Walking miles with no books and baggage a child reaches an open field. He humbly touches the feet of his Guru who is sitting under the dense leafy cover of a tree. It is these serene surroundings which are that child’s school, his temple of learning where he will get to learn valuable lessons of life.

This was how education was imparted to children ages ago. But today this account seems pretty far stretched from reality. Living in the 21st century, we certainly can’t imagine ourselves studying this way.

Well what all is different between today’s education system and that of the bygone era? Read on to find out…

No exams, No worries- Ah! What golden days they must have been when one wasn’t burdened with weekly UT’s, surprise tests and the much dreaded terminal examinations!! Earlier the Guru used to assess his each and every disciple in a different way keeping in mind his academic competence and intellectual learning. There were no definite examinations for this purpose. But students then too had their share of anxiety as they had to live up to their Guru’s expectations and prove that they were the best of all.

Shastra gyaan anyone? - Today we have a fixed curriculum with a set of subjects covering languages, mathematical reasoning, scientific knowledge etc. Based on our performance and according to our choice we get to choose a certain stream in senior school, give our board examinations and enter College life to pursue our future dreams. But such wasn’t the case in the ancient ages. Back then students were taught the Holy Scriptures. Their school lessons dealt with tackling real life situations in a practical way. And most importantly they were trained to become able warriors. Today sports such as archery and fencing are connected with Olympics and other sports events. Back then it was a part and parcel of every student’s life.

How many of us haven’t longed for the open fields and the lush greenery after reading “The schoolboy”? Cooped in the classrooms we lose our imaginative touch and want to rush to the school ground. But as we travel back in time we realize the students at that time had no such restraints. Sitting in an open field, surrounded by the bounty of Mother Nature they used to learn invaluable teachings of life. This is another marked difference between the education system of today and the yesteryears.

Agreed that the way we learn today is way different from before. But that certainly doesn’t change the core thought which lays behind imparting knowledge to the youth. When we are thought something new, not only do we learn something new but it also makes us better informed to tackle everyday situations and overcome challenges thrown in our way. Change came in the form of proper schools, fixed timings, a revised curriculum and written evaluation but be it the Vedic text thought earlier or the text books of today, we are thought so that we improve and develop into better human beings who later become contributing members of the society.