

## THE BEAUTIFUL TREE

SA. MUTHU BAARATHI\*

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# Book authored by Shri. Dharampal. In Tamil Language version : Azhagiya Maram translated by B.R. Mahadevan.....Published by The Other India Press, Tamizhini Publication, Chennai 520 pages...Rs. 480

# Dharampal (1922-2006) was a Gandhian thinker. Author. Founder General Secretary of the Indian Cooperative Union (ICU – 1950), Chairman of the National Commission for Cattle rearing (2001)

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Apart from the 3 basic needs of Human being as Food, Cloth and Shelter, now 4<sup>th</sup> one is also included in our constitution as 'Right to Education'. This is because, every human being are right to learn basic education system for running their life meaningfully. The book 'The Beautiful Tree' divulge about how the education prevails in India, past and present.

Author Dharampal, wrote many books. This 'THE BEAUTIFUL TREE' reveals the truth of Indigenous Indian Education in the Eighteenth Century. Even our India ruled by British and before that it won't have any unique features in education system, as we believed because of the wrong campaign in our political system. This is because of individual land structure of areas ruled by King dynasty and their followers. After British and French invaders came with many motive, they spread their language first. Because they much clear about the language which is the only key to rule the country. They want to bifurcate the unity first. They spread English as much as fast during their travel across the country. Before this our Indian education system is somewhat relate to hereditary system and also known as 'Gurukulam' system of education. Still many of us believing that the Gurukulam system of education is best and also going in progress with other mode as Hostel or Residential schools.

This book clearly quotes about the system followed in education, spread to all areas irrespective of Culture, Religion, Community and Caste. Documentary evidence from British rulers clearly disclose the education given to all areas of public. But what the society believes because of the campaign by Dravidian movement in South India, education barred to the low class people and middle class people also. And in Religion wise also the campaign given the false information. It is believed that 'Ancient India under British rule, the education is available only for certain communities those dominating in all important government posts'.

This book having many documentary evidence and references, Indian education system prevails in the society in all levels namely Elementary, Middle and Higher studies also. Major write-up reference taken from Educational Records by S. Noorullah and J.P. Nayak. Nearly 160 years of education system in India documented in this book. Even though academic aspect is less in this book, system prevailing in India from 18<sup>th</sup> Century to 21<sup>st</sup> Century, hidden facts are coming out and we can proudly know the news about our education system which is for better than any foreign countries.

One more statement to be insisted here is about the ancient India. There is a believing in Ancient India, Education is provided given to Brahmin, Satriya and Vaisya community in Hindu religion. But after go through the book with the evidence given by the Collectors in those period, which reveal the truth as the education given to all religion and all communities irrespective of their financial status and language ( mother tongue).

This can be establish here with the support of the report given by the District Collector of Salem in Tamilnadu region to the revenue divisional office on 8-7-1823. \* [ 1]

**சேலம் கலெக்டரேட்டில் உள்ள பாரம்பரியப் பள்ளிகள், கல்லூரிகள் மற்றும் மாணவர்களின் விரிவான எண்ணிக்கை**

| கலெக்டரேட் பெயர்                        | பள்ளி கல்லூரிகள் | பிராமண மாணவர்கள் |    |     | வைசிய மாணவர்கள் |    |     | சூத்திர மாணவர்கள் |    |      | பிற ஜாதி மாணவர்கள் |    |      |
|---|------------------|------------------|----|-----|-----------------|----|-----|-------------------|----|------|--------------------|----|------|
|   |                  | ஆ                | பெ | மொ  | ஆ               | பெ | மொ  | ஆ                 | பெ | மொ   | ஆ                  | பெ | மொ   |
| சேலம் ஜில்லா கிரந்தம்                   | 333              | 459              | -  | 459 | 324             | -  | 324 | 1671              | 3  | 1674 | 1382               | 28 | 1410 |
| ஆன்மிகம், சட்டம் வான சாஸ்திரம் முதலியவை | 53               | 324              | -  | 324 | -               | -  | -   | -                 | -  | -    | -                  | -  | -    |

  

|   | மொத்த இந்து மாணவர் |    |     | மொத்த முஸ்லிம் மாணவர் |    |     | மொத்த இந்து முஸ்லிம் மாணவர் |    |      | மொத்த மக்கள்தொகை |        |         |
|---|--------------------|----|-----|-----------------------|----|-----|-----------------------------|----|------|------------------|--------|---------|
|   | ஆ                  | பெ | மொ  | ஆ                     | பெ | மொ  | ஆ                           | பெ | மொ   | ஆ                | பெ     | மொ      |
| சேலம் ஜில்லா கிரந்தம்                   | 3836               | 31 | 367 | 432                   | 27 | 459 | 4268                        | 58 | 4326 | 542500           | 533485 | 1075925 |
| ஆன்மிகம், சட்டம் வான சாஸ்திரம் முதலியவை | 324                | -  | 324 | -                     | -  | -   | 324                         | -  | 324  |                  |        |         |

எம்.டி. காக்பான்,  
கலெக்டர்

As per the report, There are Brahmin students, Vaisya students, Shutra students and other communities. Then in religion aspect, there are Hindu religion, Muslim religion, Hindu-Muslim religion also in the report. Ultimately what it conveys, Not only in Tamilnadu region, all over the India, education is provided to all religion and communities, irrespective of the place of living, standard, etc.

Schooling system may varied depends upon the custom of the people living in that particular area. There may be Gurukulam ( Residential schools ) or Day schools. Most of them prefer Gurukulam school system, because of the knowledge gathering in s streamline manner. Day school system, deviate the children in between from family and school.

So, most of the education system followed in ancient period is Gurukulam. Time being the education method ( so called McCauley system ) brought into India by the British rulers, the existing system followed is up to the standard. Later the system implemented by the British rulers in India, the method of memory and recollect in a written test.

Before that our Indian system of education is worth full in the way of self thinking and achievement oriented system and also the culture of respect the Guru ( Teacher) in all the ways and means. Some times helping to Guru by his family related work.

Apart from the basic education, higher education also given to them according to their education standard. Because syllabus covered in higher education mostly related to Vedha & Upanishad. Few book names dealt in those period are : Righ vedham, Yajur Vedham, Saama Vedham, Srowdham, Dravida Vedham and some more related books are : Raguvamsam, Kumarasambavam, Megha sandesam, Bharavi, Marum, Artha Sastram Nayasadham. \* [2]

All these text books are dealing with the psychology of human and ways and means of family life, etc. Culture of India, which mainly appreciable among the other world countries, because of Family system and culture what they followed.

Even I want to mention many more things about the book 'THE BEAUTIFUL TREE' by Dharampal, for that I need to write one more book for review the same. As a journalist I don't want to exaggerate the thing and let the world can go through the book.

I may make mistake, if I am not divulge about Shri. B. R. Mahadevan , careful translation done in one of the ancient & classical language Tamil.

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\* [ 1 ] : The Beautiful Tree – Tamil version. XXII Page. 253

\* [2] : The Beautiful Tree – Tamil version. Page. 61

