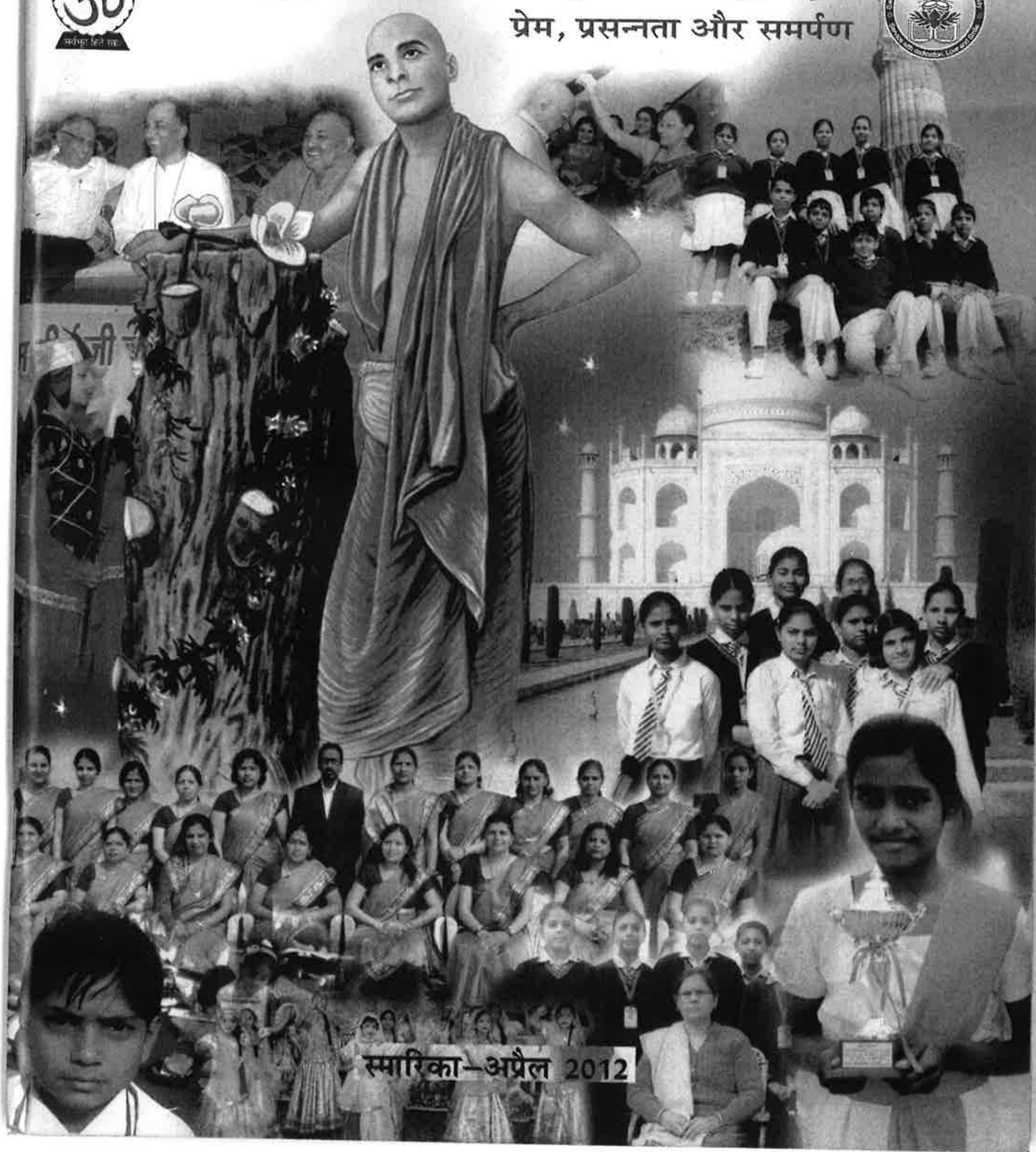


साधना



प्रेम, प्रसन्नता और समर्पण



स्मारिका-अप्रैल 2012

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Teacher's Role with Changing Scenario

"The Teacher is the Brahma (creator), the Vishnu (protector), the Maheshwara (destroyer). He is the entire universe, salutation to Him."

History is full of examples where teacher has created, moulded and changed the destiny of his disciples. Teacher is the one, who prepares his followers to be distinguished from the masses. Given the positive direction, the teacher can produce the best of humankind. Very much like a gardener, the teacher protects his (saplings) students from all odd situations and gives them a protective and safe environment. Etymologically, the word 'guru' is derived from Sanskrit, which means the one who destroys or removes the darkness; the darkness of ignorance.

One of the other ways in which this above sacred Indian saying can also be interpreted as:

Creator – of next generation,

Protector – of basic human values,

Destroyer – of evils existing in the society.

In the ancient era, the teacher enjoyed the highest place in the society. Even the kings consulted them and requested for their valuable guidance. In holy books Ramayana and Mahabharata there is description of gurukul system, where students used to quench their thirst of knowledge,

imbibe moral and ethical values, develop their physique to survive in toughest of the circumstances and to progress towards becoming the perfect human being under the guidance and supervision of their guru (the teacher). The teacher was supposed to be saluted even before the God.

But with the passage of time and varied situations in last century, the role of the teacher restricted itself to be an information provider, where teacher used to vomit his factual knowledge to his students, without bothering about the development of their higher faculties and all-round development. There were many reasons responsible for the miserable and degeneration of the status enjoyed by the teacher in the society. But Henry Von Dyke yells "Ah! There you have the worst paid and best rewarded of vocations. Do not enter it unless you love it. For the vast majority of men and women it has no promise of wealth and fame, but they to whom it is dear for its own sake are among the nobility of mankind. I sing the praise of the unknown teacher, king of himself and leader of the mankind."

But once again time has come for history to repeat itself. With the changing circumstances, globalization, dawn of information world, next generation

of computers and hi-tech gadgets; the role of teacher has become more challenging and complex. Today's world is awash in information from a multitude of print and electronic sources. The fundamental job of teacher is no longer to distribute facts but help children learn how to use them by developing their abilities to think critically, solve problems rationally, make informed judgements and create knowledge that benefit both the student and society.

Well remarked by Jordan, Mendro, and Weerasinghe "years of research have proven that nothing school can do for their students matters more than giving them effective teachers. A few years with effective teachers can put even the most disadvantaged students on the path to the college. A few years with ineffective teachers can deal students on academic blow which they may never recover."

The time has come, when the teacher's role needs to be expanded its wings from information provider to a role model for his students. Many a times it has been noted that young students strictly follow their teacher. So, teacher's personality should include all personal, social, ethical and professional traits, so that the teacher stands with the distinction as the human engineer. He is the real facilitator of learning needs and learning material. He is the mentor who shapes and grooms the child. The teachers are the real nation builders as the

people of a country are the large replica of their teachers. The teacher is the yardstick that measures the achievements and aspiration of the nation.

"...the best curriculum and the most perfect syllabus remains dead unless quickened into life by the right method of teaching and the right kind of teachers"—Secondary Education Commission.

Adding to above, the best of talent in humankind gets wasted until given in responsible hands to groom it. There are many examples in past, where the learner could realise and reach up-to his best of potentialities only with the support of the teacher. Not only the Indian philosophy, but the western philosophy shares the same view, as Sir John Adams remarks—

"The teacher is the maker of man."

With the new coming pedagogy and advanced technologies, the teacher's job has become more demanding. Now a days each of educational components, being curriculum, methods of teaching, to name a few; all are learner centered. Today the learner enjoys the center place in the educational system, giving a blow to the authority, the teacher enjoyed. So, now the teacher has to be a Friend, Philosopher, and Guide for the learner to regain the status enjoyed in the earlier era.

—Meenakshi Girdhar