

Spoken Sanskrit Movement in India: A Study

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Abstract:

Sanskrit is treasure of great Indian Knowledge and heritage. Due to lack of its formal use in the administration and daily life, some of the people say that Sanskrit is a dead language. But Sanskrit is neither a dead language nor it is unusable. Crores of people of the world pray to god in this language. Not less than five lacks people of India can speak fluent Sanskrit as like their mother tongue. There are seven Sanskrit speaking villages in India at present.

Introduction:

To increase the Sanskrit spoken population, a movement has been started by a group of people in the year 1995 from Bangalore. They founded 'Sanskrit Bharati' to organize the movement all over in India. Sanskrit is not only a language but a culture of honest civilization which was India's past heritage. Through Sanskrit, the society can be reformed. Sanskrit is not a tough language to speak. It is easier for those who speak Hindi or any other language which is originated from Sanskrit.

Analysis:

To make the people aware regarding the easy spoken Sanskrit and to teach them Sanskrit, 'Sanskrit Bharati' was formed by five people. It took birth as a very small organization in Bangalore, but at present it emerges as a massive organization covering all the states of India. The head quarter of this organisation is situated in New Delhi. The data table of the network of 'Sanskrit Bharati' is presented below:-

States	Main centre	Sub-centre	Children centre	Geeta centre	Camps		
					For public	For academic institution	Total
Kerala	110	200	11	35	243	12	255
Tamilnadu	81	73	68	129	231	20	251
South Karnataka	65	108	30	16	290	20	310
North Karnataka	20	20	03	00	25	20	45
West Andhra Pradesh	37	42	06	14	57	28	85
East Andhra Pradesh	50	130	25	06	40	12	52
Bidarbha	10	09	00	11	26	01	27
West Maharastra	13	19	02	11	45	09	54
Konkan	13	14	11	23	53	00	53
Gujrat	23	65	00	01	00	00	00
Madhya Bharat	38	48	04	03	10	05	15
Mohakoshaja	58	140	01	03	59	46	105
Chattishgarh	12	45	02	06	48	02	50
Chittar	17	24	00	00	11	16	27
Joypur	00	16	00	00	10	05	15
Jodhpur	01	04	00	00	03	00	03
Delhi	06	22	00	06	18	02	20
Hariyana	03	12	00	00	07	03	10
Himachal Pradesh	16	35	00	00	04	14	18
Punjab	00	05	00	01	01	00	01
Jammu & Kashmir	00	02	00	00	00	00	00
kashi	24	32	00	03	37	14	51
Abadh	30	160	10	04	30	00	30
Uttarakhanda	40	20	02	02	155	20	175
Kanpur	16	09	08	04	11	07	18
North Bihar	04	12	00	00	15	01	16
Jharkhanda	02	04	00	00	01	02	03
Utkajam	12	26	03	00	07	32	39
North Assam	52	146	09	09	19	51	70
South Assam	22	14	06	03	38	32	70
Total	775	1456	201	290	1494	374	1868

Through the journal 'Sewa Sadhana', Shresh Dev Pujari has informed, through his article, entitled "Sanskrit language of the mass in villages" as follows --

'Sanskrit Sambhashan' is one of the prominent aspect of rural development work being undertaken by 'Swayam Sevaks' (volunteers) across the country. This experiment has proved very successful in propagating Sanskrit even in the remote villages. There are a

number of villages in the country where all daily conducts of life are conducted only in Sanskrit. The prominent villages in this group are Muttoor and Hasahali in Karnataka and Jhiri and Mohad in Madhay Pradesh, Where There are a number of villages have truly become languages of the mass. More than 95 percent people of Muttoor and Hundred percent people in Jhiri speak Sanskrit.

Apart from Muttoor, Harsahali and Jhiri; Mohad and Baghuwar in Madhya Pradesh and Ganoda under Banswara district of Rajasthan are also within the list of villages where Sanskrit is spoken by majority of the villagers. Each & every men, women and children, though some of them are even illiterate, speak Sanskrit. It is worth mentioning that, the Muslim families of the villages also speak Sanskrit without any hesitation and with the same fluency as the Hindus speak it. The children are found in the streets, reciting Sanskrit 'Shlokas'. Even while quarrelling and playing cricket or any other game, in the playground, they used to exchange words in Sanskrit only. While walking down a few paces from the school, where one touches the 'Rathaveethi' (Car street) there are graffiti on the walls of which, one grabs the attention best, is, 'Maarge Swachchalaya Virajate, grame Sujanaha Vjrajante' (cleanliness of road is as important for a road as good people are for the villages). Other slogans, like - 'keep the temple premises clean', 'keep the river clean' and 'trees are national wealth' are also written in Sanskrit and painted on walls reflecting ancient values. There are families who have written on their doors - 'You can speak in Sanskrit in this house'. This is basically to tell the visitor that in case they are fluent in the language, he can talk with them in Sanskrit. Perhaps this inspired the senior B.J.P. leader Sushma Swaraj to deliver a 20 minute power packed speech in Sanskrit when she visited the village in connection with Shimoga by-election campaign.

Ganoda is a village under Baswada district of Rajasthan where a large number of people speak Sanskrit. In this 'Vanvasi'- dominated village, Sanskrit is slowly becoming a way of life, slogans in Sanskrit make the village walls attractive. The language spoken in practically every house and every school-going child rattling of a few sentence, "Almost every one can speak or at least understand Sanskrit in this village." says Naresh Dosi. About ten years ago Ganoda was like any other village of Rajasthan but now it has got a special place. Now, the Sanskrit speaking people of this village have resolved to make Sanskrit as the second language of the Wagdi speaking population. The total population of Mohad is about 4000. But more than 1000 people speak Sanskrit. 'Sanskrit Bharati' organized six

‘Sambhashan Vargas’ in the village resulting in, not only the school going children but even many old women also speak Sanskrit fluently.

By the great effort of ‘Sanskrit Bharati’ there are now Sanskrit families, Sanskrit areas Sanskrit villages are created. The instance like Gomiri village of Assam, is a great inspiration for Sanskrit speaking people. In this village all the children can speak Sanskrit. We have Sanskrit newspaper, Sanskrit journal, Sanskrit magazine which are continuing with for even 45 years. Sanskrit newspaper “Sudharma” has been publishing for long 44 years from Monipur. To revive Indian traditional method of examination ‘Sanskrit Bharati’ has followed ‘Shalaka Pariksha’. “The organizer” published a report on this method of examination in newspaper on January 24, 2004 as follows:

“Shalaka Pariksha” is a Indian traditional method of examination, majority of the countrymen are not aware of it till today. It is a very transparent system of examination in which the whole textbook has to be learnt by the student for appearing in the examination. It is believed that knowledge which is gathered for examination only, is not useful at the time of need and the knowledge which has been learnt thoroughly is useful when one needs. That is why there has been concentration on learning the whole textbook in this examination. It is a very transparent system of examination as the whole examination is conducted publicly.

There is a head examiner for the examination, assisted by two other examiners, who are basically the scholars of the subject in which the examination is conducted. Each examiner has a stick in his hand which is called ‘Shalaka’. The book in which the examination has to be conducted is declared in advance and is kept at the table of the examiners sits the student and in front of them the people sit. The examination is conducted in three round -- learning, lecture and question-answer session. Under the first round one of the examiners pushes the stick in any page of the book and reads out the first line of that page. The examiner portion of the chapter has to be narrated by the student before all. When the first examiner satisfied then the other examiner too repeat the same procedure. The similar procedure is repeated in the second and third rounds.

Conclusion:

Most of the people think that Sanskrit is a difficult language to speak with and there is no use of it in the modern society. But this concept is very wrong. In fact, Sanskrit is a language which is easy to learn and easy to speak also. In our Indian tradition, we follow Sanskrit language in our spiritual life very frequent. Almost 75 percent of our Indian words are either derivatives of Sanskrit word or even in most cases it has come directly from Sanskrit, i.e. without any change. It may be added that, Sanskrit literatures are big treasure of science & technology also. The whole world is now under the great faith of Ayurvedic treatment. All this Ayurvedic information is unearthed from the Sanskrit text only. There are so many instance of usability of Sanskrit language. The movement of propagating spoken Sanskrit has been successfully continuing and hopes this may revive the Sanskrit era in India again.

Sources:

1. Sewa Sadhana published by Sewa Bharati
2. Sanskrit Bharati Report
3. Sanskrit newspaper "Sudharma"
4. Global Research Methodology Journal
