



ISSN: 2456-4583

## Global Multidisciplinary Research Journal

A Peer Reviewed/Refereed Bi-Annual Research Journal of Multidisciplinary Researches  
Volume 1 Issue 1 September 2016, pp.74-79



Global Development Society  
6, New Tilak Nagar, Firozabad-283203 (UP)

# RELEVANCE OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA'S EDUCATIONAL VALUES IN MODERN SCENARIO

**Prof. Madhu Mathur<sup>1</sup> and Nidhi Sharma<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Professor and <sup>2</sup>Research Fellow,  
Faculty of Education Vansthali Vidyapeeth, Vansthali, Rajasthan

**Received:** 22 August 2016, **Revised:** 23 August 2016, **Accepted:** 25 August 2016

### Abstract

*In this paper, there will be critical analysis of Swami Vivekananda's views on educational values. Swami Vivekanand was the reformer of humanity; instiller of new consciousness in religion, society, culture and all fields of national life; supporter of religious, moral and spiritual education. He believed in freedom, equality, self-reliance and value of life. Though lived in the 19th century, Swami Vivekanand's educational values are still found to be very much useful, practicable and relevant in the modern system of education. According to Swami Vivekananda, education does not mean the mass of information which is inserted by force into the mind of a child. Education is the manifestation of perfection already existing in man. Swami Vivekananda had envisioned a society with a new type of human being in whom knowledge, action, work and concentration were harmoniously blended and he proposed a new type of education for achieving this. The educational values of Swami Vivekananda can be of great help to achieve the national goals of education.*

**Keywords:** Man-making, Self-reliance Harmonious Development, Divine Perfection.

### Introduction

Swami Vivekananda's scheme of education, through which he wanted to build up a strong nation that will lead the world towards peace and harmony, is still a far cry. It is high time that we give serious thought to his philosophy of education and remembers his call to everybody – 'Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached'. In ancient India, sages accepted education as a form of all round development of individual. Hence at that time the purpose of education was to attain perfection & for spiritual development. But the format of education that came into being during British period developed the desire to earn money by jobs. In present context it is more important

that our educational system should be such as may develop in us modern national values along with the ancient glory of the country-sacrifice, penance, knowledge and devotion and the importance of Indian knowledge and character may once more be established for this purpose.

### **Need of the Study**

History is evident that no country in the world has achieved a glorious place by rejecting, humiliating and insulting its own culture, civilization, language and education system; and accepting other's culture, civilization, language and education system. The man who has nothing of his own and borrows everything from others is not respected in the society. In the same way a nation which has nothing of its own, i.e. culture, language and education system is also not respected by other countries of the world. Such a country can never stand in the queue of developed nations. From this point of view if we see the position of our nation, we find that our country has neither its own culture nor its civilization, language or its own national educational systems. We have rejected all that was ours and accepted other's culture, civilization and still we are feelings false glory. This is the main cause of the downfall of our country.

### **Objectives of the Study**

- (I) To study Swami Vivekananda's philosophy of education.
- (II) To study the relevance of Swami Vivekananda's educational ideas in the modern system of education.

### **Research Methodology**

Historical method and content analysis method are used in the present study.

#### *(I) Vivekananda's Philosophy of Education*

The real education according to Swami Vivekananda is that which prepares the individual for struggle for existence. Education prepares a man for social service, to develop his character and finally imbues him with the spirit and courage of a lion. For getting degree is not an education, the proper education must be viewed on the basis of character, mental powers, intelligence and inculcates. Self-confidence and self-reliance in the individuals. Swamiji has emphasized that all the knowledge which we gets from worldly or spiritual lies embedded in the human mind. It was covered with a veil of darkness and ignorance. Education is a tool to open from the darkness and ignorance, after getting of education, the knowledge will shines out dazzlingly. He condemned and refused the bookish learning and rote memory education. Condemning the theoretical and academic education, he spoke emphatically for practical and experimental education.

Swami Vivekanand philosophy of education can better understand on the basis of following headings.

- **Knowledge Resides within the Individual**

Knowledge is inherent within the individual himself. The individual finds out this knowledge by experiencing it within himself. Perfection is inherent in everyone. It is the function of education to lead one to perfection. Therefore, education should be made available to all.

- **The Child Furthers Its Own Development**

Swami Vivekananda says that it is wrong to think that we promote the development of a child. In fact, he furthers his development himself. He says, “Everyone develops according to his own nature. When the time comes everyone will come to know this truth. Do you think you can educate a child? The child will educate himself, your job is to provide the necessary opportunity to him and remove the obstacles in his path. He will educate himself on his own. A plant grows itself, does the gardener grow it? He just provides the necessary environment to it, it is the plant itself that does its own growing.” Thus Swami Vivekananda advocates the principle of self-education.

- **Education According to the Nature and Need of the Child**

In order to make education useful, it must be according to the nature and need of the child. It is not the teacher, or the parents who will determine his needs and nature. His education should be patterned on the lines of these tendencies. The teacher has to visualize God in the soul of each child. Each child should be considered as manifestation of God. In fact, we have to serve God. Therefore we have to serve each child.

- **The Ability of Concentration is the Essence of Education**

For the acquisition of knowledge, concentration or attention is very necessary. For the success in life also, this power is very helpful. Everyone does not have the same power of concentration. With the help of this power one can acquire useful knowledge and arrange it in mind for use whenever necessary.

### *(II) Vivekananda's Views on Education*

Vivekanand's views on education focused in the context of value education, peace education, environmental education & citizenship education.

- **Value Education**

Here, education is conceived in the broad sense; everything in the society plays an educational role. The formal education system is but part of the culture and values in the system are inevitably determined by the culture. Education is seen as an instrument for harnessing human drives, and as consequences, it becomes to some extent a method of behavior modification. Education preserves rather than changes social values. Education is seen to abide by existing culture norms of the society.

At this situation, the solutions of all these social and global evils is through value education. Emphasis should be on such education through which moral values can be developed among the students so that they can conduct their life morally. They can decide what is right or wrong; what is good or evil; what is justice or injustice. If we can make a student as a good human being, the

development of moral values within him is the prior task of education. They are the foundation of human existence. They make our life meaningful. Due to dearth of values in the present generation the curriculum must give prominence to value education. Value education has never been out of style. It is very relevant in almost all the fields concerning human activity.

- **Peace Education**

All ranges of shades of meaning of peace and harmony come easily under three basic sources as visualized by Swami Vivekananda. These are inner peace, social peace and peace with nature. These can be analyzed further as under:

**Inner Peace:** Inner peace is peace with self self-contentedness. One, ‘whose mind remains unperturbed amid sorrows, whose thirst for pleasure has altogether disappeared, and who is free from passion, fear and anger’ is said to have achieved inner peace. For example, harmony and peace with oneself, good health and absence of inner conflicts, joy, sense of freedom, insight, spiritual peace, feelings of kindness, compassion, and content, appreciation of art.

**Social Peace:** Human beings are social beings; they cannot live in isolation. The tapestry of the living community is fast 29 M-2: Message for Teacher Educators changing from living in homogeneous, cultural, linguistic and religious groups to cosmopolitan community that is multicultural, multi-lingual and multi-religions. For an enriched and meaningful life, it is necessary to learn to live together within diversity. Again, for social peace, tolerance for diversity is not enough; respect and love for diversity is the precondition. Social peace implies harmony in human relationships, conflict reconciliation and resolution, love, friendship, unity, mutual understanding, co-operation, brotherhood, tolerance of differences, democracy, community building, human rights, morality, etc.

**Peace with Nature:** Planet earth is the cradle of human civilization. Symbolically, she is the mother earth. Peace with nature implies stopping the violation of her dignity through environmental and ecological degradation, exploitation, etc. Peace with nature is harmony with natural environment and mother earth.

Swami Vivekananda’s thought on this point may be epitomized as follows: “Peace is the behaviour that encourages harmony in the way people talk, listen, and interact with each other and discourages actions to hurt, harm, or destroy each other.”

- **Environment Education**

Environmental education is viewed as an integral part of the education process. It is taken to be centered on practical problems and can be an interdisciplinary character. It should aim at building up a sense of values, contribute to public well being and concern itself with survival of the human species. Its force, therefore, should aside mainly the initiative of the learners and their involvement in action and it should be guided by immediate and future subject of concern. Environmental education enables them to manage the environment in which they live through a judicious use of resources.

It may be indicated that all the epoch making thinkers in India have contributed significantly by laying stress on sustainable healthy environmental practices and management which may said to be the harbinger of the concept of environmental education for the 21<sup>th</sup> century world.

- **Citizen Education**

The concept of citizenship education should target to mould the future citizens into the frame of a civic society where citizens are aware of their rights, respect democratic ideals and work for a welfare society with shared responsibility. Education for democratic citizenship is a set of practices and activities aimed at making young people and adults better equipped to participate actively in democratic life by assuming and exercising their rights and responsibilities in society.

At present, democratic nation-states are the only dependable agencies for enforcement of their citizen's rights and for the exercise of their citizens' responsibilities. In fact, according to Klusmeyer, 'citizenship is the fundamental institution that connects the individual bearer of right to the protective agencies of the state. The civic realm of the state provides the main channels through which individuals can participate politically and share in governance.

## **Conclusion**

Swami Vivekananda was actually the greatest synthesizer of ever time. He wanted to remove the evils of the society by giving re-orientation to politics, society, economy and education. Swami Vivekananda laid stress on education as a powerful weapon for this change. As an educationalist he believes in absolute values which have to be realized by a good system of education. Education should be the preparation for life. It should leads to the development of character and make individuals self-dependent.

From the analysis of Vivekananda's scheme of education, the uplift of masses is possible only through education. The vision of education in India is to be derived and transmitted through the inspiring averment made by 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 own feet." There is a specific mandate from these words for revamping education in our country today. His views on education bring a light of its constructive, practical and comprehensive character. Select the educational values of Swami Vivekanand, classify and discuss them and consider the relevance of these education values she then, will present the conclusions based on the educational values in a systematic way.

## **Suggestion**

There may be some practical suggestion for the Indianisation or nationalization of the prevalent Indian education system. Vivekananda says, "Education is not the amount of information that is put into the brain and runs riot there, undigested all your life. We must have life-building, man-making, character-making, assimilation of ideas." Education should unveil the divinity in man/woman and this divinity should be seen in treating lunatics, in punishing criminals and in everything that is connected with human life.

What we need today is an education that is capable of saving mankind from the present predicament. Such an education involves the spiritual development of man and the enhancement of his value as an individual and preparing the young people to understand the time in which they live.

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Some of the popular and informative websites containing lot of useful information on Vivekanad are as below.

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- [www.vivekananda.net](http://www.vivekananda.net)
- [www.ramakrishnavivekananda.info](http://www.ramakrishnavivekananda.info)

