

National Seminar

Sanskrit in Schools: Where are we? How are we?

On the occasion of celebration of Sanskrit week

August 17 -19, 2016

Sanskrit is a language that teaches us our traditions, heritage and values. Being the oldest language of India it is considered both a classical and Modern Indian Language (MIL) of the country. The world is attracted to this language for its clarity, beauty, richness and variety of literature.

The language has a history of over 5000 years of literature and is still thriving. The two Censuses of languages in the year 1991 and 2001 show 49736 and 14135 people respectively use Sanskrit as their mother tongue. But in reality, Sanskrit language users are much more than on the record. There are a number of villages in India known as Sanskrit villages where Sanskrit is spoken by almost everyone in day-to-day purposes. All daily activities are conducted only in Sanskrit. It is their mother tongue and they speak Sanskrit fluently, accurately and affectively..

Sanskrit being one of the modern Indian languages as mentioned in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution is studied mostly as a third language in school curriculum across the country. Some states offer Sanskrit as first and second language as well. Whereas Sanskrit is a Pan-Indian Language, it has got its deserved status only in the state of Uttarakhand where it is declared as second official language. Most States introduce Sanskrit in class VI except a few states which start it from class I, III or V. A good number of Universities are exclusively dedicated for teaching and research in Sanskrit language. But as the medium of expression even in classrooms of Sanskrit a lot need to be done. Once sought after and deserved to gain the status of national language, over the years this could have become the people's language of the country.

As the N. Gopaldaswami headed committee maintains, "School education supplies students to higher education and traditional education. School education provides employment for the products of the other two sectors. But the school education is the most neglected realm of Sanskrit education." this needs to be taken as a caution and concern.

Efforts to support the teaching-learning of Sanskrit effectively through curriculum, materials and teacher development programmes have been made by NCERT with its mandate to provide support in the areas of research, development and training. It has also been taking initiatives to reach out to all stake holders of education, policy planners, practicing teachers and learners.

The Committee constituted by Hon'ble HRM, Govt. of India under the Chairmanship of Shri N. Gopalswami has suggested a long term vision and road map for the development of Sanskrit. The vision includes:

1. Every Sanskrit student would be conversant and fluent in simple standard Sanskrit and answers would be written in Sanskrit.
2. The integration of modern subjects like Science, Social Science, Economics, Mathematics etc. with Sanskrit and vice –versa.
3. A corpus of knowledge texts in all branches of knowledge either translated to Sanskrit or written in Sanskrit would be available.
4. Sanskrit would find its rightful place in spheres other than Education as well.

To achieve this stupendous task, we ought to know where exactly Sanskrit language and its education stand; and the status of teaching-learning Sanskrit in school in comparison with other Indian languages and English.

Department of Education in languages, NCERT is organizing a three-day National Seminar on Status of Sanskrit language and its Education from **17-19 August, 2016** on the occasion of Sanskrit week celebration.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Research Papers, Posters, documentations, experiences and innovations are invited from practicing teachers, academics, researchers and those who are interested in and concerned about the promotion of Sanskrit language in school and the qualitative improvement of teaching-learning of Sanskrit for presentation and discussion in the seminar. Papers may broadly cover the following issues:

1. Sanskrit language in the classroom: Case studies, experiments and innovations in Sanskrit teaching-learning.
2. Materials for teaching-learning of Sanskrit: Textbooks, supplementary readings in Sanskrit and their use in the classroom, analysis of textbooks, innovations in textbooks.etc.
3. Pedagogy for teaching of Sanskrit

4. Position of Sanskrit vis-à-vis other languages at Primary, Upper Primary, and Secondary and Higher Secondary stages in the State/Region/Board/Institutions.
5. Sanskrit Language Teacher: Professional learning and training.
6. Language policy and Sanskrit: Implementation of three language formulas and position of Sanskrit language.
7. Administrative issues related with Sanskrit language education, such as no. of sanctioned posts; filled up and vacant, allotted periods per week, its comparison with other languages and subjects.
8. Use of ICT in the Sanskrit teaching-learning.
9. Sanskrit at the University, its relationship with Sanskrit in school.
10. Sanskrit beyond classroom: Status, Position, Problems and Prospects.

Poster presenters will be allotted places to display their posters and interact with participants.

Summary / abstract of the paper may be submitted by **18th July** and **full papers** by **8th August 2016** to the coordinator through email mentioned below, so that their participation can be confirmed. Travel (second / third A.C as per eligibility) and hospitality of participants of the Seminar will be taken care of by NCERT as per its norms. Accommodation will be arranged in the NIE, Guest House located on the NCERT campus will be accorded T.A. Selected papers will be published.

For further details, **Dr. J.M. Mishra, Programme Coordinator** may be contacted at Mob. No. **08285497917**, e-mail – **jatindramohanmishra@gmail.com**



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