



THOUGHTS OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA ON EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

The thoughts of swami Vivekananda reveals that, he is an electric educational philosopher. His philosophy of education is surprising synthesis of philosophy and psychology ,spiritualism and materialism ,heredity and environment .The present paper focus on the Swami Vivekananda's unique and multidimensional thoughts contributed substantially to the educational edifice of their own nation and also world. This brief research study trace his thoughts relating to various aspects of education and to analyze those for finding out their relevance to education in modern India. His thoughts on education are the harmonious blending of the important features of many philosophian and such shows an electric trend.

To Swami Vivekananda' Education' is a continuous process through which the innate potentialities of man are discovered and developed for perfection and manifestation of divinity. According to him "Education is manifestation of perfection already in man".1. He said that all knowledge and soul powers are within human mind and soul pre-existing through eternity and can be awakened by education and suitable environment. Education is not the book learning, but it is a training through which an individual can control a situation.

To swami Vivekananda real education furnishes the common mass to struggle for life, strengthens the character and develops the spirit of mankind and courageousness. The ideas of swami Vivekananda have been reflected through various philosophies of education through in an inimitable fashion. His multifarious views relating to various aspects of education have shown an electric trend which witnesses to the fact that he is an electric philosopher. He is an idealist, to him each child is potentially divine and brings with him certain innate traits or spiritual endowments. The perfection already exists within the child. The aim of education is to manifest the knowledge, are hidden divinity and perfection which are hidden within life building. Man is born and brought up in the society and his life is shaped by the society. Education provides sufficient environment for building the life of the individual. Training of heart ultimately results in the formation of character. Good and evil, truth and falsity, beauty and ugly have their impact on each human being, which ultimately contribute to the building of the character.

The aim of education is to emancipate or awaken the individual from ignorance and to assist him to face the failure and challenges of life with courage and confidence. Most of the thoughts forces are wasted by the common human being, for which man becomes ignorant and weak and only a weak and only a weak man commits mistakes. "We commit mistakes because we are ignorant. who makes us ignorant?. We ourselves. We put our hands over our eyes and weep that it is dark. Take the hands away and there is light. The light exists always for us. Do you not hear what modern scientific men say? What is cause of the evolution?. Desire the animal wants to do something but doesn't find the environment favorable and therefore develops a new body. Who develops it? The animals itself: its will." 2

Further swami Vivekananda describes about the vocational efficiency as the other principle aim of education to be achieved through vocational and technical education, which is helpful both for the individual and the nation. It makes the individual self-efficient, self-supporting and economically independent. He firmly believes in the postulate that a sound mind exist in a sound body and laid emphasis on physical developments, and also considered it as one of the important aims of education . he said,"Be stronger my young friends that is my advice to you. You will be nearer to heaven through football than through the study of Gita."3

To be complete, harmonious development of an individual in all the dimensions, namely physical, mental, social, moral and emotional is a dire necessity, which is psychological and educational sense is called development of personality .he said that the one third of personality is determined by words, thoughts, intellect and actions while the rest two third of it by the individual himself.

Swami Vivekananda after visiting many countries realized that all the miseries of the world are outgrowth of the constant erosion of the values. He foresee the same fate of india in future due to the blind imitation of western culture by the Indians. So, he wanted their regeneration of masses through a type of education by which essential values of both the ancient india and modern world can be inculcated due place. Honesty is meaningless term and is of no value in a society where truth doesn't prevail and the possessors of truth are not recognized and regarded. Truth is as old as the creation itself. He wanted the values like love, sincerity, patience, integrity, to be inculcated along with the truth for making a man 'a man'.

Fearlessness is another important value according to swami Vivekananda. He says ,"if there is one word that you find coming like a bomb from Upanishads bursting like a bomb-shell upon masses of ignorance, it is the word fearlessness".4

Swamiji was in favour of cultivating the values like Brahmacharya, Shraddha, faith in one's self and Faith in God and advocated that everybody should practice these virtues. Emphasizing the inculcation of values like morality and courageousness, swamiji says, "be moral-Be brave". Be a heart whole man". Swami Vivekananda as a practical man wanted the

harmonious synthesis of the essential values of the materialistic culture of the west with the spiritualistic culture of India. His desire was to make a European society with the religion of India and in this regard he was optimistic. Spiritual values can be inculcated in combination with material values .it s possible India as it is the birth place of spirituality. Freedom is another essential value, which is the end of the whole universe. Regarding the freedom of man, he enunciates, "Man has freedom already, but he will have to discover it".5

Swami Vivekananda wanted to inculcate the feeling of brotherhood among the Indian masses and advised the people to serve the mankind selflessly. According to him, "Feel my children ,feel; feel for the poor, the ignorant, the downtrodden".6

He viewed curriculum as the totality of deliberately planned set of educational experiences provided to the student in school environment which includes curricular and co-curricular activities. He strongly advocated that 'Concentration', is the only method of education for the attainment of knowledge, from lowest man lowest man to highest yogi, and regarded it as the essence of education. Swami Vivekananda was the chief campaigner of gurukul system of education, where the pupil comes in direct contact with Guru and his personality is shaped accordingly in the ideals of Guru.

Thus the eminent thinker of the world with his unique and multidimensional thoughts has not only contributed to the educational edifice of their own nation but also to the world as well. He had deliberated a lot on education through his speeches. The great spiritual soul swami Vivekananda loved in both east and west.

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