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“Prospects and Challenges of Contemporary Education”**

organized by

**Shree Somnath Education Society’s
Smt. C.P. Choksi Arts &
Shree P.L. Choksi Commerce College,
Veraval**

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The Concept of Bhisma's Education in *Bhismacaritam* – A Review¹ Kartik Pandya²

Abstract: The *Bhīṣmacaritam*³, composed by a great modern poet Dr. Hari Narayan Dikshit on 12th February 1991, is a Sanskrit epic comprising of twenty cantos and one thousand one hundred eighteen verses. It occupies an important place among the mythological *Mahākāvyas* for its aesthetic attributes. This mythological poem is worthy of note for a number of reasons. This poem describes the life of Devavrata Bhīṣma starting from his birth till death involving his education, valourous act, mighty prowess, wisdom, philanthropic act and noble personality. The poet has nicely depicted the character of Bhīṣma. He has properly dealt with the subtle characteristics of Bhīṣma. There is no doubt that the pen of the poet has given birth to an excellent and pleasant epic in a beautiful, impressive and very heart-touching style. The work is appreciable for its theme and presentation. The poem is first of its kind and is a best one from literary perspective. The present research paper solely focuses on Devavrata Bhīṣma's Education in *Bhīṣmacaritam* and thus, it will give you a review of *Bhīṣmacaritam* in its nutshell. The following are the observations of a researcher he made during his doctoral research.

Devavrata Bhīṣma's Education: Understanding the time to begin with the education of a son, the king Śāntanu called with honour many scholars from the different parts of India. On the auspicious day with the auspicious constellation, having worshipped all the gods traditionally, the king Śāntanu while giving the responsibility of his son Devavrata in the hands of different teachers humbly said thus:

By hearing such words of the king, all the teachers became happy. They expressed their agreement to the king by assuring success desired by the king of training his son completely. All the teachers, having understood prince Devavrata as endowed with all learning and fulfilled with all specialities, thought of organising attractive convocation ceremony on the completion of his training. The king Śāntanu, having heard this auspicious and pleasant thought of teachers, having understood own cherished desires being successful and bathing in the unparalleled sea of happiness, himself made the arrangement for this function.

Convocation Ceremony:

There began the convocation ceremony of the prince Devavrata in the extremely large auditorium which has been well decorated. In that function the prominent personalities of different classes and different castes were invited. Devavrata, of tranquil mind, compassionate towards the poors, intelligent, having worn clothes of silk and sitting on the seat, was shining. The king Śāntanu started giving his speech and thanked all the teachers. Then, Sarvācārya – the chief-teacher of Devavrata stood up from his seat and started giving blessings through his speech. At last, Devavrata stood up from his seat and vowed to follow the instructions of his teacher.

Special Training of Archery:

The sage Devala once came to the king Śāntanu and said to him, "I know that your son, having learnt the art of archery, has become a popular archer on the earth now-a-days. It is indeed true that no archer can defeat him in the war of archery. Still O king! I understand that he has not mastered this art of archery completely. Therefore, the way is still left for his special training. Sage Paraśurāma has indeed the entire knowledge of archery. In my opinion, there is no other successful teacher of the

art of archery like him in this world. If he with his grace teaches all the specialities of this art of archery to your son Devavrata, then your son will indeed become the best archer by being a great danger for his enemies." This way he advised the king to send Devavrata to the sage Paraśurāma for the special training in the art of archery. The king told the same thing to his son Devavrata the next day. Devavrata agreed to it. And hence he started his journey towards the South with the aim to learn the art of archery from the sage Paraśurāma. The sage became happy and started imparting on him the usage of different divine weapons. Entire fifth canto is dedicated to this training. Then with the due permission from his teacher, he arrived to his city Hastināpura where he was warmly welcomed by all the citizens, all the ministers and his father Śāntanu. The king Śāntanu thanked sage Paraśurāma. The king Śāntanu traditionally consecrated his son on throne by pouring on him the mixture of sacred water collected from all the sacred places, rivers, great rivers and oceans.

Conclusion:

The poet has made changes in his epic considerably in a good manner reflecting the traditional scenario of education system. This paper in brief gives the kind of training being impacted on students by the seers in the classical age.

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