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Science and Scientific Elements in Sanskrit

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Introduction

One can be proud of the fact that Sanskrit is not only the language, but a collection of knowledge, a vast treasure house of various disciplines like linguistics, Mathematics, Astrology, Philosophy, Religion, History, Geography, Art, Archeology, Architecture and Natural Science like Chemistry, Biology, Botany, Medical Science, Engineering, Agriculture, Horticulture, Cosmology, Ecology, Physics, and Computer Science etc. Vedic literature, the oldest resource of Indian wisdom undoubtedly possessed seed of scientific knowledge. The Science of Geometry and Astronomy developed in the early Vedic age for the purpose of the construction of Vedic altars and for performing Vedic sacrifice. After the study of Sanskrit literature and Vedas we find several scientific elements in all the Sanskrit branches. Sanskrit is also world best scientific and suitable language for computer.

Elements of Medical Science

There are several Medical Scientific elements can be seen in Vedic Sanskrit. Indian medical science Ayurveda contains vast sphere of Knowledge about human body. Works like *Ashtanga Samhita*, *Sushruta Samhita*, *Madhava Nidana* contain matters on diagnosis cure of all types of ailments. Yoga system due to its Scientific approach in becoming the universal system for healthy body. Zoological Elements We find that Sanskrit literature contains sufficient scientific elements in Zoology. *Purushasukta* refers three types of creatures, the flying birds, the wild and rustic Animals^[1]. In the Vedanta philosophy creatures classified in to four kinds *Jarayuja*, *Aṅḍaja*, *Swadeja*, *Udbhidaja*

Ecological Elements

As regards Botany, One can find names, utility and beauty of various trees, creepers, flowers, leaves fruits etc in Puranic and Vedic literature. In the Sanskrit play of Kalidasa' *Abhigyan Shakuntalam* Can be seen several Ecological elements as-

पातुं न प्रथमं व्यवस्यति जलं युष्मास्वपीतेषु या
नादत्ते प्रियमण्डनापि भवतां स्नेहेन या पल्लवम् ।
आद्येवः कुसुमप्रसूति समये यस्या भवत्युत्सवः
सेयं याति शकुन्तला पति गृहं सर्वैरनुज्ञायताम् ॥^[2]

Geographical elements

There are many geographical elements in Vedic Sanskrit and Sanskrit literature. In Vedic Sanskrit as

यस्यां समुद्र उत सिन्धुरापो यस्यामन्नं कृष्टयः संबभूवुः ।^[3]

Also the Meghadutam we can find several geographical elements as - hills, ways, reverse etc.

वक्रः पन्था यदपि भवतः प्रस्थितस्योत्तराशां,
सौधोत्संगप्रणयविमुखो मास्म भूरुजयिन्या ।^[4]

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Zoological Elements

We find that Sanskrit literature contains sufficient scientific elements in Zoology. पुरुषसूक्त refers three types of creatures, the flying birds, the wild and rustic Animals. In the Vedanta philosophy creatures classified in to four kinds like जरायुज, अप्ण्डज, स्वदेज, उद्भिदज Agricultural Elements In the Vedic literature there are various mantras of Agriculture as

सुसस्याः कृषिश्कृषिः।^[5]
कृषिश्च मे यज्ञेन कल्पन्ताम्।^[6]

In the above mantras, Direction given for good Agricultural Elements.

Elements of Computer Science

The use of Computer and internet has brought revolution in the field of Sanskrit Studies. Some technical Institutions have prepared data base of Sanskrit language in Scientific Manner. Some IIT,s are offering diploma course in Vedic Computer Science. Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, has completed Ist Phase of Sanskrit net Project.

Mathematical Elements

There is a clear evidence that Bodhayana knew what is known as Pythagoras's theorem in geometry long before Pythagoras. A presentation based on 2-valued logic is not adequate, if not impossible, outside mathematics, even today the point of What constitutes a proof is discussed in depth in nyaysastra, yoga-sutra and In the 21st century there will be less prejudice against acceptance of what indeed is a knowledge treasure in Sanskrit ^[7] Several Mathematical Methods conceived by earlier Mathematicians are found in ancient Sanskrit work.

Architectural Elements

There are many Architectural scientific elements can be found in Agnipurna, Matsyapurana, Bhavichyapurana, Vastupradeep. Material durability is an Important consideration in Civil engineering design and construction research should be conducted to Explore this aspect in Sanskrit literature. There is an urgent need of developing a resource pool of Sanskrit Scholar, Scientists and Architects, to provide sustainable logical support to the various aspects of Vastushastra ^[8].

One more science or scientific subject has come in purview of Sanskritists and that is architecture. In ancient times the art of house building was developed to a high extent. We find the name of the heaven's chief Engineer as Viswakarma and magnificent city named 'Indraprastha' in old Sanskrit texts. We see the depiction of the art of construction of building in Kamasutra, Brhatsamhita and Visnudharmottara purana. Viswakarmaprakasa of Vasudeva, Mayamatam, Samaranganasutradhara, Manasollasa of Someswara, Silparatna of Srikumar, Aparajitaprccha, Manasara are some works full of the whole technique of architecture. As we find the system of construction of a city is fully depicted in Agnipurana with all geometrical calculations. Architecture is a systematic science, which is very useful and timely and suitable even in modern times. The subject matter of architecture is found in Matsyapurana, Agnipurana, Garunpurana, Vishnudharmottarpurana etc. The art of sculpture is found fully discussed in Visnudharmottara purana.

Astrological Elements

Jyotish or Astrology is also one of the greatest Sciences which found place in ancient Sanskrit literature. Astrology is

Sanskrit has a Vast literature. The Position of Earth, planets, Stars, space and their impact on the happenings of human life is a matter of pure Scientific knowledge. It is the Vedic literature which first declared the earth in round and without any basis. Regveda states the same –

चक्राणासः परीणहं पृथिव्या हिरण्येन मणिना शुभमाना।
न हिन्वानासस्ति रुस्त इन्द्रं परिस्पशो अद्धात् सूर्येण।।^[9]

Elements of Physics

According to Vedic wangmaya Saint Atharva has got the credit to be first scientist of the entire world, because he made three Inventions related to fire as energy representative. According to Yajurveda he fire by rubbing the wood of 'Arani' tree and this fire was firstly was used in Yagya by Artharva's Son Dadhichi. In regvada also we get to the proof of fire by rubbing the wood of Arani free and by the rubbing of stones as well.

Technical Elements

The Ancient technology is the father of modern technology. Modern technology is developed on the basis of Ancient technology. In the ancient myth the Ramayan written by Valmiki, Rawan used 'Pushpak Viman' for air transportation. The Same technology is today developed as aeroplane. The several examples can be seen in our Ancient Sanskrit literature.

Elements of Military Science

The development of Military science can be traced in old sanskrit texts. We can very well see the development of this science in 'Agnipurana' Mahabharat etc. Different types of the weapons possessing killing power of fire, water, air and other elements were being used in wars. the science of rains in also discussed thoroughly in Sanskrit texts. Brihatsamhita says that if five sings namely wind, light rain, thunder and cludy sky occur in the sky. It is the time of impregnation of the clouds, then the clouds shower rains and it is process of their delivery different names is Brahtsamhita; Arthshastra, Kadambini etc.

Conclusion

In the last I have to stress that the study of Sanskrit works scientifically is need of the day. A lot of research papers, research projects have come out on these scientific elements. National and International seminars are being organized on these themes. Rani Durgavati University Jabalpur organized a three day National Seminar संस्कृत वाङ्मय में विज्ञान during 21-23 September, 2000. A great variety of Seminar have been organized on Indian astrology and medical science. Dharm Hinduja Institute of Indic Research organized the International Conference on 'Ayurveda : Modern a Global Identities " on 2-3 July, 2004 in the university of Cambridge.

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6. Yajurveda 18/9
7. Scientific Elements in Sanskrit, P- 8
8. Scientific Elements in Sanskrit, P- 124, 127
9. Regveda 1/33/8