

# STATEMENT – I

## THE RELEVANCE OF PRESENT WORK AND CONTRUBUTION OF SANSKRIT LITERATURE

### Purpose of the study

India is a multifaceted country having diverse cultural background. National integration is of paramount importance where different ethnic groups are co-existing. No other solution than Character Building is an answer to such a complex problem. Sanskrit literature has a great potential to motivate and guide in Character Building. Over the period, these teachings have been forgotten, disappeared and have taken back seat. This is where, strong Character Building exercise would help the society in general and Nation at large. The ideas derived from Sanskrit literature, the example cited therein and teaching found within, would immensely benefit the entire community, on the aspects of Character Building.

### Aspects of character building

All aspects of Character Building are simple, well known and universal. Primary meaning of each of these Character Building attributes are surrounded by secondary aspects, without which significance of them is not complete. Patriotism for example conveys the love, affection and dedication for own country. However Honesty, compassionate attitude, Courage and Sacrificial action, are some of the associated features which will complete the Character Building of a Patriotic person. Sanskrit words have a beauty of conveying appropriate meaning because of its generic origin and traditional uses. Character Building in Sanskrit can be translated as *Cāritranirmāṇa*. However the most important virtues, like hereditary observance and chastity are not implied nor spelled out in any English dictionary meaning for the `Character Building`. Similarly Sanskrit words having wider connotation which requires explanation and elaboration. For example the word *śraddhā* can be translated as Unflinching faith, which not enough. Character Building is sum total of three aspects, inheritance nurtured by the subliminal impression and deliberate conscious effort. Deliberate conscious effort, with the help of Sanskrit literature is a thrust area of the study; however other two are also given fair amount of treatment. Characteristics such as Positive thinking, Self-confidence, Spirituality, Chastity and so on, which are given importance in traditional Sanskrit literature are quoted, explained and suggested for their incorporation in Character Building.

## **Character building in Sanskrit literature**

Concept of Character Building has been a hall mark of Sanskrit literature. Civilized society, Spirituality and Value system were normal environment during the *Vedic* period. Most of the customs and tradition followed during this period are still relevant and their adoption and practice is recommended. Similarly some of the system prevailing at that time, especially in the area of Education, with some modification is also suggested for their incorporation in present environment.

Principle of Character Building laid down is Universal, immortal and not bound by time. The search for the material for Character Building starts from *Vedas*, *Upaniṣads*, aphorisms, and various religious treatises, *Darśana*, *Nītiśāstra* and Sanskrit Literature. Classical epics like *Rāmāyaṇa* and *Mahābhārata* are rich source of material for Character Building. Even *Āyurveda*, epigrams and daily routine rituals and prayers are rich source of material for Character Building. A brief review of some of these is presented with short listing of *Śrīmadbhagavadgītā*, *Vivekacūḍāmaṇi* and *Nītiśatakam* as study material.

## **The legendary personalities**

Indian sub-continent and western world in recent times witnessed quite few legendary personalities and luminaries, whose life and work was totally influenced by Sanskrit literature and traditional teachings. Character Building exercise would not be incomplete without studying their thoughts and analyzing their teachings. Adi Śaṅkarācārya, Swami Vivekananda, Aurobindo Ghosh, Swami Chinmayananda, and disciple of Mahesh yogi Dr. Deepak Chopra are few, who are recognized not only in India but world over for their background and work, as connoisseur of *Vedāntic* thoughts. Brief review of their work on Character Building is attempted with the emphasis on Swami Vivekananda.

## **Incorporation of character building**

Aspects of Character Building derived from Sanskrit literature are required to be cultivated through training. India being multifaceted and multicultural country, some innovative application areas for implementation are suggested. A unique integrated approach and central rallying point of Indian thought is proposed, to be reestablished with sub centers spread over length and breadth of the country, based on Adi Śaṅkarācārya's role model of setting of four Monistic centers in four corners, as a regional hub. Character Building induction through Parental role and at various stages of Child development is discussed, whereas Societal and political involvement are touched upon. A working methodology for induction of Character

Building through Audio/Visual aids, story books, Routine tasks, solution for linguistic barrier and so on are demonstrated.

**Conclusion:**

The study is basically rediscovery of universal application of Sanskrit literature especially in the area of Character Building. It initiates working model for induction of Character Building aspects which is the need of the hour. The scope is restricted to few recognized Sanskrit texts and commentaries due to time constraint, never the less it opens up new area of research. Tremendous work in different regions has also been done by some legendary personalities based on Sanskrit literature and *Vedāntic* tradition, which are also subject of further studies. The study claims originality in concept, proposed action and its utility in present environment.

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