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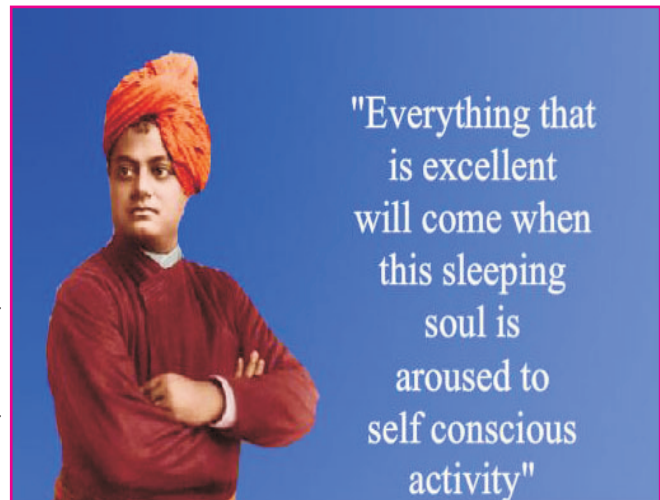
## SWAMI VIVEKANANDA- PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

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### ABSTRACT

**A**lmost all the reformists, revolutionaries appeared on historical sketch of India had believed that education is the only way to change the both worlds of a man i.e. internal and external. Swami Vivekananda was one of them. He was a philosopher, intellectual saint. Though he was little bit leaned to the Hindu culture he was also not only favoured but also advocated the value of accommodation of western values that are worth to take. In that sense, he was a pragmatic saint had a notion of national development through a process of man making. The present article is about the revisiting



the standpoints of Swami Vivekananda in respect to the area of education. The author also reflected on the contemporary issues of education in general.

**KEY WORDS:** Swami Vivekananda, Students, Teacher, Self, Research experience, Pragmatism.

### INTRODUCTION

Narendra, a sharp boy from Culcutta had early encounter with the philosophical question like 'Is there a God'? Which made him to leave his studies of law and he wondered with this until reached Ramkrishna a raised Hindu saint of that time. Ramkrishna made Narendra to realize the ounce of God in him and in everyone. He experienced the God and latter become a Swami.

'Education' is a very word that mesmerized everyone who desires to change the seen and experienced world. No doubt that every revolutionary of the world advocated about the education of masses. Swami Vivekananda was also such revolutionary one. What he talked and advocated about education is very reflected in the writings of the Ramkrishna Math publications. He was not only the religious leader of India but also an intellectual reservoir.

He travelled throughout India and abroad to share the Indian heritage and he was quiet successful to do so. If we listen his speech he has made in the Parliament of Religions in Chicago we can come to a conclusion about his mastery over subjects like Religion, Development, Relationships, Culture, and Accommodation etc.

### Education: His frame of reference

In his words, education is the sole manifestation of the perfection already present in man. This looks a simple line but include a huge load of meanings. Swami Vivekananda is admired mostly because of his divine positivity. When he talks about the perfection in man he presumed that everyone has an ounce of god. Everyone

is worth to live, to prosper. Where education is a process or training that only unveils the very talent, spark one already have.

The whole knowledge comes from the human mind. Mind is the very source of knowledge and progress. He presumed that education must be for the mind of child to discover his own soul which itself is a mine of infinite knowledge. He asserted that no knowledge comes from outside; here he advocated a thought that one is not at all dependent on the external sources of knowledge for ones development. Man must control the current and the expression of will through education.

The very process of education simply takes the veil off; and the soul manifests itself in its pristine purity, its natural, innate freedom.

### **Education: Unveiling Self**

In a world of psychology the concept of self has captured everything. It includes the phenomenological existence of man that how one perceive, think and act upon the stimulus. When Vivekananda presumed that no knowledge come from outside whether secular, spatial or spiritual, it has to come from human mind. When a man slowly discovers his self, he becomes less ignorant. He will be all knowing man, omniscient. And, for omniscient man all education is become the suggestions.

### **A truly educated Man**

According to him, a truly educated man is one who sees that every man's property is nothing. A man who live with the grand idea that the whole universe in one. The poor and rich, cultured and backwards, ignorant and educated are spiritually one. They seem different but their soul is one, our very existence is one.

Further he says that educated man help others because he sees himself in others. Developing fellow-men, doing good to others is a work of truly educated man. A truly educated man looks upon all with the same eye a 'Vedantic morality- Sameness for all'.

### **Education: Means**

Swami Vivekananda emphasized more on the concentration. He propagated that the knowledge needs concentration. Concentration is something like power to attach with certain things and detach simultaneously from certain things. Here the value of detachment is emphasized which is prerequisite for revealing self. When a students learn to detach from certain material things he surely can concentrate on himself.

Through such concentration only Hindu could develop the science of Yoga. Concentration only brings the necessary results to us to discover our inner self. He also cautioned about foolery of materialism that will lead to the competition and undue ambition and ultimate death, individual and even national.

Brahmacharya is something he advocated strongly for having great amount of concentration. Power comes to him who observes unbroken Brahmacharya for a period of twelve years. Complete continence gives great intellectual and spiritual power. Controlled desire leads to the highest results. Transforming sexual energy into spiritual energy that needs Brahmacharya he says. According to him chastity in thought, word and deed always and in all conditions is what is called Brahmacharya.

With Brahmacharya he added a Shraddha as a method of education. According to him Shraddha is a basis of all types of growth. The idea of true Shraddha must be brought back once more to us. The faith in our own selves must be reawakened and then only all the problems which face by our country will gradually be solved by ourselves. In other sense, Shraddha is believing over one's strengths, have faith in self. Because according to him what we are what we think. If students think they are inferior they will become inferior. Shraddha is important to achieve what we want to be.

### **Education: What Offers?**

What an education must offer to a man? According to Swami Vivekananda 'we want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's feet'.

**His notion of education is a process of man-making; that offers;**

- Self-confident and self-reliant man
- Value based character formation
- Fulfilment of 'Swadharma'
- Freedom of growth
- Development of personality
- Reaching perfection
- Physical and mental development
- Moral and spiritual development
- Faith in self
- Development of Shraddha and spirit of renunciation
- Religious development
- Vocational development
- Searching unity in diversity
- Universal brotherhood and
- Service

**Education: Teacher's life**

According to him teachers must be 'Tyagis' their very life must be a live example for their disciples. There would be no education without the personal life of the teacher. Such teacher must be pure in his thought, speech and actions. The necessary condition for a true teacher is sinlessness. It is related to the purity of heart and soul. The function of the teacher then is indeed an affair of the transference of something and not one of mere stimulation of existing intellectual or other faculties in the students. He should not teach for selfish motive, for money, name or fame; his work must be simply out of love, out of pure love for mankind at large without discrimination. Without real sympathy we can never teach will.

**Education: Students par**

According to him, it is not an easy task to be a disciple. He proclaimed that the first condition to be the real student who wants to know the truth must give up all his desires for gain. Truths cannot be found with desires in mind. Love, truth and unselfishness are not merely moral figures of speech, but they form our highest ideal, because in them lies such a manifestation of power. This self control will tend to produce a mighty will, a character which makes a Christ or a Buddha says him.

The next condition is controlling the internal and external senses. They must have power of endurance. They must have extreme desire to be free; renunciation of the senses and desires is the only way out of life's misery. Again, he must have faith in the teacher.

**Education: Religiosity**

Swami Vivekananda was greatly influenced by the Vedantic scriptures therefore he believed that religion is the innermost core of education. We must appreciate and follow the people who have realised the eternal truths i.e. saints e.g. Krishna, Mahaveera, Buddha. Ideal of service will make us reveal our true nature. Strength, fearlessness, heartfulness are the very outcomes of religions.

There is no harm to read all kind of religious books, yet we may not understand the work of religion or of god. What is important is 'an experience'. Religion is not in doctrines or dogmas, nor in intellectual argumentation. It is being and becoming. According to Swami Vivekananda religion is realization.

Vivekananda conceived a religion is realization. Then a question comes to a surface that realization of what? According to him religion of any man can only make him realize the very nature of man's own self. Religion is a way towards the divinity everyone has within himself/herself.

In other words he emphasizes the existence of religion because religion makes this process of revealing one's nature smooth. When he asserted about religion he also asserted that every religion is for such revelation

and therefore we must follow the value of accommodation. Anything which is worth in others one must accept it and make oneself better. He coined it as universal brotherhood.

### Education: Masses

Depicting over the grave disparities in the conditions of poor's, and the lower class people, he considered it as 'great national sin'. And the mass education is the only solution for this condition he asserted. He advocated the idea that the raise man should work for the up-liftment of the poor and disadvantaged.

Mass is divided into many segments. Each segment has its own peculiar language of communication. Swami Vivekananda stressed that the children's education must be in their mother tongue. Education has to reach to every home. He advocated that work as worship.

### Education: Women

Swami Vivekananda asserted the women education in that era. He surprised to note that women are deprived from education he reminded that Venanta declares that one and the same self is present in all the beings. They why women are not allowed to grow? He said that all nations have attained greatness by paying proper respect to women. Without respecting women a nation will not become a great nation. Accordingly to him there is no hop of rise for that family or even county where women live in sadness. Therefore he advocated the women's education which will solve their problems.

### Education and today's pragmatism

When we look at the work, reflections of Swami Vivekananda on education we feel he was far visionary of that era. But if it is true that 'experience' is our great teacher. Then we have think upon today's education and pragmatism involved in it.

The today's era, we have to accept the changed circumstances where 'Idealisms' are lowering down. Where everybody is free to choose what he/she wants to be. Education is nothing but a just commodity after LPG policy. We have to accept and suffer from our dilemmas until we accept the new world order.

We have to accept that the given value to education is very subjective and have no standard mechanism to evaluate it. Today's education is suffering from the disease of 'social loafing' where every stakeholder of education is raising a figure to other fellow stakeholder for the mess and satisfying his ego by saying that I am ok but others are not. I am not responsible for this and if I am not responsible for this, I will not take the stand against it. This is today's pragmatism.

### CONCLUSION

The individual's wisdom has boundaries of space, time and context. Today's villages cannot be considered as villages because of their geographical boundaries because the people are living in villages but their minds are in cities.

What we must focus on the Swami Vivekananda one of the ideas of education is the value of accommodation of values worth of accepting for the national good. We must accept the modernization, appreciate it while criticizing. But still the quotes he has made, work he has done are and will be guiding forces for centuries.

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