Article published on December 28th 2011 | K-12 Education

The natural world has something to offer everyone. Nature can be called the treasure house of knowledge. Every time nature teaches us something as we come close to it. Likewise in human development, nature plays a vital role. In ancient India, the Gurukul system was prevalent in which the children were educated in a scenario close to nature. The students in the Gurukul led a life of seclusion where they were given formal education on how to upgrade the self, how to lead a worthy life.

In the later period, Rabindranath Tagore, who was dissatisfied with the western model of education, felt that the Gurukul system had several merits and could prove useful in educating the children of India. He felt that having classes in the natural surroundings actually helped build their character and sense of appreciation. Thus began an innovative system of open air classrooms in Shantiniketan. Experiences and education is core to the development of a child. An outdoor classroom style fosters learning through exploration, creativity, cooperative activities, and non-competitive games. In a natural environment, children try to solve problems or create something new that they find intriguing and beautiful.

The children are also given the live example of nature while taught by their gurus. It is important for every child to master their basic skills but that by it not enough. Research shows that children master skills easily when they learn them in a realistic context. In modern day schools ample importance is laid on offering the children a natural environment so that they can develop holistically. The schools promote yoga and physical training classes in close relation to nature. According to experts, yoga can help develop the much needed focusing techniques in children with scattered spans of attention.

Yoga can become a major way for them to remain balanced and focused. It can balance the dynamics of rapid growth by enabling the growing bodies of children to stretch. Parents in the present the day have also become conscious in setting their homes as close to nature as possible. Research has shown that children spending more time in a natural setting develop their creative expertise. So the need is now to look back into our past where nature was the prime source of inspiration and implement the natural learning system in our schools so that the children can broaden their imagination to the fullest.

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Article Keywords:
Top 10 CBSE Schools in Hyderabad , Top 10 International Schools in Bangalore , Top 10 Schools in Chandigarh

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