

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA'S THOUGHTS AND PRESENT EDUCATION SYSTEM

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Abstract

Swami Vivekananda was born in 1863 in Calcutta. Indian philosophy reflects in Swami Vivekananda's life. His Philosophy of life is useful in today's educational system. As per his opinion education is most important tool for achieving the aims of life. His thoughts about life and education is very useful for development of mankind. Spiritual development and material development are important for complete development of Human being. Swami Vivekananda give important thoughts to the fields of life and education.

- Concept of Religion.
- Educational Ideas and Principles of Swami Vivekananda.
- Education.
- Mass Education.
- Women's Education.
- One Society.
- Aims of Education.
- The Curriculum of Studies.
- The Methods of Instructions in school and colleges.
- The Role of the Teacher.

The views and thoughts of Swami Vivekananda are still important in the field of Education. His thoughts give direction to education field.



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Introduction:

Swami Vivekananda was born in 1863 in Calcutta. His original name was Narendra Dutta. He was brilliant student and graduated with honours from Calcutta University. He had an excellent command over Bengali, Sanskrit and English language. He was deeply interested in the study of philosophy. For sometime, he was a classroom teacher. His scepticism and search for God took him to Ramakrishna. After that his life was changed.

(A) Principles underlying the philosophy:

- Vedanta constitutes the essence of Hinduism. He believes that all schools of Indian thought, including Buddhism and Jainism have their roots in the Vedanta. All Hindus consciously or unconsciously live and believe in the Vedanta.

- Vedanta represents the highest spiritual and ethical values of mankind. It teaches the unity of life, divinity of man, selfless devotion and fearlessness.
- Vedanta is identified with the free and selfless spirit in man. It is not opposed to science and other religious system.

(B) Concept of Religion:

- The Core elements of all religions are the same.
- Atma is the true reality and it is identical with God.
- The message of Vedanta is strength, self-denial and self-control.
- To attain salvation, one must led a life of purity, truthfulness and moral discipline.
- Love is to highest goal of religion.
- Service to man is equated with devotion to God.
- The best image for worshipping God is Man, as God resides in every human heart.

(C) Educational Ideas and Principles.

(1) Education:

- In India, Education is the present need for society
- Education is the best means for the development of the inner man.
- Education is tool for making Mankind and arises out of his poverty and helplessness.

(2) Mass Education:

For developmentof Masses(society) he advocates a broad system of free and compulsory education.

(3) Women's Education:

Vivekananda wanted women to be free from all fetters as self-respecting persons, with their own individuality

- He believed that by education strength of women will be increased and she can tackle the all problem.
- Daughters and son should be given same care, attention and education.
- We should try for improve their status and become equal partner with men.
- Schools should be established for girls and educational centres for women.

- Self-defence training should be given to women so that they too could play a defensive role, if the country is in the state of emergency.
- Knowledge, culture and power can only spread among the people of a nation when the status of men and women is equal.

(4) One Society:

Hewants only one society that is human society, where the science and technology of the west will be blended meaningfully with the spirituality of the East,

(5) Aims of Education:

- The ultimate goal of all education effort is man-making, but the specific aims are as follows:
- Education should try for character- development by which we develop the will-power, that leading to courage, stamina and fearlessness.
- Education should help people to build up self-confidence and self-reliance, based on balanced human relationships.
- Through education the individual should develop adaptability and be able to meet the challenges of a changing society.
- Development of spirituality in the people. This spirituality should lead to development of a spirit of fellow-felling, sympathy and sharing and solution of common problems aiming the people themselves.
- Education should lead to a feeling of brotherhood, and the unity of mankind.
- Work is worship;education should teach us to serve humanity towardshungry, ignorant and suffering masses. To serve the masses is to serve God.
- Education should lead us to acquire the spirit of renunciation-
- The aim of self-sufficiency. The individual should be given practical and vocational training along with the traditional religious and culture subjects. There should be workshops and laboratories for training in crafts and trades, so that pupils may be able to support themselves. Thus, the poverty of the country would be reduced.

(6) The Curriculum of Studies:

The curriculum recommended by him is modern and based on the needs of society, but No Specific Curriculum was prescribed by him.

- Children should be taught about their cultural heritage in terms of its history, poetry, grammar, language, lives of great men. Vedantic studies, the Mahabharata, Ramayana and the story of India's past, should form the groundwork of the pupils studies.
- Scientific knowledge, through a study of the various branches of modern science must find a place in the curriculum of school.
- Western technology and engineering should be included in the curriculum of schools and colleges. These should aim at economic development of the country.
- In scientific and technological studies, teachers should bring about a synthesis of the knowledge of the west and the east, we must recognize that there is no negation, rather a support of scientific pursuits in the vedas.
- In all schools, there is great need of emphasis on Indian languages, grammar, English, commerce and psychology, and must be included.

The English language will keep our door open and enable us to read, examine and adopt the western know-how for our own use.

- The Curriculum for girls should include cookery needlecraft, child-rearing, economic and psychology.
- Vocational subjects should be included in the curriculum of every child. Skills, craft and some vocation, along with other studies should enable pupils to learn a living at the end of their studies and make them self-supporting. The schools should produce self-reliant individuals, who can contribute to the economic well-being of society.
- Organizational abilities should be developed in schools and colleges. They must know-how of organizing commerce, trade and industries in the country.

(7) The Methods of Instructions in school and colleges:

The methods of instruction proposed are based on ancient Indian tradition.

- Guru-Pupil relationship is to be very close. The pupil is to learn by example and percept, rather than through books and lecturers alone.

- For studying any subject Meditation and concentration is necessary.
- Chastity and celibacy are recommended in order that the student may be in a state of responsiveness to intellectual and spiritual growth.
- The pupil's faith in himself, respect for the guru, will create in him a love for learning and knowledge.
- Discussion among teacher and pupils is the best method of instruction. There should be frank and open discussion on all topics of study. The teacher should invite questions and stimulate a spirit of enquiry in the pupils. The pupil should not become a passive recipient of knowledge. He should receive guidance in this direction from his teacher.
- The method of humility in acquiring knowledge and devotion to learning in solving problems, should be inculcated in the pupils.
- Travel is an ideal method of learning. He urged pupils and teachers to go out, observe and listen in order to learn from the world outside. He urged travel not only in India but also to other countries. We should observe how other nations function. We should keep free and open communication with other countries. We should be able to share our knowledge and philosophy with the people of other countries.

(8) The Role of the Teacher:

- The teacher has a great role in educating the child. He has to understand the needs of the pupil and to guide his learning and activities.
- According to Vivekananda a true teacher is one who can come to level of student and can "transfer his soul to the student's soul" and see through the student's eyes, hear through his ears' and understand through his understanding.
- The teacher is like a father of his pupil and sets a noble example for him. Teacher imparts him knowledge and information and helps him in the development of his intellectual and spiritual powers. The teacher's personality should help the pupil to become strong and powerful.
- The teacher must have a great love of humanity.
- Deep learning renunciation, self-sacrifice, devotion to humanity and love for his pupils; are the qualities, of a teacher.

Swami Vivekananda's contribution to the field of education.

Swami Vivekananda give importance to spirit of Humanism in Education. He interpreted Vedantic philosophy as worship of God and in reality it is service to mankind; education should lead us to the goal of realizing God through love of humanity, self sacrifice and work for the uplift of mankind.

In today's education system- we do not observe the service to God, service to mankind and work for the uplift of mankind. We also do not believe the relation between service to God and service to mankind. Education is far apart from God and service to mankind and self-sacrifice. Whole system is working for material development and intellectual development of the self. So in this situation, views of Swami Vivekananda are guiding principles.

(1) Free and Compulsory Mass Education:

Swami Vivekananda wants; all should be able to go to school regardless of caste, position, wealth or poverty. Education is the birth right of every human being.

Our Indian Education policy also accepted the principle of free and compulsory education, but in practice we observe that there are so many children who are far apart from education for e.g. tribal student, reserved category student and deprived Class student. We have denied birth right of these children.

(2) National System of Education:

According to Vivekananda a National System of education should be formulated, by which all schools should include a study of India's heritage of culture, arts, poetry, religion, history and languages. This is also useful in today's education system because in India there are so many groups based on region, religion, caste and mother tongue. There are so many groups in our society fighting to other groups. This situation hampers the social health of our nation. This situation also affects the national development of our country. In political situations, so many political parties are fighting with other parties for ruling over different institution.

(3) Women Education:

Accordingly to Vivekananda all women should receive proper education and training and be prepared to work for the country. They should become leaders and be placed in responsible positions in order to function society effectively.

In India, there is a great need to get education for all women. In rural family, there is a trend that boy should get higher and good education than girl. On the background of social security all girls must get the training of self defence. She also wants to get the education of culture, child health, for the purpose of transfer of culture, customs and traditions to next generation.

(4) One Society:

In India, we observe two social groups - (1) Urban and (2) Rural. Urban group is more developed than rural group. By using science and technological development of both the groups must be balanced. We want to consider both groups as one society.

(5) Casteism and Untouchability:

According to his view God create all men as equals and individuals determined their own caste, by their character, and works. All members of society deserve equal educational opportunities for their development.

In India, we observe by law no casteism is present in society, but in practice, casteism is still present in indirect form. In some sectors or fields, we observe the monopoly of some social group for e.g. banking, insurance company etc. That means no equal opportunities to all social groups for their development.

(6) Aims of education:

In Aims of education, his view reflects towards -Education should help people to built-

- Self-confidence and self-reliance.
- The Individual should develop adaptability
- Development of spirituality.
- Education should lead a feeling of brotherhood and should lead a feeling of brotherhood and the unity of mankind.
- Work is worship.
- The important aim is self-sufficiency.

In India, these aims are still important and useful for social development and upliftment.

(7) The Curriculum of Studies:

Vivekananda suggested that

- Vocational subjects should be included in the Curriculum for every child along with other studies- but in India, no such provision is present still today.
- Vivekananda realise the importance of English language.

According to him, Indian language as well as one English language is also important for development of our country. English language will open the door for adoption of western knowledge of science and technology. He also suggested that western technology and engineering should be included in the curriculum of schools and colleges. These are very useful today for development of economical and industrial development of our country. This is crime need of our country.

(8) The Method of Instruction:

- He recommended the very close relationship between Gure and pupil. This will helps to maintain the school discipline.
- He also recommended meditation and concentration as prerequisites of studying any subject. This method is also useful in today's education, because in day to day life every child is worried about different problems, so he cannot concentrate on his study. He also cannot concentrate on thinking also. Because of different worriesand problems his physical and mental health is also disturbs. In this context- meditation and concentration is very important.
- He recommended the discussion among student and teacher as method of instruction. Today this is one of the good methods, because this method will develop the skill of making enquiry of any subject.

(9) The Rama Krishna Mission:

The foundation of Rama Krishna Mission is the greatest contribution of Swami Vivekananda in the Education and society. The foundation of this movement was started in 1899. Hospitals, Schools and colleges were opened by this mission. This mission has many centres all over India. It is world –famous organization which attracts scholars and learned Swamis to its fold from all over.

That means Views and Thought of Swami Vivekananda are still important in the field of Education.

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