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Title of Thesis: “A Study to explore the Universal Values enshrined in Guru Granth Sahib and Ways to Incorporate these Values in Present Day Education at School level”

ABSTRACT

The present research has focussed upon different aspects concerning assimilation of religious Scriptures in value education in schools with chief focus on the role of Guru Granth Sahib. The various aspects like value-erosion in today's generation, growing conflicts on the basis of religions, unutilized universal teachings of great leaders in past significant for inculcation of values in children in schools and recommendations of different national level commissions and committees in the past regarding promotion of religious teachings etc. justify the significance of present research. The present disconnect of individuals with religions and higher values, rise of intolerance within the country and lack of moral sense in their behaviour and unconformity to social standards etc. have raised doubts on quality of present day education. There is a need to explore the various more possible sources of values in order to impart values influentially. Among the sources of values, religion is one chief source and unfortunately somehow unutilized one. The Holy Scriptures of Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism uphold many universal human values. The need of the hour is to explore these values and incorporate these in education. Guru Granth Sahib is an inter-faith divine Scripture consisting of writings of the six Gurus and thirty other God-conscious persons, who belonged to different castes, creeds, religions and regions. This is a sterling example of universal brotherhood devoid of religious taboos.

Broader objectives of the study are to identify the universal values enshrined in Guru Granth Sahib and to find out the importance and ways of incorporating the universal values as given in Guru Granth Sahib in the present day school education. The present research is primarily qualitative and exploratory in nature. Hermeneutic Analysis and Survey research method have been jointly used for the present study along with different techniques for data collection and analysis. Researcher has consulted the primary source that is the original Scripture -Guru Granth Sahib and various other secondary sources in order to enlist the universal values and associated references which are there in Guru Granth Sahib. As far as source of survey is concerned, a self prepared open-ended questionnaire has been used in order to collect the opinions of school teachers about importance, ways and strategies of incorporating universal values of Guru Granth Sahib in education.

In the findings with respect to universal values in Guru Granth Sahib, a final list of prominent universal values out of the values recommended in significant documents as universal/

common/ basic/ core values, which have been given importance and emphasis in Guru Granth Sahib also has been prepared. Thereafter messages given in Guru Granth Sahib with respect to these values have been given in following sequence to be followed with proper reference: - original language -Hindi transliteration -Translation in English. Findings of survey imply that content and other activities which are there in the school curriculum for value education is not sufficient. As these days children are influenced easily by westernisation and negative impact of media, more attempts are required for inculcation of values. Mainstream teachers agree with the significant role of religion in curriculum for value education. It was highly agreed that wisdom contained in religious Scriptures must be utilized in education. 95% teachers were in favour of utilization of quotes of Guru Granth Sahib with respect to universal values for value education as several respondents approved that Guru Granth Sahib is an eclectic Scripture and contains teachings for one and all. However this view was also supplemented with the suggestions regarding in-depth explanation, suitable translation, absence of unnecessary comparison with other religions and use of multimedia for the same. With respect to suggestions regarding curricular approaches to be used for same, strategy of including relevant topics related to the concerned theme in the syllabus of formal subjects using integration approach was highly approved. However strategy of preparing and introducing a separate Guide book/ text book of value education containing the quotes pertaining to all circumstances of daily life from Guru Granth Sahib and other religious Scriptures was recommended by lesser number of respondents comparatively. With respect to suggestions regarding co-curricular approaches to be used for same activities like arranging plays/Skits/Dramas demonstrating the messages of Guru Granth Sahib along with other Religious Scripture on social and moral values, Inculcating values through celebration of birthdays of Gurus and other great saints in suitable way, explanation of specific content of Guru Granth Sahib followed by open-ended discussions, Daily assembly with readings from Guru Granth Sahib and other Holy books on their messages on universal human values and by imparting information about selected radio and T.V. programmes concerned with deliberation and discussion on values related content of religious Scriptures including Guru Granth sahib etc. were approved by majority.

The future course of action in this direction has also been suggested. Two parallel processes can be followed. Students can be trained about particular religion to which they belong or which is emphasized as per school's philosophy and Also they should be provided with moral essence of other religions as a part of comprehensive value education system. Suitable literature must be produced with the help of experts having proficient knowledge of Guru Granth Sahib in association with experts of all other major religions of India. Books like world Scripture can be used as models for inculcating values and promoting peace education. Various websites and online sources can be explored for details of Guru Granth Sahib, Sikh Gurus, Stories, related videos, specific content on values e.g. humility, forgiveness, status of women etc. These resources can exert a considerable influence in building good character of our children. However teacher's guidance, a careful selection of literature, and proper planning with due consideration to the principles of secularism is required.

