



SOCIAL LIFE SKILL IN PANCHATANTRA

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Abstract

Life is a management and life itself demands the management skills. Even the educated people lack this skill though they are highly educated. Such skill has to be learnt and from where it comes is not important. Hence this paper focuses on the management skills depicted in popular story book Panchatantra. The ancient language and Pandora of knowledge, Sanskrit has so many things to offer to human being of the world and one among them is 'Management skill' especially from Panchatantra. Panchatantra means five techniques such as Mitrabedha, Mitra samprapti, Kakulookiya, aparikshitakaraka and Labdhapranasha. Each technique has unique message to offer to the readers but here only management skill is described. This book is authored by Vishnusharma who wrote this book to educate the dull headed princes. The management skill in Panchatantra is an abstract of II technique 'mitrasamprapti' of Panchatantra. The purpose of this paper is to show the management skill required in office, house etc. Here the king of pigeon Chitragreeva's affection towards his followers, Hiranyaka and Laghupatanaka conversation about friendship and more teaches us the Managing our profession and personal life.

Key words- Management, Panchatantra, Skill, Technique, Education

The ancient language Sanskrit has many knowledge streams like Philosophy, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Botany, Stories, and Economics etc. and has many things to offer to the world of science and Society. Sanskrit's story literature is very popular in the world because Panchatantra of Sanskrit was translated in to other languages before centuries.

The origin of Indian fables can be traced back to the ancient times in the life of Vedic Indians. The tales existing among the people were later on used for the purpose of inculcating the knowledge. Vedic literature has abundant stories and conversations available in Brahmanas and Upanishads. Sarama, a female dog preaches Panis to give alms. Pururava-Urvashi conversations and Yama-Yami conversation are very popular which hold the key for the origin of fables. In the tenth Mandala of Rigveda, a monkey becomes the favorite of Indra. There are many stories and conversations available in Upanishads narrated by animals and sages. Even the great epic like Mahabharata narrates Yayati Upakhyana, Chyavana and Nalopakhyaana etc. Mahabharata also narrates some animal related stories like the cunning cat, the clever Jackal, the gold spitting birds etc. So after going through all these one can confidently claim that India was the cradle of stories and taught the virtues through stories.

This very own logic can be traced even in Panchatantra.

Panchatantra is a book of fables but it teaches the values of life and administration skills. This paper mainly focuses on administration skills and definition of friendship. In the Mitrasamprapti technique which devoted to examining mainly the acquisition of friends. The Mitrasamprapti has been laid to explain the advantages of having good friends. The author, in the very beginning, shows the utmost importance of practical wisdom and political insight for the accomplishment of one's purposes. In the beginning itself a Sanskrit hymn says

Asaadhana api prajnaa buddhimanto bahushrutaa |

Saadhayantyaashu kaaryaani kaaka-Akhu-mruga-kUrmavat ||

It means, wise, Intelligent and well informed people, though devoid of means and equipment succeed in the tough tasks instantly like crow, turtle, deer and the mice.

This hymn explains the importance of intelligence and wisdom.

Managing followers-

The Chitragreeva story of Mitrasamprapti depicts management skill very well. There lived a crow on a banyan tree in a city called Mahilaropya. Once Crow saw a hunter and cautioned its fellow dweller in the tree but the king of pigeon called Chitragreeva got entrapped in it with his followers. At that time when hunter approaching, chitragreeva encourages its followers thus-

Vyasaneshveva sarveshu yasya buddhirna hiyate |

Sa tesham paaramabhyeti tatprabhaavadasamShayam ||

It means, whose intelligence doesn't become defunct in all kind of miseries, overcomes them undoubtedly through the influence of intellect, Here poet advices the reader that even in miseries one should not be disheartened and he should use his intellect. This is the life skill to be learnt by present youths because today youngsters are losing their lives for silly reasons.

Friendship in Life

Then the pigeons flew in the sky with net, hunter chased it some distance and lost the hope of getting them and returned. At that time author gives an advice that-

Na hi bhavati yanna bhaavyam bhavati ca bhaavyam vinaapi yatnena |

Karatalagatamapi nashyati yasya hi bhavitavyataa naasti ||

If something is destined then it can't be lost and it comes to the person without any effort but if it is not then even with great effort it won't. What is not destined to remain in one's possession

that though placed upon one's palm vanishes. Here author opines that one should know that everything we get in the world is destined to us, so committing suicide or feeling sad is not for not getting wealth, love etc. is height of foolishness.

After this incident Chitrageeva reached his friend Hiranyaka, a mouse to get released from the net. When Hiranyaka comes to release king of the pigeon first, he says 'release my followers first because leaving their family they are roaming with me'. At this time author gives a piece of advice to readers which can be followed everywhere. It goes thus-

Yaha sammanam sadaa date bhrutyanaam kshitipodhikam |

Vittabhaavepi tam drushtvaa te tyajanti na karhichit ||

It means, King who respects his workers most, even in his downfall they won't leave him. This advice is very apt for present companies, schools or any place where there are owner and servants. After that King of the pigeon also tells that

Kaarunyam saMvibhaagascha yasya bhrutyeshu sarvadaa |

Sambhavetsa mahIpaalastrailokyasyaapi rakshaNe ||

Means, when a king feels comfort even his servants are perishing then he goes to hell. King who is kind hearted on his servants he is capable of protecting the three worlds. Then all the pigeons released by mouse return to their destination.

After this incident author reveals the importance of friendship. He tells that

Mitravaansaadhayantyarthaandussaadhyaanapi vai yataha |

Tasmaanmitraani kurvita samaanaanyeva caatmanaha ||

Means, A person succeeds in his uphill task with the help friend, hence one should befriend equal to his own self. This advice of author is very important to human being because friends are important in life. He also says that even a perfect person should have friend like an ocean which filled with water but waits for Moonrise. This the beauty of friendship quoted in Panchatantra.

Befitting friend

Soon after the king of pigeon left, crow Laghupatanaka approached Hiranyaka for friendship but Hiranyaka's reply to that is really thought provoking. When Crow ask for friendship Hiranyaka says-

Yayoreva samam vittam yayoreva samam kulam |

Tayormaitri vivaahascha na tu pushtavipushtayoho ||

It means, one should befriend the person with equal status and race, even friendship and marriage also with equal status but not with strong and weak. Then it continues that one should not befriend an enemy even with strong treaty because very hot water also extinguishes the fire. Actually there are two types of enmity natural and temporary. You are my natural enemy and this enmity doesn't end without the death. Mouse says-

Krutrimam naashamabhyeti vairam draakkrutrimairgunaihi |

Praanadaanam vinaa vairam saham yaati na kshayam ||

Means, temporary enmity ends with some qualities but natural (sahajam) enmity ends only with life. Then crow tries to woo the mouse by telling that enmity and friendship rise due to situation so clever people choose friendship but not enmity. Hence I promise you to make you fearless. Having heard this Mouse says 'I don't believe your promise because it is said-

Na vadhyate hyavishvasto durbalopi balotkataihi |

Vishvastaaschaasu badhyante balavantopi durbalaihi ||

Means, if a weak person doesn't rely on anybody then he will not be killed but even strong person be killed if he believes weak people. After long conversation both befriend each other and author explains the real love between the friends thus-

Dadati pratigruhnati guhyamakhyati pruchchati |

Bhunkte bhojayate chaiva shadvidham pritilakshanam ||

There are six qualities of love like giving, receiving, telling secret and listening, eating and feeding.

Conclusion- Society is the heart of a nation. If society is perfect then nation also stands good. Indian literatures always try to inculcate virtues to the people of the society through conversations and stories. The Vedas and Epics are famous among them. One more famous book which can be included in this category is Panchatantra. This book is world famous and taught the world that how to teach through stories. The 'mitrasamprapti' technique of Panchatantra narrates the leader's quality and friendship qualities. These two are very important quality of human beings which help the smooth function of human life. So Panchatantra is not only a book for children but also a book of elders.

