

## 日印の道徳教育に関する比較研究

## Comparative Study of Moral Education between Japan and India

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## [要 旨 Abstract]

Why Japanese school is leading in moral and values education? We examine the comparative study of moral education between Japan and India. Both Japan and India are constantly working hard towards improving the educational standards, mental health, happiness of their country's student's population. In Japan, Moral education is imbibed in the minds of young children from the very first day that they go to the schools. In the school, children learn only basic manners for first four years of their pre-schooling. They learn to talk politely, using magic words like sorry and thank you very frequently. Also, they are given lessons on how to behave in public places, they are usually taken for a walk to garden or park nearby the school with the teachers. Also, given a chance to observe plants and trees around them. They are taught how to take care of plants and animals and consider them as a living being. But, some factors are constantly becoming obstacles for those achievements. As a teacher our duty is to make our children good human beings, responsible family members of their family and civilized citizens of the country. They should be good in their academic performances, but they have to be the best in their values and ethics. As a teacher we should realize our duty and should work to bring changes in the society.

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**1. Moral Education between Japan and India**

Why Japan is leading in moral and values education? The first author Dhingra Ekta had come from India, and stayed in Japan for last more than one year on the research scholarship program by MEXT, and studied moral and value education on topics like morality, education, guidance and counselling, teacher education, cross cultural understanding, teaching methods and methodology etc., and visited different schools and observing various classes of different levels. I have listed out few points about the Japan moral education system. In the following, she will discuss those points in detail, and express some thoughts on those points.

**1. Character before education**

In Japan, Moral education is imbibed in the minds of young children from the very first day that they go to the schools. In the school, children learn only basic manners for first four years of their pre-schooling. They learn to talk politely, using magic words like sorry and thank you very frequently. Also, they are given lessons on how to behave in public places, they are usually taken for a walk to garden or park nearby the school with the teachers. Also, given a chance to observe plants and trees around them. They are taught how to take care of plants and animals and consider them as a living being.

These activities help children in developing the attitude of thinking for others before themselves from their childhood days. As a result, they grow up to be to be adults of high moral and values. Thus, we can say that Japan gives more importance to the character education of children compared to the education of the other countries.

## **2. DIGNITY FOR WORK is taught in schools.**

In Japan, dignity for work, respect for hard work, equality of work is taught to students in the school. Japan is famous for not hiring janitors in the school, as students themselves have to clean their school campus, the classes, the corridors by themselves before the school begins in the morning. A good thing done to keep the building and the campus clean is – everyone entering the school has to change their shoes -from the outside ones to the inside shoes which are provided by the school itself. This helps in keeping the buildings clean, keeping the floors dust free and valuing the contribution of every student in keeping the school campus dust free.

Another common activity in Japanese schools is that the food is prepared in the mess by the professionals, but that is served by the school students to their classmates. Their roles are rotated monthly. They all wear proper hair caps, aprons, hand gloves and distribute the food to all the students of their class. Followed by, all begin to eat together saying “itadakimasu” at the beginning of the food and “Gochisousama deshita,” when the eating ends.

These two activities are the proof that if students are taught the importance of life saving skills from the young age, they develop respect for all the community helpers in the society. This can help to diminish the social and economic disparities prevailing in the society. Children cleaning their school by themselves and children serving food to each other will grow with morality.

## **3. The societal environment around the children**

Many psychological theories talk about the two factors that are important for the growth and development of children. They are heredity and environment. Thus, environment plays a great role in the development of a children.

Japanese children are fortunate enough that they have high moral values in both the factors. The genes they are getting from the parents are already imbued with good values, morals, and ethics. Also, the environment they are nurtured in, they get ample of opportunities to observe those values, morals, and ethics in the people’s behavior. Japan is an extremely sophisticated society where people think for others before themselves.

They talk very politely and gently, and respect everybody’s privacy. Thus, growing up in such a perfect example of morality is contributing a lot in making children highly moral and ethical in their actions and attitude. The courtesy of saying “thank you” for some good gesture and “sorry” by bowing head is seen everywhere in Japan.

## **4. Behavior of teacher towards students**

During the visits to Japanese schools, we could have observed that teachers are extremely polite and caring in Japan. No loud shouts, no scolds, no punishments and no forceful study is done in classes. In such peaceful environment, one cannot even think of any kind of corporal punishment in the Japanese classrooms for students.

Now question arises - What they do to motivate the students ? The answer to this is, they have a great trick of “praising the children” wholeheartedly at their smallest achievements.

For that purpose, also they don’t use the one word appraisals like ‘well done’ or ‘great job’ rather they say- “thank you for sitting nicely”, “thank you for behaving so well in the class today”, “thank you for completing your homework”, “thank you for doing work in time”, “thank you for answering the questions” etc. When children see this kind of behavior every day in their classroom, without any conscious effort they adopt this behavior and it comes naturally into their own day to day routine.

## **5. Students study in a natural environment**

During the school visits, it has been observed that there is no pressure from teacher principals or any other authority on students to exhibit some specific behavior on the day of any external visits in the classrooms. They are free to study the way they want to, even if they are not listening to teacher rather searching something on their iPads that is completely accepted. I appreciate this kind of attitude where students are free to learn the way they like.

Also, there is no burden to copy the content from the black board in their notebooks, they have permissions to click the pictures in their iPads and complete their work later. This kind of joyful and free environment in the classroom keeps children a high in their spirits and good in their mental health. Also, they love coming to school, studying, learning new things and enjoying with friends.

So Japanese education system provides children a burden less, natural and joyful environment in the classroom. They don't believe in fake exhibitions of discipline and hard rules even during the inspection days. Students are listening to the teachers as well as using their iPad to understand the content. The school buses also give them a happy journey to school.

#### **6. No burden of learning three or four languages**

Anything learned by children in their own language lasts forever in his mind. Japanese education system holds this statement strongly, and prove it correct. Here, we see all the subjects in Japanese language, and it is a blessing for the students, they need not spend hours in learning a foreign language in order to attain the knowledge of different subjects up to the university level they can get any degree be it - engineering, medical, education, accounts, law etc. in their own language.

Thus, teachers have ample of time to spend in imparting the morals and ethics to the children. All teaching-learning takes place in their own language which leaves permanent impressions in their mind and also, they feel connected to it. Moral education lessons are given in their own language using different methods (JAPANESE LANGUAGE).

#### **7. The peculiar expressions in Japanese language**

The language Japanese itself has various expressions to make conversation highly ethical, and we usually don't find such things in any other language which makes a person's behavior sophisticated, gentle, and polite .

For example expressions like Arigatou gozaimasu (ありがとうございます) – Thank you. Sumimasen (すみません) – I'm sorry/excuse me ( for anything from apologising ). Gomen nasai (ごめんなさい) – I'm sorry (“I'm truly sorry from the bottom of my heart.”.) Yoroshiku onegaishimasu (よろしくおねがいます) – I'm in your debt! (Hint: a way to say “thank you” to someone you are counting on or indebted to.) “otsukaresamadesu” - thanks for the hard work you put in, “iro iro o-sewa ni narimasu”- thanks for your help in advance Gochisousama deshita (ごちそうさまでした) – That was delicious (Hint: say this after meals as a way to say thank you.) Ohisashiburi desu ne(お久しぶりですね) – Long time no see.

Such polite and occasional expressions are often used by Japanese students, even when they are talking to their classmates, colleagues or friends. Thus, the language itself imbibes soft skills, good expressions, good manners and discipline among the students.

#### **8. The busy students life**

Another reason of high moral and good attitude of Japanese students is the busy life of students. Every day after school hours, students go to their respective clubs for the different activities. They get back home after the club activities that is, in the evening. So, they spend the whole day in the school studying and doing different activities. Consequently, they are exhausted when they reach home and are left with no time to do any nuisance inside the house or go for any unethical practices in the society. Also, when they grow up to become University

students to bear their expenses, they have to do part time jobs along with their studies, projects, research experiments and presentations.

Students giving presentations in the class related to a topic shouldn't have to do different activities like preparing projects, giving presentations, making charts, group activities, role play, drama. So, they are busy for the complete school day. Thus, in entire life of a student they don't get time to spend in wrong practices. So, they grow up to be highly responsible and disciplined citizens.

### **9. Rules are made to follow, not to break**

Japan is a country of rules. The rules are not just followed here, rather people worship them. All the children have deeply imprinted in their minds that no matter what you have to abide by the rules of the society. For example, punctuality, honesty, gratitude, thanksgiving, hard work, contentment, discipline are a few of the qualities imbibed in every child who is born and brought up in Japan.

One is surprised to see that all the people from kids to adults and aged ones follow the rules religiously. This is also a motivating factor to the school children to have highly moral attitude. As an international student I also want to say, I am highly impressed by the Japanese society, the way people talk, their behavior with others, the mutual respect for all and are always ready to help. When a foreigner comes to Japan and observes the society- appreciate it, and tries to imbibe all the good qualities in his or her own behavior. I have huge respect for this level of values and discipline in Japan.

### **10. Moral education, an important part of curriculum**

Japan has fixed curriculum of moral education. Their school education is designed in such a way that moral lessons are given in every classroom using textbooks and it is a compulsory subject at all the levels in school age. The contents of moral education lessons are categorized by four perspectives, which are summarized by the following four pillars that teachers can use to instruct students:

(1) About the self: people are independent, they do what they can do themselves, and live moderately. (2) About relationships with other people: people know the importance of courtesy and communicate honestly with other people. (3) About relationships with nature and sublime things: People are moved by the magnificence and wonder of nature and feel the importance of nature and living things. (4) About groups and society: people keep promises, follow rules, and have a sense of public duty. Thus, the books help teachers with age appropriate and psychologically refined content and also prevent them from the burden of searching different resources. The best thing about the Japanese moral lessons is that the content is uniform across the country with results in every child in Japan is studying the same values and content related to morality. Consequently, they all develop as a person with high values, morals and intellects. The pictures of Moral Education Lessons from a school in Japan.

### **11. Hard working teachers**

The teachers in Japan work extremely hard and with mere dedication. The morality lessons are no less as compared to the other mainstream subjects. Morality lessons are given every day and they include story reading, discussion over the values, interaction among students and teachers, worksheet practice, giving your own view etc. which makes student think and answer. Thus, enabling students to think critically and morally at the same time to reach a conclusion. At higher classes instead of using storytelling, teachers use situational questions in which students are given some ethical dilemmas to solve with justified reasons. When students think on them to analyze the situation completely and finally reach at the conclusion, they realize the practical utility of the and learn to reach the solution of a problem keeping morals and ethics in mind. Regular study of this kind of content instills in them a responsible behavior toward society and its member. It also boosts the confidence in

the students to take right decision anytime, anywhere in their life. Teachers use ICT, black board, worksheets, gestures all at the same time to Teach.

### **12. Japanese are well paying people**

Japan is an economy where the wages depend on the time not on the work. That means you are paid equal amount of money no matter what work you are doing. So, children are not greedy here. There is no feeling of having more and more in Japanese people they are quite contented with what they have. They follow the path - to earn more money you have to work more. They are imbued with values like, - only hard work can fetch you more money and they never try to earn money using unethical and illegal means. Same thing is taught to children in their school, society and everywhere. Children grow up with a mindset of - “the more you work hard the more money you will make.” Also, it is rare to find a lazy Japanese person. They all are highly active, intelligent and workaholics. They do their work with responsible attitude and mere dedication.

### **13. Different Activities are used for giving value education**

In Japan value education forms an important part of school education. Teachers try hard to imbibe all the good values morals and ethics in the student’s character and make them good human beings. For this task they not only use stories, books, worksheets etc. Rather different activities like role play and dramas are also employed for the students to feel the real essence of the world in the classroom. Also, they learn to act accordingly. In these dramas students learn many things like how to behave, the formal language, respecting the client, talking politely, using magical words like thank you, Sorry etc. Following are the pictures in which students have organized the stalls of different games. And with great respect they are talking to the customers who come to their stalls and let them play the games. In this school I observed a new thing that is whenever children are praised by the teacher or whenever they have to say thank you, they don’t just say thank you Rather they say a complete sentence “ Thank you, I am happy” and this is a good way which can make a child realize that whenever you feel happy you should be thankful to the person, that makes you happy .Students are practicing good speaking manners with an activity of “games stalls” in the classrooms. They are playing as stall owners and other people as their customers.

### **14. Soft skills are nurtured from the school life**

Japan is a society which is not only technologically advanced rather culturally preserved. Not only they are known for using the latest technology, for making every innovations, for doing high magnitude experiments but also they are well known for their soft skills. The education system works to develop good behavior and gentle attitude in the children . For example, children are taught to use “please” before every sentence when they ask somebody a favor.

For example, 1 “Two coffee please” (kofi ga futatsu,onegaishimasu), 2 “The red bag ,please”.(akai,onegaishimasu), 3 “five packets, please” (itsusu packet,onegaishimasu).

Also, when they request someone for some action - 1. “please eat” (tabete Kudasai). 2. “please drink” (nonde kudasai). 3 “please sit” (suwatte kudasai). The Japanese language has these two words which are frequently used in the Japanese society Thus children speak these words frequently for any help or at the shops or at the restaurants so that the person providing services also feel dignified. Thus, the young kids grow up to be the adults with good soft skills and respect towards everyone.

My suggestions to make education more lively and involving. Although, Japanese Education system is one of the best in the world and their results in Pisa is great evidence to support it. Still, I want to add something. I have visited the schools and found everything on right place, in right manner, in accordance with rules but one thing that I missed was the liveliness in the school environment and on the faces of children. Students are highly

involved in studies and they lack interest in the co-curricular activities. Studies play a vital role in one's life, help in understanding the things, scoring good grades, getting good job and securing the future life but co-curricular activities add values to life. They help to follow passions, fighting loneliness and depressions, in establishing different marks in the world. They make children highly expressive and helps in social development of the child.

I would suggest to make following activities a part of Japanese school curriculum:-

**1. Community singing** - Once a week, the whole school should sing a common song (related to values like patriotism) together in the assembly ground to make children develop love for their nation. They will feel pride in being Japanese and will work hard to make their country develop.

### **2. Fancy Dress Competition**

A event in which children dress up like some special personality/object and speak a dialogue related to that. It is generally theme based which help the parents to choose the dress of the child. Themes can be - Freedom Fighter/ Digital Era / Fruit - Vegetables / Animals -birds/ Community helpers/ Nature / Different means of transport / Folk of different countries. Etc. - depending upon level of the students and the occasion. Participants of Fancy Dress Competition.

### **3. Extempore**

Extempore speech is a sudden collection of thoughts culminating into a self-composed speech, the topic for which one receives then and there. No prior preparation for which is permissible. Extempore speech is typically used to gain a deeper knowledge of a participant' thoughts and mindset. The art of delivering extempore speeches develops in the children the characteristic of a public speaker. Furthermore, being able to present the extempore topic to the audience without any proper preparation is a genuinely exceptional achievement.

It is done using chits in the classroom. A box is kept with so many chits in it and a child is randomly called to pick up a chit and speak few lines on the topic written on that chit. The topics may be related to the level of the children and the present day scenario for example - water, air, environment, my country, our homeland, my favorite food, my favorite fruit, my mother, my father, my family, my weekend, The country I want to visit, my experience of helping someone, my favorite food, the recipe of my favorite dish etc. These kinds of activities make the child to think instantly and present his views in front of others, which improves child's knowledge, vocabulary, enhances confidence and removes hesitation of public speaking. It is one of the best activities to improve the language skills of the children. Thus, it helps in the all-round personality development of a child.

### **4. Dance**

Dance is a holistic activity for the mind, body and the soul. With a dance class, students have something to look forward to and they get to do what they like. Also, many students who are generally introverts get a platform to express themselves and their personality starts reflecting positively after attending dance classes. Not only do they learn dance, engage in a physical activity but also experience something that highlights their spirit. It can also be taken as an activity to strengthen the body and make children physically strong.

Students of primary classes performing dance on the stage in school. "Dance can help restore joy and stability in troubled lives and ease the tensions in schools that are disrupted by violence and bullying". Different dances from different states of India.

### **5. Role play**

Drama is a very valuable tool for exploring issues, making learning memorable, encouraging cooperation and empathy. Drama is also great for creating an opportunity for learners to communicate with others. Role play demonstrates how to use language in real life with a focus on communication. Drama and role play activities in groups are inclusive and involve all learners in active participation and social interaction. It enables children to feel for others and being expressive to others. During role playing, learn to feel same as the character and being



expressive In India, these roles play dramas are also called “Nukkad Natak”. They are performed by students in schools and universities to make people aware of the issues related to society and environment.

One thing more, I have observed in Japan is “loneliness” prevailing in the society everywhere. People here tend to be alone in their life, alone in the coffee shops and restaurants. Also, they do not talk to anyone. While talking to children I found, they are less closer to their family members and more to their pets. This kind of situation is not good for a society like Japan where human values are always worshiped. In India we have a saying “the family that eats together, the family that prays together always stays together”. It should be followed in Japan. The teachers should encourage the parents and children to spend time together in the following ways.

**1. They should eat together** - At least one meal of the day should be eaten together with the family members and discussing about the activities of the day.

**2. Pray together** - All the family members should pray together once in a week, they all should go to a shrine or temple and should pray together that can also act as a binding force between the family.

### **3. Playing family games**

There are many games both outdoor and indoor which parents and children can play together. So, on holidays they should play those games and spend a quality time.

### **4. Cooking together**

Most of the time it is seen that mothers are always busy in cooking food and doing the household works. On holidays, the family members should work together and cook some special dish. They should all eat it together and enjoy it.

These things if followed religiously can result in making the family bonding in Japan stronger and soon the problem of loneliness will be vanished from the society. And if teachers will start working in this direction encouraging the children to take care of their family members, their parents, their grandparents and visit them regularly we can hope that in the coming future we can see a rise in the family bonding and affection in Japan. On these notes I would like to end my report. I wish to take all the good values and habit from the Society of Japan back to my country and want to teach my country people how to live in harmony with nature and human beings in the present era. I am full of gratitude towards MEXT and all the people in GIFU University who made my stay easier, interesting, informative and comfortable in Japan. I wish to stay here for more, but I have to go back to my country and continue my work there. If I will get chance, I would like to visit this beautiful country and learn a lot more things.

## **CONCLUSION**

Both Japan and India are constantly working hard towards improving the educational standards, mental health, happiness of their country’s student’s population. But, some factors are constantly becoming obstacles for those achievements. As a teacher our duty is to make our children good human beings, responsible family members of their family and civilized citizens of the country.

They should be good in their academic performances, but they have to be the best in their values and ethics. As a teacher we should realize our duty and should work to bring changes in the society.

### **My Acknowledgement**

I’m thankful to my professor Dr. Yaginuma Ryota for giving me the chance to come to Japan as his student, to Gifu University for allowing me to study in the university classes and to join Gifu University language school. I am again thankful to my professor who took me to different schools to observe how teaching-learning takes place in the classrooms of Japan. I have observed many new things, and I want to take it back with me to my country. I have learnt many new things related to school education, moral education, value education, English

and language education during my stay of about 18 months in Japan, particularly in Gifu. I was not aware of Japanese language before entering Japan, but here with the help of university language classes and the environment, I could improve my Japanese language level, both reading and writing. Japan has taught me a different perspective for life that is -how can we live a good life even in difficulties weather and limited resources also it taught me that we should think for others before thinking for ourselves. Thinking for others and doing good for others gives us a sense of satisfaction and contentment which we cannot get in any other work.

Japan is a present-day example of a country which is technologically advanced and culturally preserved at the same time. If you see the innovations in different sectors in Japan, they are tremendous, but also Japan gives you a brief and deep view into their long back cultures, traditions, habits and routines. It teaches us that to rise high in this world, you strongly need to stay connected to your roots behind. No country can lead the world only based on the present day cultural and technological advancements. They have to take along the historical achievements and deep-rooted trends. This is what Japan is doing and teaching its forthcoming generations.