

EVOLUTION OF INDIAN EDUCATION

*From Ancient Wisdom to Modern Knowledge:
A Comprehensive Journey Through Time*

- ❖ Vedic Period
- ❖ Buddhist & Jain Systems
- ❖ Post-Gupta to Colonial Era
- ❖ Modern Indian Education

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*From Ancient Wisdom to Modern Knowledge:
A Comprehensive Journey Through Time*

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PREFACE

Education has been the cornerstone of Indian civilization since time immemorial, shaping not merely individual minds but the collective consciousness of our society. This book emerges from our deep conviction that understanding the historical evolution of Indian education is essential for educators, policymakers, and students who seek to navigate the complexities of contemporary educational challenges while honouring our rich pedagogical heritage.

The journey of writing this book has been both enlightening and humbling. As we traced the trajectory of Indian education from the ancient *gurukulas* nestled in forest ashrams to the digital classrooms of today, we were repeatedly struck by the profound wisdom embedded in our traditional systems and the resilience with which Indian education has adapted to changing times. The Vedic emphasis on holistic development, the Buddhist commitment to inclusive learning, the synthesis achieved during medieval times, and the struggles and triumphs of the modern period – each era offers valuable lessons for our present educational endeavours.

This work is intended to serve multiple audiences: students of education seeking comprehensive understanding of Indian educational history, teacher educators looking for culturally grounded pedagogical insights, researchers exploring the continuities and discontinuities in our educational evolution, and policymakers working to implement reforms that honour our heritage while embracing innovation. We have endeavoured to present complex historical developments in an accessible manner without compromising scholarly rigor.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to our respective institutions – the Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASE), Agartala, and ICFAI University, Tripura – for providing the academic environment and resources that made this work possible. Our colleagues and students have been constant sources of inspiration and constructive feedback. Special thanks are due to the librarians and archivists who helped us access rare documents and manuscripts that enriched our understanding.

We are deeply indebted to our families for their patience and support during the long hours spent in research and writing. Their understanding and encouragement sustained us through the challenging phases of this project. As educators ourselves, we have witnessed first-hand both the promises and perils of our current educational system. This book is our humble contribution to the ongoing dialogue about educational reform in India. We hope it will inspire readers to appreciate the depth of our educational traditions while working towards a future where every child has access to quality education that nurtures their full potential.

The recent National Education Policy 2020 marks a watershed moment in Indian education, attempting to synthesize the best of our traditional wisdom with contemporary global practices. As we stand at this crucial juncture, we believe that understanding our educational past is essential for shaping our educational future. May this book serve as a bridge between our glorious heritage and our aspirational tomorrow.

September, 2025

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