

***Brahmacaryāśramadharmā:***  
**Towards Evolving a Students' Code for Higher Institutions of *Bhārata* in the  
Light of NEP2020**

**Abstract**

The National Education Policy (NEP2020) highlights the need to introduce students to Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) along with their underlying worldview and value systems. In this context, this thesis seeks to evolve a students' Code for Higher Institutions of *Bhārata* that will enable them to experience the optimum all-round development.

In ancient *Bhārata* or India, life was divided into four stages or *caturāśramas*, of which *brahmacaryāśrama* referred to the first phase called student life. Each stage or *āśrama* was associated with specific Codes of Conduct known as *dharma* which consists of values and their corresponding practices to achieve the highest ideal in any situation. The concept of *dharma*, in this thesis, is used interchangeably with the acronym CODE which stands for Collective Oath for Development and Excellence.

Sanskrit texts describe CODEs for students known as *brahmacaryāśramadharmā* that had to be implemented in the Ancient *Gurukula* System (AGS). In more contemporary times, we find reflections of the same in the writings of modern Indian Seer-Educationists (SeE) like Swami Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo and Rabindranath Tagore, in those of Indian Scholar-Educationists (ScE), Mahatma Gandhi, Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, APJ Abdul Kalam as well as in NEP2020.

The objectives of this thesis are to identify those values and practices prescribed for *brahmacaryāśramadharmā* from literature review; to do a comparative study to see which values are universal and unique in them pertaining to the different periods they belong to; and finally, to evolve a CODE for Higher Institutions of *Bhārata* in the light of NEP2020.

We have used a mixed methodology using the Literature Review Method and a qualitative approach with semi-structured interviews and surveys at designated institutions to understand the perceptions of contemporary students' values and practices. Finally, we analysed the data obtained to identify the top nine overarching values and practices as *navaratna* CODE or the CODE of nine gems for students. It was observed that while NEP2020 recommends the practice of universal values for students of all institutions, this study indicates that every institution also has its own unique value system over and above the universal ones that were identified based on the study, depending on the nature of its academic focus, which can be evolved through the survey of the student population.

**Key words:** NEP2020, *dharma*, Students' CODE, *brahmacaryāśramadharmā*,