

SYNOPSIS OF THE THESIS

Chapter I: Introduction

The first chapter covers brief summary of thesis and background information, with scope and purpose. It presents the following important aspects.

- (a) Prevailing socio-political environment and potential of Sanskrit literature in Character Building.
- (b) Overview of Sanskrit literature especially keeping in view the subject of research.

Chapter II: Indian Philosophical thoughts and aspects of Character Building

Indian Philosophical thoughts on behavioral Science which is useful in understanding Character Building aspects from Sanskrit Literature. Three topics in brief, covered in this Chapter are *darśana*, Values/Ethics and aspects of Character Development. The basic understanding knowledge of *vedas* specially to embark on study of any philosophical treatise is covered in *ṣaḍ-darśanas*, *vedānta*, *sāṃkhya* and *yoga* among these are important as far as this study is concerned. The Sanskrit words and concepts which are coming subsequently can be better comprehended with this material.

Chapter III: - Study of Character Building and its various aspects in Sanskrit literature

The Sanskrit Literature is a source of ultimate philosophy for most of the universal phenomenon for better world environment. The expanse of the literature on Character Building is so vast and unfathomable that only few classics given below are mainly selected for this study.

- (a) *Śrīmadbhagavadgītā* – Drawing, analyzing, interpreting and presenting concepts of Character Building and attributes from all the eighteen Chapters of *Gītā*.
- (b) *Upaniṣads* – Drawing few sample episodes and text from selected *Upaniṣads* to demonstrate the Character-Building aspects.
- (c) *Vivekacūḍāmaṇi* – Mainly high lighting, one of the important attributes of ‘Spirituality’ so beautifully portrayed by Adi Śaṅkarācārya on Man making.
- (d) *Nītiśatakam* -Bhartṛhari’s *Nītiśatakam* is one of the master pieces on good and bad human behavioral aspect narrated in simple Sanskrit language.

This chapter is the backbone of the thesis and projects the thoughts of Indian seers on Character Building.

Chapter IV - Study of Character Building from the work of legendary personalities

The research will not be complete on Character Building, unless the work and life of some of the learned personalities is not analyzed. The life of these personalities has been influenced by Indian culture and Sanskrit Literature. Their profound contribution in the form of literature on the Sanskrit scriptures; Addresses, lectures and teaching and dedicated life towards the humanity is beyond any descriptive analysis. Their skill in the interpretation of Sanskrit scriptures and putting across same to the people in understandable language will be a great asset in understanding the Character Building aspects. The work of these personalities itself is so voluminous that only following few are looked into with emphasis on Swami Vivekananda.

- (a) **Adi Śaṅkarācārya** – He is recognized as world-teacher (Jagadguru) and benefactor of mankind (Loka-Sankara). He was philosopher for intellectuals and spiritual leader for the masses. He was strong believer and practicing saint for India's strength as nation of 'Unity and diversity.' (7 and 8th Century)
- (b) **Swami Vivekananda** – Eight volumes of "*Complete works Swami Vivekananda*" have been perused to strengthen, understand and substantiate the Character Building aspects. (18 to 19 century)
- (c) **Swami Chinmayananda** – His main mission was Man Making. He has written commentaries for all principle Upanisads and established Chinmaya mission in all major cities in India and abroad. His two volumes 'The Art of Man Making' based on talks on at AIR just after independence covering 18 Chapters of BG were very popular. (1916 to 1993)
- (d) **Sri Aurobindo Ghosh** – He was totally brought up in Western environment till Maharaja of Baroda picked him and employed him with State administration and later on as a lecturer and Vice Principal of Baroda College. He was a freedom fighter and dreamt of India leading on the front of spirituality. His published work on analysis of scriptural treatise gives new dimension and outlook. (1872 -1950)
- (e) **Dr. Deepak Chopra** – He is known as 'The poet-prophet of alternative medicine'. Has written more than 26 books, which are translated into thirty-five languages. Brought up in Indian traditional environment with education in English medium School and graduated in Allopathic medicine. An ardent follower and student of Ayurveda, having an innovative approach in practicing medical profession. (2020 to 2021- He is still active)

This chapter brings out the subtle interpretation as well as clear understanding of Sanskrit Literature on Character Building.

Chapter V – Application of principle of Character Building for man making

Character Building aspects which are required to be cultivated through education and socio-political system are brought out in this chapter. Classification of age group and corresponding Character Building aspects for man making are worked out. Some of the age old practices and rituals are advocated as daily routine. A trilingual formula for understanding and practicing Sanskrit verses with their significance for Character Building are demonstrated. An outline on setting up Centre for propagation of Sanskrit language with main idea of Character Building for Indian Sub-continent based on Adi Śankarācārya's vision is put forward.

Sanskrit Literature apart from basic subject of education like Scriptures, Grammar and Mathematics; also covers recreational and skill related subjects. These are ranging from Music, Dance, and Drama to skills such as Drawing, painting, sculpturing etc. Each individual has in-born gift of liking / understanding of these skills embedded in their nervous system. These skills are either useful in development of profession acumen or healthy personal traits. Identification and encouragement of these skills and traits is an essential requirement for Character Building. Though it is a matter of separate study and research a brief overview is presented for overall development of personality.

Chapter VI - Conclusion

The last chapter contains the essence of the study of Character Building based on Sanskrit Literature. It also focuses on area of further studies and avenues for generating Character Building tools for children. The subjects which are beyond the scope of this study, like reengineering of student syllabus and parental guide lines, socio-political system and efforts of some of the religious institutions and NGO's are only indicated. Quite a few models and modified version to the Indian philosophical thoughts, without deviating from original is worked out and presented. The study projects overall application oriented development of a child, based on Sanskrit Literature, along with role of all concerned.
