

# BUDDHIST SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

# INTRODUCTION

- Period 600B.C. to 600 A.D.
- Institutional organisation
- Based on teachings of Gautam Buddha
- Buddha born in a royal family of Kapilvastu in 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.
- His father's name was Shuddhodhan and mother's name was Mahamaya.
- He was married to Yashodhara.



# Major tenets of Buddhism

- The teachings of Buddha was mainly oral.
- Buddha's philosophy are described as 'Tripitakas'-
  - (i) Vinayapitaka – Rules of conduct
  - (ii) Suttapitaka – Buddha's Sermon
  - (iii) Abhidhammapitaka – Exposition of philosophical theories.





# Aims of Education

- Development of personality
- Physical and intellectual development
- Religious and spiritual development
- Character building
- Promotion of social efficiency and happiness
- Presentation and spread of culture



# Buddha's Theory

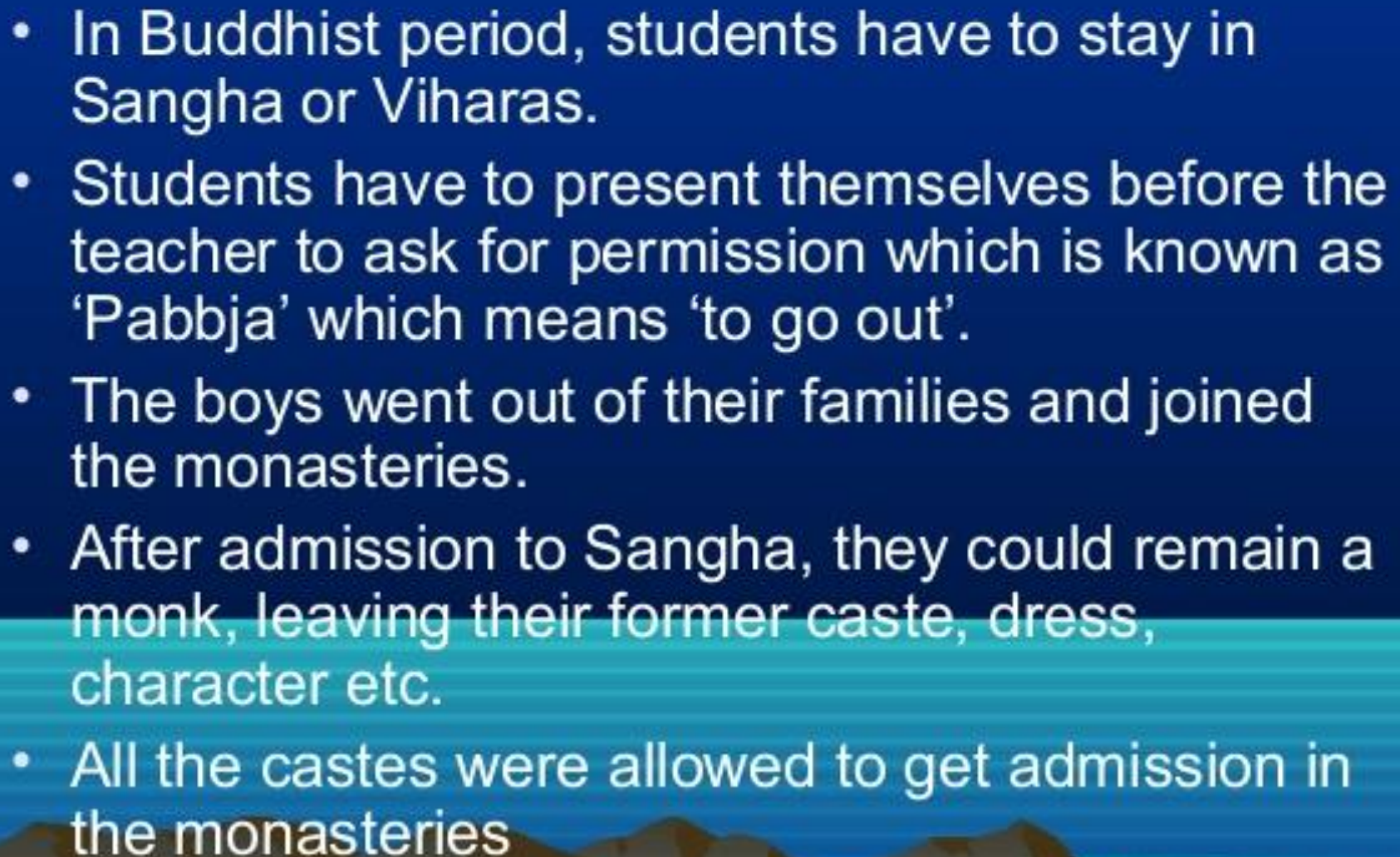
- Buddha believes in Law of Karma
- Present existence of the individual is the effect of past Karma
- He believes in Rebirth
- Buddhist Philosophy doesn't believe in God
- The place of God is taken by the universal doctrine of Karma which governs the universe in such a way that no fruit of action is lost. A man gets what he deserves on the basis of his past deeds.
- Nirvan – It is the state of great pleasure and peace which can be attained through wisdom goodness and knowledge.



# Primary education

- The age for starting primary education was 6years.
- Children have to study a children book named SIDDHIRASTU during first six months in which there were 16 chapters and 49 alphabets.
- In the beginning children imitate the pronunciation of teacher after that they start writing.
- Teaching method was oral and cramming was emphasised.
- The medium of instruction was Pali language.

# System of Education

- In Buddhist period, students have to stay in Sangha or Viharas.
  - Students have to present themselves before the teacher to ask for permission which is known as 'Pabbja' which means 'to go out'.
  - The boys went out of their families and joined the monasteries.
  - After admission to Sangha, they could remain a monk, leaving their former caste, dress, character etc.
  - All the castes were allowed to get admission in the monasteries
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# Pabbja Samskar

- Minimum mandatory age for entering Viharas was 8 years.
- The entrance was permitted to students after shaving their heads, wearing yellow clothes and requesting the head monk of the Sanghas to allow them for admission.
- The monk asked them to take three vows – 'I go into the shelter of Buddha. I seek the shelter of Dharma. I enter the shelter of Sangha
- No-one could get admission without the consent of his parents.
- Patients of infectious diseases, government servants, slaves and soldiers were not allowed to be admitted to Sangha.



# Rules for students

- Admitted students were called 'samner'. They had follow the following rules-
- Not to kill any living being.
- Not to accept anything given to him.
- Live free from the impurity of character.
- Not to tell a lie.
- Not to use any intoxicating thing.
- Not to take food in improper time.
- Not to speak ill of anybody.
- Not to take interest in music, dance, play show etc.
- Not to use luxurious and scented things.
- Not to accept the gifts of gold or silver.

- The ten rules were essentially observed by the new monk. The teacher was called 'upjasya' , took all the responsibilities of the students upto the age of 20 years when they become mature and capable for 'upsampada'.





# Qualification and duties of teacher

- Bhikshus were teachers. They must have spent ten years as monk and must have the purity of character, thought and generosity.
- He must have high mental order so that he might teach his students the religion and nobleness.
- There are two categories of teacher – Acharya and Upadhaya.
- Acharya may admit number of people who would have to live with him at his own house for minimum period of 12 years. He would not accept any fees.
- Upadhaya admits the students and imparts instruction on payment of fees. His pupils were to study the part of Vedas for a temporary period.

- Teachers were responsible for the proper education of students. He had to look after their needs affectionately.
- Teachers were responsible for the mental and physical development of students.
- He has to look after them at the time of sickness.
- Teachers were very close, affectionate, good and pure.





# Daily routine of disciples

- Regular service of guru was essential.
- In the morning students would arrange for water, look after teacher's meal.
- He would cook the food, feed the teacher and clean the utensils.
- He would go out for alms.
- He has to keep the place tidy.
- He could not go anywhere without the permission of the teacher.



# School Administration

- All the educational schemes were conducted by Sanghas situated in monasteries and viharas.
- Educational institutions were based on federal system.
- Teacher and taught live together in viharas and monasteries
- There was democratic organisation of educational institution.
- The gates of Sangha were guarded by scholars called Dwar –pandits.
- One learned bhikshu was appointed head of educational institutions.
- There was no external interference in administration of Sanghas.





# Curriculum

- Buddhist education was mainly religious and its aim was to attain Nirvan.
- Buddhist philosophy believes that women, wealth and ornaments are the real bindings so only those can achieve salvation who leads non-attached life i.e. monk like.
- The curriculum was religious which included teachings of Buddha and Dharma-shastras and Sutta, Vinaya and Dhamma Pitak.
- Vedas ,puranas,grammar,astrology,astronomy,vidangas Medicine,magic ,ayurveda,politics, culture,mathematics etc were included in the curriculum for general students.
- The knowledge of sanskrit was necessary for higher education.
- The study of elephants ,horses,archery ,snake charming was also there.
- Thus both worldly and spiritual aspect of education were included



# Methods of teaching

- Method of teaching were based on oral dicussions,preaching,repition, debates were used as techniques of teaching and learning.
- Seminars were also conducted to discuss major issues.
- Mental and moral development was emphasised to attain Bodhisattva.
- Although art of writing was developed but due to shortage of writing material the method of teaching was verbal.
- The methods of teaching were question –answer, discussion,logical arguments,tours,coferences arranged on full moon day and first day of month,meditation in solitude.
- Other method of teaching was evidences which were – theory,cause,example,cotradictio,evidence,argument and induction.
- The medium of instruction was common language.
- The centres of education were Takshshila,N alanda and Kashi.





# Women education

- Previously women were not allowed to get education.
- But after the request of his disciple Anand Buddha allowed women to enter the Sangha.
- Bhikshus are not permitted to give education to women in alone.
- Women were considered inferior to men.
- General women were not allowed to get education



# Vocational education

- Bhikshus were given various types of education in handicrafts weaving.stitching of clothes etc.
- Agriculture,trade,commerce,animal-husbandary werealso taght.
- Education inarchitecture,sculptureand painting helped in construction of beautiful monastries
- Education of medical science is the gift of Buddhist period Charak Dhanvantari were the great Ayurveda acharya.



# Demerits of Buddhist Education

- Decline of Buddhism.
- Weakness of country.
- Hatred for handwork.
- Neglect of women education.
- Neglect of worldly life.



# Contributions to Indian education

- Provision of vocational education.
- Provision of education of worldly subjects.
- Encouragement to local languages.
- Provision of primary education.
- Democratic organisation of educational Institutions.
- Centre of International Education.





Thank you