teachings across the Indian subcontinent. These centres were not only hubs of philosophical learning but also played a crucial role in fostering spiritual unity.

Each matha was strategically located in different regions of India, allowing for a wide dissemination of Advaita Vedanta. The mathas served as centres for learning, debate, and spiritual practice, providing a structured framework for preserving and promoting Shankaracharya's teachings. By establishing a network of these institutions, Shankaracharya ensured that his philosophy could reach and influence various parts of India, thereby strengthening spiritual cohesion across the diverse cultural landscape.

Legacy and Continued Influence:

Modern Relevance: The influence of Adi Shankaracharya's teachings extends well beyond his time. In contemporary India, Advaita Vedanta continues to be a major philosophical and spiritual force. Modern spiritual leaders and philosophers often draw upon Shankaracharya's works to address contemporary issues, demonstrating the enduring relevance of his insights.

The monastic institutions he established continue to thrive and contribute to spiritual and philosophical discourse. They remain pivotal in nurturing new generations of seekers and scholars, ensuring that Shankaracharya's teachings continue to inspire and guide.

Integration of Philosophy and Practice:

Shankaracharya's approach to integrating philosophy with practical spiritual practice has left a lasting impact. His emphasis on meditation, self-inquiry, and ethical conduct as means to realize non-duality has influenced a broad spectrum of spiritual practices. By advocating for a life of disciplined study and introspection, Shankaracharya offered a holistic path that integrates intellectual understanding with experiential realization.

In this way, his teachings continue to provide a framework for individuals seeking to harmonize their inner spiritual experiences with external practices, fostering a deeper sense of unity and purpose.



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Number of participations: -

There are 170 students and professors participate in this special culture which is organised by Lilabati Mahavidyalaya.

Highlight of the Lectures by Recourse Person: -

All resource person highlighted that impedance of Jagadguru Shankaracharya for contribution of unity and integrity in India not only in religious point of view but also in education, social and spiritual point of view.

Outcome: -

The Special lecture on the contributions of Jagadguru Shri Shankaracharya provided valuable insights into his profound impact on unity and spirituality in India. Here is a summary of the key outcomes from the Special lecture:

1. Enhanced Understanding of Advaita Vedanta

Philosophical Clarity: Attendees gained a deeper understanding of Advaita Vedanta, the non-dualistic philosophy established by Shankaracharya. The Special lecture elucidated how his teachings on the oneness of Brahman and the illusion of Maya provide a unified framework for interpreting Vedic texts and reconciling various philosophical perspectives.

Historical Context: Participants were able to appreciate the historical context in which Shankaracharya developed and propagated Advaita Vedanta. The discussion highlighted how his work addressed the sectarian and ritualistic challenges of his time, promoting a more coherent and inclusive understanding of Vedic spirituality.

2. Recognition of Institutional Contributions

Importance of the Mathas: The Special lecture underscored the significance of the four major mathas established by Shankaracharya—Sringeri, Dwaraka, Puri, and Jyotirmath. The discussion revealed how these institutions played a crucial role in preserving and disseminating Advaita Vedanta across different regions of India.

Monastic Tradition: Participants learned about the impact of Shankaracharya's monastic system on the organization and propagation of spiritual practices. The mathas were recognized as centres for education, debate, and spiritual training, contributing to a structured approach to both intellectual and experiential aspects of spirituality.

3. Insights into Social and Religious Reconciliation

Harmonization of Diverse Beliefs: The Special lecture highlighted Shankaracharya's efforts to reconcile and harmonize various religious and philosophical traditions. Attendees appreciated how his philosophical stance on non-duality offered a common ground for integrating disparate beliefs and fostering a sense of unity.

Impact on Sectarian Relations: The discussion on Shankaracharya's engagement with different sects and schools of thought provided insights into his role in reducing sectarian conflicts and promoting a more inclusive spiritual environment.



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4. Acknowledgment of Modern Relevance

Contemporary Influence: The Special lecture demonstrated the continuing relevance of Shankaracharya's teachings in modern times. Participants explored how his philosophical insights are applied by contemporary spiritual leaders and thinkers to address modern existential and spiritual challenges.

Educational and Cultural Contributions: Attendees recognized the ongoing role of Shankaracharya's mathas in preserving and promoting Indian cultural and spiritual heritage. The institutions' contributions to education and cultural exchange were highlighted as a testament to their enduring impact.

5. Personal and Community Transformation

Pathway to Self-Realization: The Special lecture emphasized the transformative potential of Shankaracharya's teachings for individuals seeking self-realization and spiritual fulfilment. Attendees explored how his emphasis on meditation, self-inquiry, and ethical conduct provides a practical pathway for personal growth.

Community Impact: The discussion highlighted the broader impact of Shankaracharya's teachings on communities. The Special lecture showcased how the mathas and his teachings have fostered a sense of collective spiritual identity and contributed to the social and spiritual well-being of various communities.

6. Actionable Insights and Future Directions

Educational Initiatives: The Special lecture concluded with a call to action for further educational initiatives that explore Shankaracharya's philosophy and its application in contemporary contexts. There was a consensus on the need for more research, publications, and educational programs to deepen understanding and engagement with Advaita Vedanta.

Community Engagement: Participants discussed the potential for community programs that promote the values of unity and non-duality espoused by Shankaracharya. These programs could include workshops, lectures, and collaborative projects aimed at fostering spiritual and philosophical dialogue.

Interfaith Dialogue: The Special lecture encouraged the continuation of interfaith dialogues inspired by Shankaracharya's reconciliatory approach. By fostering conversations between different religious and philosophical traditions, such dialogues can contribute to greater mutual understanding and respect.

Conclusion: -

Jagadguru Shri Shankaracharya's contributions to unity and spirituality in India are profound and far-reaching. Through his development of Advaita Vedanta, he provided a philosophical foundation for understanding the unity of all existence, transcending sectarian divisions. His strategic establishment of monastic institutions ensured the preservation and dissemination of his teachings across diverse regions. Even in contemporary times, his influence endures, reflecting the lasting impact of his vision for spiritual and philosophical unity.

Shankaracharya's legacy is a testament to the power of philosophical insight in fostering unity and spiritual coherence. His teachings continue to inspire and guide individuals seeking a deeper understanding of the self and the ultimate reality. In a world marked by diversity and



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division, his message of non-duality and universal consciousness remains a beacon of unity and spiritual fulfilment.

Photo Gallery

