



A study of Educational Thoughts of Swami Vivekananda

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Abstract

To make a man complete with all kinds of values including moral and religious value by the study on educational thought of Swami Vivekanand . This study finds the way to get the inner-self which resides in everything and everywhere by eliminating one's ego to finally reach the manifestation of perfection through education. In the said research, a study of thoughts of Swami Vivekananda was conducted.

Keywords:- Values, Man making, awakening, arise, awake

Introduction:

Swami Vivekananda(1863-1902) a great reformer in India feels the dire

need of awakening a man to his self within , by giving his call to everybody as 'arise, awake and stop' not till the goal is reached. The study of the educational thought of Swami Vivekanand leads to the transformation of man through moral and spiritual education.

The said research was conducted with an objective to study the thoughts of Swami Vivekananda.

Objectives:

- i) To study about the upliftment of human being from social and global evils through education.

- ii) To study the aspects of education which leads to the manifestation of perfection.
- iii) To study the educational scheme of Swami Vivekanand for 'Man-Making'.

Swami Vivekananda's Thoughts-

Moral and Religion values are being determined. The fundamental principles of civilization are being ignored. Conflicts of ideals, manners and habits are pervading the atmosphere. Disregarded for everything old is the fashion of the day. Vivekanand seeks all the information of the social and global evils through education. With this end in view he feels the dire need of awakening man to his self within, he thinks, lays the very purpose of education.

The Goal or the objectives :

Vivekananda points out that the defeat of the present day education is that it has no definite goal to pursue. A sculptor has a clear idea about what he wants to shape out of the marble block similarly, a painter knows what is going to paint, but a teacher he says, has no idea clearly about the goal of his teaching. Swamiji attempts to establish through his words and deeds that the end of all the education is the man making.

He prepares his scheme of this man making philosophy of Vedanta. According to Vedanta, the essence of the man lies in his soul, which he possesses in the addition to his body and mind. In true with his philosophy, Swamiji defines education as the manifest of the perfection already in man. The aim of the man is to manifest in our lives of perfection, which is very nature of our inner self. This perfection is the resides in every thing and everywhere existence, consciousness and bliss. After understanding the essential nature of this perfection, we should identify it with our inner self. For achieve this, one will have to animate one's ego ignorance and all other false identification by moral purity and passion for truth and man to leave behind the body, the sense the ego and all the other non-self elements which are perishable.

He thus realizes his immortal divine self, which the nature of infinite existence, infinite knowledge and infinite bliss. At this stage man becomes aware of his self as identical with all other selves as manifestations of the same self. Hence education in the Vivekanand sense enables one to comprehend one's self within as the self everywhere. The essential unity of the entire universe is realized through education.

In this scheme of education, Swamiji lays great stress on physical health because a sound mind resides in a sound body. He often quotes the upnishadic dictum, hayamatma, balahinena, labhyah ie the self can not be realized by the physical weak. However along with physical culture he harps on the need of paying special attention to the culture of the mind.

According to Swamiji, the mind of the students has to be controlled and trained through

meditation , concentration and practice of ethical purity . All the success in any line of the work , he emphasis in the result of the power of concentration , by way elements to be analyses and find out the secrets . Education for formed , strength of mind is increased and intellect is sharpened as a result of which one can stand on ones own feet.

Methods or procedure :

Having analysed according to Swamiji knowledge is inherent in every men soul. What is only what he did by taking cover off his own soul? Consequences he draws attention to the feet that the task of the teacher is only to help the child to manifest its knowledge by removing the obstacles in its way in his words. The Vedanta says that within man is all knowledge even by a boy it is so and it requires only an awakening and that much is the work of a teacher.

Vivekananda method of the work of the education resembles the heuristic method of the modern educational. In this system, the teacher involves the spirit of inquiry in the pupils who is supposed to find out the things for himself under the bias free guidance of the teacher.

Swamiji lays a lot of emphasis on the environment at the home and school for the proper growth of the child. The parents as well as the teacher should inspire the child by the way they live their lives. Swamiji recommend the old institution of Gurukula living with the preceptor and similar systems for the purpose in such system the students can have the ideals character of the teacher constantly before them which serves the role model to follow.

Although the Swamiji is of the opinion that the mother tongue is the right medium for the social and the mass education he prescribes the learning of English and Sanskrit also. While English is necessary for mastering Western science and technology, Sanskrit leads to one into the debt of ore vast store of classes. The implication if language does not remain the privilege of a small class of the people task of the teacher is only to help the child to manifest his knowledge by removing the obstacles in its way. In his word: thus Vedanta says that within one man is all knowledge even in a boy it is so and it requires only an awakening and that much is the work of a teacher.

Vivekananda's method of education resembles the heuristic method of the modern educationists. In this system, the teacher invokes the spirit of inquiry in the pupil who is supposed to find out things for himself under the biasfree guidance of the teacher.

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Fields of Study

Vivekananda, in his scheme of education meticulously includes all these studies which are necessary for the all round development of body, mind and soul of the individual. These studies can be brought under the broad heads of physical culture, aesthetics, classics, language, religion, science and technology.

According to Swamiji, the culture values of the country should form an integral part of the curriculum of education. The culture of India has its root in spiritual values. The study of Ramayana, Mahabharata, Gita, Vedas and Upanishads keep the student perennial flow of our spiritual values in to the world culture.

Education according to Swamiji, remains incomplete without the teaching of aesthetics or fine arts. He cites the example of Japan as how the combination of art and utility can make a nation great.

According to Swamiji, education is the inner most core of education. He reminds us time and again that religion does not consist in dogmas or creeds or any set of rituals. To be religious for him means leading life in such a way that we manifest our higher nature, truth, goodness and beauty in our thoughts, words and deeds.

According to Swamiji, in making for everything that is good and great, in bringing peace to others and peace to one's own self, religion is the highest motive power and therefore, ought to be studied from the standpoint. It will help man to be tolerant, sympathetic and extend his love and goodness beyond the communal, national and racial barriers. He says, we need technical education and all else which may develop industries so that men, instead of seeking for service may earn enough to provide themselves and have some things against a rainy day. The entire educational programme should be so planned that it equips the youth to contribute to the material progress of the country as well as maintaining the supreme worth of India's spiritual heritage.

Another important aspect of Swamiji's Scheme of education is women's education. He realizes that if the women of our country get the right type of education, then they will be able to solve their own problems in their own way. The main object of the female education is to make her strong, fearless and conscious of their chastity and dignity. He observes that although men and women are equally competent in academic matters, yet women have a special aptitude and competence for studies relating to home and family. Hence he

recommended the introduction of subjects like sewing, nursing, domestic science, culinary art etc. which were not part of education at his time.

Conclusion

The exposition and analysis of Vivekananda's Scheme of Education brings to light its constructive, practical and comprehensive character. He realizes that it is only through education that the uplift of masses is possible. To refer to his own words : Traveling through many cities of Europe and observing in them the comforts and education of even the poor people, there was brought to my mind the state of our own poor people and I used to shed tears. When made the difference? "Education" was the answer.

It is in the transformation of man through moral and spiritual education that he finds the solution for all social evils. However, Swamiji, thought on education, through which he wanted to build up a strong nation that will lead the world toward peace and harmony, is still far cry. It is high time to give serious thought on his educational view and remember his call to everybody – '**Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is achieved.**'

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