



## Thoughts of Swami Vivekananda about Education

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### Background :-

Swami Vivekananda name was Narendranath. He was born on an auspicious day, makaraSankranti, 12nd January 1863, a day of festival in Calcutta which at that time was the centre of an intellectual upsurge. He was a sunny tempered, Sweet, loving child, but takes from the Mahabharata & the Ramayana & this had sown the seeds of spiritual life a Narendranath. He would be formed meditating for 2-3 hours at a stretch.

Though Narendranath went to school for a brief period, he was stopped & a private tutor was arranged for him & a few boys from the neighborhood. He was an extraordinary learner & he was in a XI th class when he was eight years old. He could get anything by heart if he read it just once.

He was interested in dramatics, but did not get much encouragement from home. So he did not pursue it. He also learnt fencing, lathe play, Wrestling, singing & after such sports. He learnt cooking. He was deeply sensitive & also had ready it.

He joined college for higher studies. All the college his capacities were recognized & appreciated by his leader. Prof. William Heretic Mr. Hattie remarked "Narendranath is really a genius. I have traveled for & while, but I have never yet comes across a lad of his talents & possibilities even in German Universities amongst philosophical students. He is bound to make his mark in life"

The influence of Shri Ram Krishna was very strong on Narendranath. Narendranath's unbounded self reliance. Mainly spirit & Single minded duration to truth were most attractive to Sri Rama Krishna Parameshwara, his spirited Guru.

After the death of Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Vivekananda became a wandering monk & travelled the length & breadth of India brazening his knowledge of Hindu Scriptures & traditions of the people & myth a rich experience he appeared on the stage of the Parliament & Religious in Chicago & non the applauses & a approval of the audience for his novel ideas of universalist & tolerance. He was an astonishingly good univealitre & tolerance. He was an astrontiongly good speaker, so much so would hold the audience spell bound with his dynamic personality & more dynamic voice, language & style.

After the parliament of Religious, the ten years of intense activity of preaching, uniting & exhorting by Vivekananda, culminated in the establishment of a monastic order called the Rama Krishna Mission.

Vivekananda was a bachelor, a very stench & stead fast one & he was a wondering monk for a long life.

Vivekananda lived a life of luxury & comfort when he was very young, later he saw & experienced very difficult days & he ended his moral existence at a age of 39 years, 5 months & 24 days fulfilling his our earlier prophecy, "I shall never live to see forty," on July 4, 1907.

### **Education Thoughts:**

To swami Vivekananda, "Education is the man frustration of the perfection already in man". A Permian philosophy encompassed within 10 words. To reduce the self, the perfection of God in man, is the good of education. This perfection has to be realized & manifested in me's one's on life. Swami drank deep from the formation of Vedanta philosophy. It may appear a little difficult for some group the significance of his premises without some knowledge & Vedanta, but his language & exposition are so simple & Lucile that one many hardly fail to miss the import of his thought.

### **Concept of Education:**

'All knowledge, similar or spatial is in human mind.'

'Knowledge is internet in man, no knowledge comes from outsides, it is all inside.'  
The soul is the source of infinite knowledge which has been existing there through eternity so each of us carries the infinite library of the universe in our mind. This knowledge is covered

& hidden like a mine. It is for us to unearth, to uncover, to unenvied to discover "When the covering is being slowly taken off, we say we are learning".

'Education is not the amount of information that is put into your brain & runs rait there, undigested all your life.'

"If education were identical with information the libraries to be the greatest enges in the world & encyclopedias the Rests" All Almost similar ideas are repeated by A. N. Whitehead who was urgently apposed to the idea that education consists of filling the minds of pupils with facts Ideas that are merely received into the mind without being utilized are insert & useless whitehead enunciated two educational principles.

'Do not teach too many subjects & what you teach, teach toughly'. It was almost similar to what swami said, "If you have assimilated five ideas & make them your life & character, you have more education than anyman who has not got by heart library.'

**Aim of Education:**

In Swami word," We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increasing the intellect is expanded& by which one can stand on ones feet."

Character is the strength of man. Swami explained what character was & how it could be formed."The character of any man is but the aggregate of his tendencies, the sum total of the bent of his mind."

It is the product of man's thought & actions. He has given us a beautiful similar mind is like a take. 'Every work that we do, every thought that we think produces a ripple of impression in the minds & every ripple moment is determined by the sum total of there Impressions on the mind. "Swami showed how important was it to select the right type of environment for the child. 'If good impression prevail the character becomes good, if bad, it becomes bad, If a man continuously hears bad words, thinks bad, thoughts, does not actions, his mind will be full of bad impressions, & then will influence his thought & work without his being conscious of the fact. He becomes helpless like an impoverished that lay him & good him to bad actions. But when a man is under the instant influence of good work & good thoughts, there gores in him an irresistible tendency to be good, ' in spite of himself .' The

phrase ingredient in education has been voluminously talked of, but it never before had such impressive impact as it was exemplified by the living example of his own life.

Character education is a community & national problem. In educational thinking there has never been any doubt regarding the obligations of the schools in the development of character of the children & youth the environmental potentiality that they can command Swami has repeatedly impressed the need to control the internal & external senses. It needs hard practice & rigorous training to assert the mind against the command of nature.

To Swami, education has no meaning if it did not uplift the common mans of people. "So long as the millions, live in hunger & ignorance I hold every man a trailer who, having been educated at the expenses. Ray not the leant head to them. I consider that the great national sin in the neglect of the masses & that is me the courses of our downfall."

The aim of all educational institutions of India should aim at making man to be a man & to grow his potentiating. The end of all education all training should be man making.

#### **Methods of Teaching Learning:-**

Swami Vivekananda was very much in famous of the Indian system of education which is based on the criteria of learning by sitting at the feet of the Acharya or the teacher through a close content. Concentration, meditation, study of Scriptures, guidance, service units others, congenial atmosphere based on freedom & discipline are the requirements for proper learning. Yet he says that success of education depends upon the initiatives, self realization & self reliance. So it is quite clear that Vivekananda also believed that the child does most of the learning while teacher is the facilitator.

#### **The Qualities of a Student**

- 1) The student must be pure in thought & speech.
- 2) He must have a perseverance & real thirst for knowledge.
- 3) He must be a Brahmachari.
- 4) He must have a continuous struggle; a constant fight within himself for applying with his honors nature, only then he can achieve victory & acquire the time knowledge.

Vivekananda encourages that type of religious education which ensures this discovery of strength - 'so ham' - within every student. As his words reminded us the truth.

'All sins & all evil can be summed up in that one word Weakness. It is weakness that is the motive power in all evil doing. It is weakness that is the source of all selfishness. It is weakness that makes injure others. Let them all know what they are, Let them repeat day & night what they are, So 'ham'.

Let them suck it in with their mother's milk. This idea of the strength –I am He! This is to be first heard and let them think of it & out of that thought mill proceed works, such as the world has never seen.'

### **The qualities of a teacher**

Swami Vivekananda attaches great importance to the personal life & character of the teacher .He thinks that only “Tyagi” (The one who has renounced his personal gains & the one who has dedicated to his life to the service of others ) can be good teacher .In India imparting of knowledge has always been through Tyagi or men of renunciation .Our modern teachers must imbibe this virtue of they want to be teachers in the true sense of the term .

The teacher should be of a very high character & he should be sinless .He must be pure in mind & heart ,only then his words will be valuable .The teacher is not only to stimulate the spirit of intellectual or other facilities in the taught. Something is his high character & seamlessness.

“The function of the teacher is indeed an affair of the transference of something & not of mere stimulation of the existing intellectual or other facilities in the taught. Something real and appreciable as an influence comes from the teacher & gone to the taught .Therefore the teacher must be pure

The teacher must have love for his students .Without love he cannot contribute anything to them. He should have no ulterior selfish motive of any kind. Love should be the only guide to him .Love is the best medium to transmit the spiritual force . Any of selfish motive or the part of the teacher will destroy this medium .therefore the teacher must work for his students only out of love.

The teacher must have full sympathy for his students .He can never teach without sympathy.

Swami Vivekananda say's "The true teacher is one who can through his whole force into the tendency of the talk .Without real sympathy we can never teach well "

Placing a lofty ideas before teachers Swami Vivekananda further say's "The only true teacher is he who can immediately come down to the level of the student, & transfer his soul to the student soul & see trough his mind .Such a teacher can really teach & none else ."

The teacher spoils everything by thinking that he is teaching .Within man of great saints is all knowledge , & it requires only an awakening & that much is the work of the teacher .We have only to do so much for the boys that they may learn to apply their own intellect to the proper use of their hands, legs, ears & eyes .

### **Curriculum**

Swami Vivekananda recommended the study of languages especially regional language, Sanskrit, link languages & English . He also stressed on the importance of the subjects like history, geography, economics & other social science & psychology.

The supreme mission of the Vivekananda's life was to spread the gospel of the Vedas & Upanishadas "Arise Awake And stop not till the goal is reached."This was the corner stone of the education according to the Swami Vivekananda .for this he stressed on religious education in this context he recommends that children should be taught lives of great saints of all lands. "One must enter into the heart of the religion, that is, one must realize it in one's own life."According to Vivekananda,"religion must be a living experience with oneself." Vivekananda was very kin in the spiritual development of the masses as well as their economic & material prosperity.

Swami Vivekananda favored the western sciences, engineering & other subject. He wanted to synthesize the study of Vedanta, Religion, Philosophy & Theology & Western education because that was (and is) the requirement of the day.

Physical and health education was one aspect of education received a special treatment in the hands of Swami Vivekananda."Be Strong, My young friends "he argued , " That is my advice to you. You will be near to heaven through football than to Gita "Vivekananda said,"Make your nerves strong. What we want is muscles of iron and nerves ofsteel."

## **Women Education**

Swami Vivekananda was greatly pained at the miserable condition in India. He was conscious that a nation could rise only by paying proper respect to women .He coached from the Manusmriti, "Where women are respected, there are the gods delight; & where they are not ,there are all works efforts come to naught "

He further say's "there is no hope of rise for that family or country, where there is no extinction of women, where they live in saddlers .For this reason, they have to be raised first."

So he recommends that daughter should be brought up & educated just as son. He wants that the ideal & charity should be emphasized for women ,because this ideal world bring the indeed of Seeta for the Indian women He remarks that any attempt to modernized women which takes the women away from the idea of Seeta is a vision & must be stopped immediately .To Swami Vivekananda's Seeta is a symbol of purity ,she is purer than purity itself ,the suffer without a murmur , she is our ideal & the must remain . Indian women must be taught to follow the ideal of Seeta.

Swami Vivekananda was against the child marriage, as this practice stood in the method of the fullest deep of personality. He says, "Women must be put in a position to solve their own problem in their own way .No one can or ought to do this for them .And our Indian women are as capable of doing this as any in the world." He had immense faith in women.

Swami Vivekananda wants to give such as education to the Indian women as to , "bring to the need of India great teachers women – women worthy to continue the tradition of Sanghmitra , Lila , Ahalyabai & Mirabai women fit to be mothers of heroes ,because they are pure & self led . He wanted to give women an education which may form character & may increase the strength of mind & may enable them to stand on their own feet. He remarks "with such an education women will solve their own problems. They have all the time been trained in helplessness dependence on others & so they are good only to weep their eyes out at the slightest approach of a mishap or danger .Along with other things they should acquire the spirit of velour & horizon .in the present day it has become recovery for them also to learn self defenses .See how grade was the Queen of Jhansi."

Swami Vivekananda wants to teach some women the ideals of renunciation, so that they may take up the vow of lifelong dedication of God. He wants to train up some Brahmacharies who will take up the education of women.

According to him women should be taught history of the puranas (mythologies), Home keeping & the arts, the diction of home life & principles that make for the deep of ideal character. There subject should be taught with the help of modern science. He wants that girls are trained up in ethical & spiritual life.

In this way, Swami Vivekananda has a very high ideal of education for women.

### **Vivekananda for Modern Educators**

Education for good citizenship requires effective training of human instinct, impulses, emotion & desires in the longer interest of the nation. There must be different avenues for student to develop proper standards in art, science & literature as also in the basic culture of their native land. It is a fault of the modern age that students in general are announcing about primary certain examinations by merging of answers to related to question with help of their teachers. This is not a worthwhile virtue for rich returns.

Vivekananda gives proper emphasis to the fault that education should be vocation-oriented, value-oriented, though provoking & man-making. It should never be money-making business. To him, education is the only way to raise the electorate from a culture to a proficient culture. He strongly pleads for persistent crusade against illiteracy & exploitation. He has made it clear that man is the creator of his own destiny.

Vivekananda suggests that education in Indian school be for the presentation & transmission of Indian culture which cannot be attained by mere book-learning. This become possible only when every individual is prepared to follow the principles of introspection & involvement for self-improvement & for the upliftment of society.

He pleaded for through reformation & Indian society free from the tales & foibles of modernization. He gives a note of working of modern educators that they should not think in learn of sectional segmental development of the country



Vivekananda has influenced the spiritual teachings of the yoga & the Vedanta .He has stated that anything worth the name of modernization should have its root in the culture of India .It should promote patriotism & love .

Vivekananda has been able to create in the modern minds a sense of national identity, subject& participant competence, social trust & civic co-operations.

His educational ideas have touched every aspect of Indian social & economic life .they can be taken as guideline for complete reconstruction of present system of education. His message is for all times. His vies regarding the development of complex skills, healthy muscles, right play habits etc. have become current carriage in modern times .

The basic purpose of education repeatedly stressed by Vivekananda is the development of character ,service minders, humanity and self –confidence . Swamiji has expressed many time his deep concern & resentment against tendencies in educational institutions like intolerance fear, hatred inadequate information between parents & teachers sectional imbalances, etc.& suggested that there must be concerted effort to fight against these evils. Vivekananda believed that with desirable changes effected in the mental structure is possible to control the undesirable social forces it means selected were pure & fair,he believed ,the end would always be automatically good .

Swami was actually an epoch capsule with a life of spun of less than forty years .Updating his mother country to fight against all kinds of social evils .'Equilibrium & Synthesis' were the worth words of swami .Contemplation & devotion of duty were unified in his personality .Swami inspired his conteperion to work hard & learn freedom from bondage .The awakening & liberation of modern India as viewed by him was a stage for the realization of universal love & brotherhood .

Swami was one of the first thinkers in India to offer a sociological interpretation of Indian history.

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