Jain Education Workshop Summary

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Features:

- This is a two day workshop (total 16 hours) designed for youths over 16 years and adults.
- The workshop is divided into eight two-hour sessions.
- The workshop is not a lecture format where the audience has very little input in terms of participation and discussion.
- The workshop uses interactive method of Teaching and Communication, which requires debates, discussion and open-mindedness.
- The workshop takes Jainism beyond being just a religious identification for people. It teaches the fundamentals which are easily applied in our daily life.
- Minimum attendance requirements
  - Workshop for Youths (>16 years) only - 15
  - Workshop for Adults and Youths together - 25
- To organize such a workshop at your location, please send an E-mail or call.
Course Outline

**Fundamental Concept in Jainism:**
- Definition of Religion
- Aim of Jainism
- Basic assumptions used to derive Jain principles
- Differences between Morality and Religion
- Concepts of
  - God (Arihant, Siddha, Tirthankar, Jina, Nirgranth)
  - Soul, Karma, Universe, and Liberation
- Concept of Dravya (Substance)
  - Utpad (Origination)
  - Vyaya (Destruction)
  - Dhruva (Permanence)
- Six Universal Substances
  - Living being, Matter, Space, Dharma, Adharma, and Time

**Philosophy of Karma:**
- What is Karma?
- Basic explanation of seven Tattvas (principles)
  - Living being,
  - Non-living being,
  - Ashrava (Influx of Karma)
  - Bandha (Bondage of Karma)
  - Samvar (Arrest of Karma)
  - Nirjara (Removal of Karma)
  - Moksha (Liberation)
- Understanding of the Relationship between Soul and Karma

**Anekantvad and Syadvad (Relativity of Viewpoints):**
- Basic concept of Anekantvad and Syadvad
- Nature of a Substance or Reality is Anekantwad
- Sapthabhangi-Anuyoga
- Cause and Effect relationship (Karya Karan relationship)
- Five fundamental reasons for the happening of an event or action
  - Samay (Time)
  - Swabhav (Nature of a substance)
  - Niyati or Bhavitavyata (Predestination)
  - Karma (Prarabdha, Nashib)
  - Purusharth (Determination, Efforts)
- Naya (one aspect of reality) and Praman (all aspects of reality)
- Nikshepa
- Appropriate action depends on a person's Spiritual stage (Gunsthanak)
Application of Karma Philosophy in Daily Life:
- How does Karma produce the result (rewards/punishes)
- Understanding of Nimitta (apparent cause) and Upadan (real cause) of an event
- Beginning, continuation, and the ending of relationship between Karma and Soul
- Concept of Determination (Effort, Motivation) and Predestination
- Does Jainism believe that all future events in the universe are Predestine?
- Karma philosophy applies to oneself, Compassion applies to others

Fourteen Gunsthanaks (Spiritual Stages):
- Concept of Spiritual Stages
- Explanation of fourteen spiritual stages
- Bahiratma, Antaratma, and Paramatma stages
- Upasam, Kshapak, and Kshyopsam shreni (ladders)
- Rise and fall back from various stages

Path of Liberation:
- Definition of Jain trinity
  - Samyak Darshan (right faith)
  - Samyak Jnan (right knowledge)
  - Samyak Charitra (right conduct)
- Jain Vows, Rules, and Reflections
- Five great vows of an ascetic (monk/nun)
- Twelve vows of a layperson
- Five Samitis and Three Guptis
- Ten Yati Dharma (Religious Observances)
- Twelve Bhavna (Reflections)
- Observances of twelve penance for removal of Karmas
  - Six External penance
  - Six Internal penance

Jain Geography:
- Concept of Jain Universe
- Explanation of fourteen Rajlok
- Description and location of Hell, Heaven, Animal, and Human dwelling
- Explanation of action (Karma) and non-action (Akarma) lands
- Concept of Addhi dvip (Two and half islands) for human life
- Location of Bharat, Airavat, and Mahavideh kshetras (lands)
- Concept of Moon, Sun, Planets, and Stars as devas

Jain Scriptures, Literature, and Sects:
- Definition of Jain Agams (Canonical literature)
- Classification and contents of Agams
  - Ang, Upang, Chheda, Mool, Chulika, and Prakirna Sutras
- History of Preservation of Canonical Literature
- Content of the fourteen lost Purvas
- Authors of Jain Agams
- Various views of the authenticity of Jain Agams
- Developments of various Jain sects with historical backgrounds
  - Digambar, Swetambar, Sthanakvasi, Terapanthi
  - Differences and similarities of various sects
- Commentary literature of Jain Agams
  - Niryukti, Bhashya, Churni, and Tika literature
- Jain literature on various subjects
- Literature of prominent Digambars and Swetambars Jain authors

**Jain Rituals and Ceremonies**
- Six Essential Duties
  - Samayik, Chaturvimsati, Vanda, Pratikraman, Kayotsarga, Pratyakhan
- Worship of Tirthankars
- Five Auspicious Occasions (Panch Kalyanak)
- Devapuja Rituals (8 types of Puja)
- Jain Holy Days
- Pilgrimage to Holy Places
- Annual Rite of Confession
- Various types of Penance
- Samayik
- Pratikraman
- Sallekhana

**Comparative Religions**
- Philosophies of the world religions
- Summary of major religions
- Comparative study between Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism
- Comparison between Eastern and Western Religions

**Jainism on High Tech**
- Various Jain Internet sites and their uniqueness
- On Common Ground – Pluralism Project (Presentation of Harvard University CD)
- Jain Literature CD of Jaina Education Committee
- Jain Discussion Groups on Internet
Youths Questions

Rituals

• Are traditional rituals of India applicable to America?
• What is the significance of traditional rituals (Pratikraman, Puja, Chaityavandan, and Samayik)?
• Why most of our traditional rituals are still written in the prakrit language? Why they are not available in the language, which we understand?
• Most of the adults perform Jain rituals without actually understanding them. Does it help?
• What is the significance of muhupatti? Why swetambar ascetics give it great importance?
• Do our daily rituals contain yoga and meditation? If yes, why are we not informed about them and why there is no emphasis on physical exercise.
• Why Jains are not uniformly celebrating Paryushana/Das Laxana holidays in America
• Why Jain temple's Dhaja color is white and red?
• Why the 'Ghoommat' (top of the derasar) is sharpened and not oval (like the Muslim has)?
• Why do we use Milk in 'Shanti Kalash'?
• Why do we rotate (Pradakshina) around the god and sometimes 108 times only?
• Why do we perform 'Vaskep Puja'?
• What is the proper number of times one should say the Namokar mantra and the reasoning behind it?
• Ghee boli (auctioning) of various religious occasions. Is it a religion act?
• If there is no ghee boli, how will the Jain institutions be finance (adult concern)?

Ahimsa

• What is kand-mul? And why Jains do not eat such vegetables (Potato, Onion )
• Eggs are not fertile, why are Jains not allowed to eat?
• Dairy product is not a Vegetarian product (animal product) why Jains eat them?
• Why eating of Dairy product is not prohibited in the scripture?
• Why do Jains use milk, saffron (cruelty product) in Puja and other rituals
• During decoration of Murti (Aangi), why do Jains use silver / gold varakh which are manufactured using leather.
• Does Jainism allow the usage of animals for medical research to cure deadly disease.
• Jain views on suicide and the death penalty.
• Is it acceptable in Jainism to have a pet? On the positive aspect, we provide shelter, safety, regular meals, medical care, and companionship to the pet. On the negative side, we are depriving the pet of its freedom, natural habitat, natural food resources, and companionship of its own species. What's acceptable in Jainism.
Penance
- What is penance? What is an austerity? Can you explain significance of the vows? To take a vow is necessary for penance?
- Why certain days (Pancham, Aatham, Chaudas) in a month are more pious than other days?
- Why do we drink boiled water during fasting, can we drink filtered water?

Woman
- What is the role and status of women in Jainism?
- Why a woman can not perform certain rituals?
- Should women go to the temple during their monthly period?
- Jain views on Abortion. Whether under any circumstances is it allowed or not?

Social Issue
- How does Jainism view marriage, pre marital relationship, and other forms of relationship.
- Jain view on organ donation, tissue or organ transplantation from other species: are they right or wrong?
- Does Jainism incorporate many societal values into its religion, or does it remain separate from society. There is a lot in the traditions that just are not found in the scripture. Whether there is something specifically said in the religion about certain traditions, or rather that the culture has just integrated their values into the religion.

Profession
- Why Jainism prohibits certain professions?
  - Medical (Dissecting animals), Farming (Digging grounds), Army

Cleanliness
- Why ascetics do not brush their teeth and take no baths and yet they live in the middle of the society.
- Why ascetics disperse their human waste on street in the cities of India and create health hazard for the people.
- Why are we not allowed to brush the teeth during fasting.

Philosophy and Literature
- Is there a hell in Jainism? If yes, what is it called and the story behind it as well as the story behind the evil or devil?
- Can you explain the scientific aspects of Jainism?
- How can we claim Jainism is a scientific religion when there are inconsistencies in our scriptures such as they claim that earth is flat, not moving, and it is the center of the universe. They also say that the moon is bigger than the sun, farther away from earth than the sun, no one can reach the moon. Also the location of hell is below the earth, and heaven is above the earth and many other claims that have been proven wrong.

Misc.
- Are there any famous US celebrities that follow Jainism? Ex. Richard Gere is a Buddhist...