ANCIENT GURU-CHELA (PRECEPTOR-DISCIPLE) TRADITION

The lustre with which the Hindus invested the word "teacher" may be gleaned from the hierarchy of their Gods, the first one is mother, the second father and the third 'Acharya' or 'Guru' or 'Teacher'. Further it is said that 'Guru Brahma', 'Guru Vishnu', 'Guru Devo Maheswara', which implies that the teacher is the creator, the sustainer and the ultimate liberator.

He was the embodiment of all the virtues, deeply learned in spiritual and temporal knowledge, leading a life of simplicity (voluntarily embraced), devotion and unsophistication. He was a man who had experienced an inner integration of mind and heart. He was "sans peur sans reproache" (without fear and without reproach). Such a teacher inspired filial love of the students and reverence of the society. For his high personal qualities, he inspired among his students affection, veneration and lifelong devotion, and was aptly called - the dispeller of darkness. The harmonious relationship between the teacher and the pupil was a pre-requisite to effective, efficacious and worthwhile education. Not only did he guide individual disciples in character building and education, he also guided the destiny of the nation by giving correct advice to the kings and the council of ministers. Even the kings bowed before him. He went on extending the horizons of his knowledge. While he lived the life of enlightenment and wisdom himself, he instilled into the minds of his pupils religious piety, ideals of brotherhood of man and fatherhood of God and thus was the pivot of the society, respected and honoured by all.

Through the peerless example of pupils like Ekalavya, (Mahabharat fame) one gains the appreciation and importance of the teachers. Ekalavya (the untouchable disciple) when refused admission by 'Drona' (The Brahmin Preceptor) to his school, completed his studies under the inspiration of the inanimate representation of his animate preceptor. Education imparted in the traditional institutions was based on Guru-Chela tradition (Teacher-Pupil tradition). It had the advantage of personal contact between the teacher and the taught and of imparting socio-cultural discipline. Knowledge was considered the third eye of man giving him insight into all affairs and teaching him how to act and this knowledge which society regarded as priceless was possible through the teacher, who was almost deified by virtue of his being an inner-directed teacher, per se understanding himself before trying to understand others, not content with dull-thought, an indolent mind or loose money. The Guru-Chela tradition and Gurukula concept is nothing but a dream in the present system of education. Those days are gone. Now education without money cannot be thought of.

It is widely accepted that the destiny of a nation is determined in her classrooms. Educational institutions are the production centres of the manpower needed for the industries, the defence and other areas of activities in the country. If the persons engaged in these areas are to function effectively, then the educational system must be a sound one suited to the socio-economic conditions of the country.
Now-a-days it is very much well known that the standard of teaching in the classroom is declining steadily. But what is the cause of such a decline? Lacuna in the selection of candidates as teacher may be a cause for this. And another cause may be the combined impact of socio-political factors on the teaching profession of the teacher. Standard is not maintained in the selection of candidates for teaching profession. Unwanted persons are entering into this profession as they consider this as an easy occupation.

Due to corruption, nepotism and favouritism during the time of selection of candidates as teachers, may hamper the standard of teaching in the class-room. This is not only due to the fault of the teachers but also for a variety of other reasons. This happens due to the bad and vague government policy. Inexperienced and untrained candidates are recruited as teachers through the selection and such candidates are unable to perform with competence and efficiency. Any scheme of education needs a team of good teachers if it is to be implemented effectively. The role of the teacher in education and in the society is changing day by day. According to the modern concept he is not only to be a classroom teacher but should be a community leader also. He is supposed to undertake extension work in addition to his class room teaching assignment.

Education aims at bringing in behavioural changes. Man's behaviours are conditioned by his psychological as well as sociological environments. Certain qualities which are essential for a good teacher are better developed in certain environments. Sociological factors like family background, caste, religion, sex, surrounding atmosphere of school and social status sometimes affect the teaching ability of teacher in the classroom. "The low social status of teachers has also contributed to the loss of idealism among pupils (Kabir : 1961).

Now the most important reason for the decline of teaching ability of teachers in the classroom is "private tuition". Private tuition refers to the process in which a teacher teaches students privately. For that he takes money. In the present system of education, all including the students, teachers and even the guardians are in favour of private tuition. Private tuition are taken by the teachers for the sake of money, whether the students are benefitted out of it or not.

Private tuition has become essential for the following two aspects (i) to make up the deficiency of the dull students properly (it is not possible to take individual care in the class-room) and (ii) to clarify the doubts of the bright students and to prepare them to do better in the examination.

V.2 DIFFERENT TYPES OF PRIVATE TUITION.

Private tuition may be of two types, group tuition and individual tuition. It may take place at the residence of the teacher or at the residence of the student. Generally, group tuitions are conducted at the residence of the teachers and individual tuition takes place at the student’s residence.
PRIVATE TUITION

GROUP TUITION

Tuition in the school premises after /before the usual school hours.

INDIVIDUAL TUITION

Tuition at the residence of the teachers.

In group tuition the students’ strength is not limited and even the students of different classes are taught together. Sometimes this group tuition is conducted in school premises before and after the school hours. But in case of individual tuition the teacher visits the residence of the student and teaches him at specified hours. Sometimes, the teacher also teaches all the children of a particular family.

In some cases a group of teachers teach a group of students in different subjects in the form of a "mini school". Here a particular student learns each and every subject from a "group of expert teachers" and not from a single teacher. This type of tuitioning is also found in Cuttack town. The school building and even rented houses are used for this purpose.

Advantages of Private Tuition.

Private tuitioning is a process where students get direct contact with the concerned teacher or teachers. The fear that exists in the minds of the tender boys and girls about their deficiency is dispelled through face to face contact with the teacher.

Individual attention is given properly to students in private tuition. A student freely expresses his shortcomings and doubts in front of the private tutor which is not possible in general classroom.

Now-a-days, the parents/guardians of the students are busy with their own work and daily activities, so they do not get time to look after the education of their children. They think that by providing money to a suitable and expert teacher their duties towards the study of their children is over.

By private tuitioning a family relation sometimes develops between the parents of the students and the teacher and as such the guardians/parents are in a position to know the day to day progress of their children.

By private tuition a teacher is in a position to give more ideas in a particular subject to the taught considering the standard of the later. Due to private tuition a particular teacher of a particular school is in a position to acquire more
knowledge and idea about the problems of the students as he comes in contact with a cross section of students belonging to different schools. A competitive attitude develops among the teachers regarding the achievement of their tuition students in the examination. Apart from the above, the teacher by private tuitions prepares his lessons automatically for the classroom teaching.

Out of private tuition the teacher earns extra money and maintains his standard of living. Due to the close contact with the teacher the personality of a student develops. The syllabus is too heavy (from the opinion of both the teachers and students) to be covered in an academic year, the student studies the uncovered subjects in the tuition classes.

**Dis-advantages of Private Tuition.**

The private tuition is possible for those whose guardians/parents are rich enough to afford the same. It is not possible for the parents of poor students. So students belonging to poor families are deprived of proper education and education is treated to be the sole right of the rich.

The standards of classroom teaching is far below the expectation because the teachers are not teaching properly in the classroom and they feel tired and exhausted in taking private tuitions both in the morning as well as in the evening. Most of the teachers are casual and perfunctory in the classroom. They do not exhibit sincerity in their public duty.

Due to private tuition the students neglect the classroom teaching and completely depend upon the private tuition. Such students remain inattentive in the classes.

Private tuition develops a sense of jealousy among the teachers of the same school and fellow feeling, cooperation and co-ordination among them become pretentious and not real.

By private tuition partiality and favouritism develops towards the students undertaking paid coaching. The students respect towards the teacher disappears and the students do not show proper regard to the teacher. Private tuition may bring much more money to the teacher but they have lost their original status, social prestige, image and cordiality.

**V. 3 Private Tuition and the Guardians**

Irrespective of rich and poor, now-a-days, most of the students are the victims of private tuition. All the guardians are not in a position to afford for private tuition but the teachers sometimes compel the students to go for private tuition. They create delicate situations for the students as well as for their parents. As a result students of poor families force their parents to pay for their private coaching.

The re-searcher has contacted some of the guardians and found out that all the guardians from different economic starts are in favour of private tuition. However, the guardians of poor
students, (24 per cent are not able to afford at all private tuition) are of the opinion that their children are not doing well in the examination because the classroom teaching is not at all adequate and the teachers are not taking proper care of them. They also say that whenever their children approach the teacher for assistance, the latter deny the same under some pretext, whereas the teachers show favour towards the students who take private coaching from them. The guardians of the poor students, though in favour of private tuition, are not financially able to meet the demand of tuition fees of the present day teachers. The guardians of the economically well off students (28 per cent) are fully in favour of private tuition. They say that they are not getting time to take proper care of their children, therefore they appoint different teachers to teach different subjects to their wards.

They say that the syllabus is too difficult and burden some and without private tuition it may not be possible for a tender student to grasp and assimilate the contents and do well in the examination. In their opinion, the guardians or the teachers are not to be blamed for private tuitioning as the present system of education has been framed in such a way that it necessitates extra coaching. However, private tuition would not be necessary if classroom teaching is improved.

The guardians of the middle class families, (48 per cent) are also completely in favour of private tuition. They say that they have already included the expenses towards private tuition in their monthly budget curtailing other expenditures. They feel that by and large the society has recognised private tuition as a status symbol and the competition to appoint competent and reputed teachers for private tuition is already on in the society.

V.3. Private Tuition and the Students.

The destiny and fortune of the students are moulded and framed in a classroom. But now-a-days, it is a common belief that the fate of the students depend upon private tuitioning.

The researcher has contacted some of the students during data collection and discussed with them the problem of private tuitioning. She has found that almost all the students irrespective of private or government, co-educational or girls schools are in favour of private tuition. The students of rich families (28 per cent) have opined that they are depending completely upon their private tutor and are hopeful to do well in the examination. In their opinion, the classroom teaching is far below the expectation and not at all adequate for a student to secure even pass marks in the final H.S.C. Examination. They also opine that their parents/guardians are able to appoint the talented and competent teachers from good schools to coach them. They are happy with their parents.

The students of economically back-ward families (poor students) are also in favour of private tuition. About 24 per cent of students when asked, said that they are unlucky as because they are born in poor families. Their parents are not in a
position to provide them the facilities of private tuition. They also say that it is really difficult even to secure the pass marks depending completely upon only on classroom teaching.

The students of the middle class families (48 per cent) say that their parents are taking keen interest in their studies and never oppose to provide private tuition to them even under financial stress. Some of them say that their parents are not economically so much sound to provide individual tuition in each subject and as such they provide them group tuition.

The researcher also has found that the students are generally interested in private coaching, particularly in hard subjects like Mathematics, English, General Science etc. It is also ascertained that the private school teachers are mostly engaged in private tuition than the government school teachers and specially the male teachers are mostly engaged in private tuition than the lady teachers.

V.4. Private Tuition and the Teachers.

It is a common belief that each and every teacher is engaged in private tuition. But it is not true. There are few teachers who teach the students during their leisure time not for money but they coach the students thinking that teaching is a noble profession and knowledge is not to be sold but to be disseminated. There are teachers both in government and private schools who treat the students as their own children irrespective of the differential socio-economic back ground, sex, caste, creed and religion of the students.

The re-searcher has interviewed the teachers and collected their opinion regarding the private tuition. At the outset most of the teachers are not in favour of private tuition but there are certain constraints which compel them for private tuition. Meagre salary, lack of provision for other fringe benefits, no housing facility etc. are the factors which force the present-day teachers to earn extra money from private tuition. In their opinion, with the existing salary pattern (pay structure) it is not possible for them to maintain a family in a costly town like Cuttack where the rent of a standard house is more than their monthly salary. The general price hike in respect of different essential commodities, competition among the dwellers for status have made them to earn something extra.

In their opinion, they never compel the students for private tuition, it is the present system of education which is compelling the students for private coaching. The heavy syllabus, tough texts, difficult subject matters and examination oriented education etc. are responsible for the widespread private tuition system. Probably without private tuition it is very difficult for a common student to secure minimum pass marks. Private tuition is needed for the better students to do better, and dull students to get through in the examination. Apart from the above the black money and easy money is also another factor responsible for private tuitioning in some cases.
When lady teachers were interviewed (both from government and private co-educational and girl's schools) they said that they never neglected the classroom teaching and within the permitted time table they were trying to teach the students as per as possible. In their opinion the course/syllabus was too heavy to be covered in an academic year and as such private tuition enabled the students to cover the complete syllabi. Though the students are approaching them for private tuitioning they are not interested for the same, because they have no time and they are always busy with their families. Some of them are from economically well-off families and are the daughter and daughter-in-law of well-to-do families. In their opinion private tuition hampers the status and prestige of a teacher in the society. They also say that their male colleagues have made education as a business and for them the whole "society of teachers" has been blamed.

The re-searcher also found that some of the husbands of the lady teachers are also working as teachers in different schools (both husband and wife are not working in the same school). According to them as because their husbands are taking private tuitions, they are able to provide better education to their children, better medical treatments to their family members and above all they are able to maintain a better standard of living in the society. They also have informed that due to private tuition of their husbands they are able to live in a better accommodation than their colleagues.

When asked the male teachers of government schools, most of them said that the system of private tuition should not be decreed. It is for the private tuition the percentage of successful candidates in the final H.S.C. Examination is satisfactory. As their job is transferable and they get transferred sometimes as per the whims of government, they are not interested in extensive or large scale private coaching, but the students approach them. Some of their colleagues are engaged in private tuition and teach the students hard subjects like Mathematics, General Science and English etc.

The private tuition is rampant in private schools and almost all the male teachers are engaged in private tuitioning. An individual teacher does not hesitate to teach three to four batches of students in a day along with his usual classroom teaching. Even on Sunday and other holidays he is not free but is engaged in private tuition in some corner of Cuttack town.

It is a general feeling among the students, guardians and the teachers that the private tuition can improve the standard of a student. With the opinion of teachers the table at the next page has been prepared to find out the same.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SI. Mode of Response</th>
<th>Government School Teachers</th>
<th>Private School Teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Positively</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Not Positively</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>8.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Cannot say</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. To some extent</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** : 100

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positively</td>
<td>54.25 Per cent.</td>
<td>(23.50 per cent government school teachers and 30.75 per cent private school teachers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To some extent</td>
<td>19.50 Per cent.</td>
<td>(9.50 per cent government school teachers and 10.00 per cent private school teachers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not positively</td>
<td>18.25 Per cent.</td>
<td>(14.00 per cent government school teachers and 4.25 per cent private school teachers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannot say</td>
<td>8.00 Per cent.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the above table, it is found that about 54.25 per cent of teachers (23.50 per cent government and 30.75 per cent private school teachers) are of the opinion that private tuition can improve the standards of the students positively. According to them, the students get assistance from the teachers and sufficient scope to solve their difficulties in study due to private tuition, so private tuition can positively improve the standard of the students.

About 18.25 per cent of teachers say that, private tuition can improve the standard of the students but not positively. Because it not only depends upon a good tutor but also depends upon the quality of the student. If the student is intelligent and labours hard then he can improve his standard. It does not solely depend upon the teacher and private coaching.

About 8 per cent of teachers did not give any definite answer about it. Because they were doubtful about the problem. According to them, most of the teachers are money minded and are taking tuition only for their benefits and are not taking actual care of the students. So in this case, the merit of the students hamper instead of improving.
About 19.5 per cent of teachers say that private tuition can improve the merit of the students to some extent. It depends upon the labour of both the tutor as well as the student.

It is certain that private tuition is hampering the social status and image of the teachers and it is also a belief that teachers are engaged in private tuition for the sake of money. Few teachers are really interested in their students and in the successful performance of their schools. The teachers were asked whether they would accept the non-tuitioning allowance if the provision of private tuition would be banned by the government.

The table given below shows the opinion of the teachers regarding the ban on private tuitioning.

**TABLE - V.2.**

(Opinion of teachers regarding the ban on private tuitions and the provision for non-tuitioning allowance)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. Mode of No. Response</th>
<th>Government School Teachers</th>
<th>Private School Teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. It will be a very good measure by the government</td>
<td>80 20.00</td>
<td>93 23.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. We will be the most sufferers, it will affect our living conditions and increase our mental sufferings</td>
<td>Nil 0.00</td>
<td>Nil 0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The provision may give financial help but we will not accept ban on private tuition.</td>
<td>2 0.00</td>
<td>Nil 0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. It will create the game of hide-and-seek between the teachers and the government.</td>
<td>12 3.00</td>
<td>4 1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. No opinion</td>
<td>Nil 0.00</td>
<td>3 0.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

100 100 100 100
A - It will be a very good attempt of the Government, B - We will be the most sufferers, it will affect our living conditions & increase our mental sufferings, C - The provision may give financial help but we will not accept the ban of private tuitions, D - It will create the game of hide and seek between the teachers and the Govt., E - No opinion
It will be a very good measure by the government --> 61.50 per cent.
( 43.25 per cent government school teachers
and 18.25 per cent private school teachers)

It will create the game of hide-and-seek
between teachers and Government
----- 13.50 per cent.
( 4.00 per cent government school teachers
and 9.50 per cent private school teachers )

Teachers will not accept it
----- 11.75 per cent.
(2.00 per cent government
and 9.75 per cent private school teachers )

Teachers will be the most sufferers, it will effect their living conditions.----- 11.25 per cent.
(Opinion of private school teachers only)

No opinion
----- 2.00 per cent.

From the table at pre-page, it is found that about 61.50 per cent of teachers said that they would accept the proposal and opined that the private tuition should be banned and it would be a very good measure by the government. Mostly the teachers of Government school, both male and lady teachers, and lady teachers of private schools favoured the proposal. About 11.25 per cent of teachers (private school teachers only) are of the opinion that they will not accept the proposal and say that they will face financial problems if the system is banned. Their living condition will be affected and mental sufferings will increase. About 11.75 per cent of teachers opined that although the non-tuitioning allowance will provide financial benefit to them they would not accept the ban on tuition. They will agitate against it. About 13.5 per cent of teachers say that the ban on private tuition and provision for non-tuitioning allowance will create the game of hide-and-seek between government and the teachers like the ban on private practice and provision of non-practicing allowance for the doctors in the state. Mostly the private school teachers (specially the male teachers) are not in favour of non-tuitioning allowance.

From this it can be concluded that private coaching is mixed evil and it cannot be eradicated overnight from our society in view of the present system of education. But it brings to light many problems in our system of education which is now in operation.