

Difference between Brahmanic and Buddhist Education

1. Brahmanic education system aimed at preparing the children to face the challenges of social or worldly life.
Buddhist education system prepared children for a life of renunciation and monkhood or nunery.
2. Brahmanic system of education was autocratic in the sense that the teachers' authority was supreme in all kinds of educational matters.
Buddhist education system follows a democratic system.
3. During the Brahmanic period, the pupil stayed at the house of his teacher.
In Buddhist period, the pupil did not live with the family of their teachers.
4. The teacher during the Brahmanic period is called as Brahmins.
The teacher of Buddhist period is called monks.
5. Brahmanic education system imposed more restriction on the students than the Buddhist system. During Brahmanic period, the student has to observe strict rules of disciplined life and had to undergo some type of penance.
Brahmanic education system imposed more restriction on the students than the Buddhist system. During the Buddhist period, the student does not need to undergo physical activities.
6. Education given in the Gurukul was not organized at all, as it was more dependent on the whim of the moment as the Guru thought appropriate.
Education given in a Buddhist monastery was better organized.
7. In Brahmanic period, the students were taught Vyakaran, Nyaya, Shashtra, Smriti and Jyotish.
In Buddhist period, the students were taught Dhammasastra, sutta, Vinaya and Dhamma Pitak as well as Ayurveda, philosophy and military training.

8. In the Brahmanic period, the method of teaching was discussion, debates, conferences and also the individual system of education.

Buddhist system has no individual system of education.

9. During the Brahmanic period the student coming from rich families.

In the Buddhist period everyone has the right to education.

10. In Brahmanic system, Guru was the final authority. His orders had to be carried out by all who studied under him. Guru was like an autocrat. So in the sense it was an autocratic system of education. The seniority and pre-eminence of Guru always remained an admitted fact.

On the other hand the Buddhist system was democratic in the character. It was not one man who ruled. Right from the time of admission up to the final stage when pupils left the Viharas everything was organized on democratic lines. This system accomplished the right to vote by the pupil in the deliberations of the 'Sangha' after his admission to it.

11. During the Brahmanic period the medium of teaching basically in Sanskrit.

During the Buddhist period the medium of teaching basically common language of the people.

12. During Brahmanic period though there were centers of higher learning like Takshila which earned name and fame, yet foreign scholars were not so much attracted to those centers.

Buddhism internationalized the education. Reputed Universities like Nalanda attracted foreign scholars and thus the Indian culture spread far and wide.

Similarities between Brahmanic and Buddhist Education -

The following has been the similarities between Brahmanic and Buddhist Education:-

Aims of Education:- In both the systems the main aim of education was to encourage a spirit of religion to become a humble person. Education was based on religious knowledge. Hence, the pupil starts and ends with religious rituals. Also, the all-round development of the pupil personality was the other aims of education.

Method of Teaching: In both the Brahmanic education system and Buddhist systems, oral communication had the main method of imparting knowledge. The pupil has to memorize the knowledge received. Also, the most common way of teaching was a discussion between teacher and pupil and dialogue method and practical education.

Teacher-Pupil Relationship: Education in both Brahmanic and Buddhist periods developed through a close relationship between the teacher and student. There was a father-son relationship between them. They looked upon pupils as their own son and took personal care for the development of the child. The teacher was a friend, philosopher and guide to his pupils.

Period of Studentship: The minimum period of studentship in the Vedic system was 12 years. The same was the period of the Buddhist system. In both periods, the teacher teaches the pupils in a calm surrounding. The pupils have to lead a well-disciplined life. The students need to observe fasting on certain days.

Impart Education in Nature:- In both the periods, education was imparted in a natural environment away from the noise and the din of the city or village life.

Disciplined Life: The Brahmacharis (students) of the life Brahmanic periods and the Bhikkhus (monks) of the Buddhist period i.e. the students of the two periods were required to lead a hard and disciplined life of similar nature.

Begging: The students of both periods used to go out daily for begging alms.

Non-violence in Nature: In both the periods, the students were required to observe non-violence.

Rules of Conduct: The students of both periods were to follow similar rules of conduct.

Religion based Education: In both the periods religion dominated education systems are followed.