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EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY BY SWAMI VIVEKANADA

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ABSTRACT

Swami Vivekananda is one of the greatest thinkers and pioneers in social reform Indian renaissance owners much to Swami Vivekananda. Among the contem- porary Indian philosophers of education, he is one of those who revolted against the imposition of British system of education in India.

KEYWORDS: *Educational Philosophy , Swami Vivekananda , Indian philoso- phers of education.*

INTRODUCTION

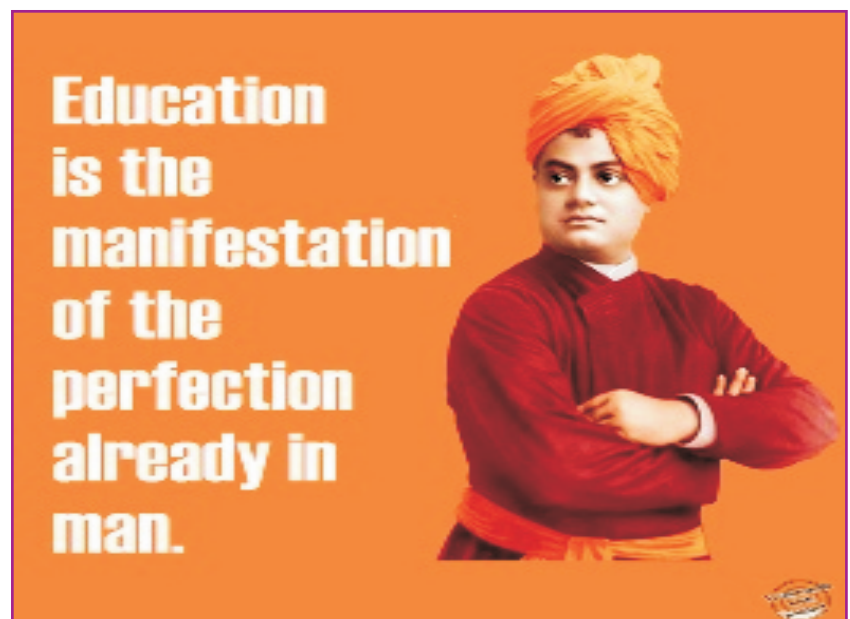
Swami Vivekananda considered that the System of Education introduced by the British did not conform to India's culture. He considered that it turned men into slaves. He also felt that the education system in those days is no better than an efficient machine which rapidly turns men into clerks.

The System Education deprived people of their faith and belief. It made the people believe that Gita way false and the Vedas are noting but folklore. It made the learner (student) to feel that there is nothing noteworthy and appreciable in Indian culture and education. Swami Vivekananda also criticized the British Education System from the

humani- stic view point.

Education is the light in a dark room. People know everything through education. A good education system should not give fish to the students, but it should train the students to catch fish. It should induce the people to think and it leads the people to take decision at their own. In the sense, national education is getting importance. A good education is not only helping an individual, it makes intelligence in the country and they make the country power. Many scholars have told about education. Generally education is given at the younger age. So thoughts about education of

a young scholar will be opt and useful for country. Swami Vivekananda is well known and young scholar who has given many thoughts to young India. In his thoughts, national education is a famous one. This paper has made an attempt to give the thoughts of Swami Vivekananda towards national education. Education is the national ship, my countrymen, my friends, my children – this national ship ferrying millions and millions of souls across the waters of life. For scores of shining centuries it has been plying across this water, and through its agency, millions of souls have been taken to the other shore to blessedness. But today, perhaps through your own fault, this boat has become a little damaged,



has sprung a leak and would you therefore curse it? It is fit that you stand up and pronounce malediction upon it, one that has done more work than any other thing in the world? If there are holes in this national ship, this society of ours, we are its children. Let us go and stop the holes. Let us gladly do it with our hearts' blood and if we cannot, then let us die. We will make a plug of one brain and put them into the ship, but condemn it never. Say not one harsh word against this society. I love you all, because you are the children of gods, and because you are the children of the glorious forefathers. How then can I curse you? All blessings be upon you are I have come to you, my children, to tell you all my plans. If you hear them, I am ready to work with you but if you will not listen to them, and even kick me out of India. I will come back and tell that we are all sinking. I have come now to sit in your midst and, if we are to sink, let us all sink together, but never let curses rise to our lips.

We must have a hold on the spiritual and secular education of the nation. Do you understand that? You must dream it, must talk it, you must think it, and you must work it out. Till then there is no salvation for the race. The education that you are getting now has some good points, but it has a tremendous disadvantage which is so great that the good things are all weighed down. In the first place, it is not a man-making education it is merely and entirely negative education. A negative education or any training that is based on negation is worse than death. The child is taken to school, and the first thing he learns is, that his father is a fool, the second thing, that his grandfather is a lunatic, the third thing, that all his teachers are hypocrites, the fourth that all the sacred books are lies! By the time he is sixteen, he is a mass of negation, lifeless and boneless. Education is not that amount of information that is put into your brain and runs riot there undigested, all your life. We must have life-building, man-making, character-making, assimilation of ideas. If you have assimilated five ideas and made them your life and character, you have more education than any man who has got by heart a whole library. If education is the identical with information, the libraries the greatest sages in the world, and encyclopedias are the Rashes. The ideal, therefore, is that we must have the whole education of our country, spiritual and secular, in our own hands and it must be on national lines, through national methods as far as practical.

EDUCATION THOUGHTS

To swami Vivekananda, "Education is the man frustration of the perfection already in man". A Peruvian 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 man'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 & lucid 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 inherent in man, no knowledge comes from outside, 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 riot there, undigested all your life.' "If education were identical with information the libraries to be the greatest edges in the world & encyclopedias the Rashes" All Almost similar ideas are repeated by A. N. Whitehead who was urgently opposed 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 inert & 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 any man who has not got by heart library.'

AIMS 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 one's 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."

Any educational system functions on certain aims and goals. They are also based on needs and the cultural background of a country or region. In contrast to the contemporary system of education, Vivekananda advocated education for self development. Swami Vivekananda said, "By education I do not mean the present system, but something in the line of positive teaching. Mere book learning won't do. 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. What we want are western science coupled with Vedanta, 'Brahma chary' as guiding motto, and also faith in one's own self"136. These words by Vivekananda represent the characteristics of the aims of Indian Educational system. Education according to most of the western educationalists aim at Man's adjustment with the environment. But, according to Indian educational thinkers, Education is the realization of the knowledge inherent in man. They consider the true knowledge does not come from outside. It is discovered within the individual, in the self which is the source of all knowledge. The external world is simply the suggestion, the occasion, which sets you to study your own mind, but the object of your study is always your own mind. The falling of an apple gave the suggestion to Newton, and he studied his own mind.

According to Vivekananda Education is the process of self development. He says "you cannot teach a child any more than you can grow a plant. Further, a person's education is not judged by the number of books he has read but by the thickness of the cover of ignorance on his mind. The thicker is this cover, the greater is ignorance. As the light of knowledge dawns, this ignorance will gradually be shattered. The job of the teacher is to uncover knowledge by his guidance. His guidance makes the mind active and the student himself unveils the knowledge lying within him.

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 says "there is no hope of rise for that family or country, where there is no extinction of women, where they live in squalors. 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 brings the ideal of Seta for the Indian women. He remarks that any attempt to modernized women which takes the women away from the idea of Seta is a vision & must be stopped immediately. To Swami Vivekananda Seta is a symbol of purity, she is purer than purity itself, suffer without a murmur, she is our ideal & the must remain. Indian women must be taught to follow the ideal of Seta. Swami Vivekananda was against the child marriage, as this practice stood in the method of the fullest development 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 an education to the Indian women as to bring to the need of India great teacher's women. 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 valour & horizon. In the present day it has become necessary for them also to learn self defenses. See how good was the Queen of Jhansi."

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Without the knowledge of physical education, the self-realization or character building is not possible one must know, how to make our body strong through physical education, for to attain a complete education, it is necessary to develop both the mind and the body. In particular, Vivekananda stressed the value of physical education in curriculum. He said, "You will be nearer to Heaven through football than through the study of Gita. You will understand Gita better by your biceps, your muscles a little stronger. You will understand the Upanishads better and the glory of the Atman, when your body stands firm on your feet and you feel yourself as man."

MEDIUM OF EDUCATION

Like Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore, Vivekananda also emphasized education through the mother tongue. Besides mother tongue, there should be a common language which is necessary to keep the country united. Vivekananda appreciated the greatness of Sanskrit that it is the source of all Indian languages and a repository of all inherited knowledge; with the absence of this knowledge, it will be impossible to understand Indian culture. It is like a store house of ancient heritage, to develop our society it is necessary that men and women should know this language, besides the knowledge of the mother tongue.

MORAL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Vivekananda said, "Religion is the innermost core of education. I do not mean my own or anyone else opinion about religion. Religion is as the rice and everything else, like the curries. Taking only curries causes indigestion and so is the case with taking rice alone."9 Therefore, religious education is a vital part of a sound curriculum. Vivekananda considered Gita, Upanishads and the Vedas are the most important curriculum for religious education. For him, religion is a self realization and divinization. It is not only individual's development but also for the transformation of total man. The true religion cannot be limited to a particular place of time. He pleaded for unity of world religion. He realized truth while practicing of religion. The truth is the power, untruth is the weakness. Knowledge is truth, ignorance is untruth. Thus truth increases power, courage and energy. It is light giving, therefore, necessary for the individual as well as collective welfare. In the Vivekananda point of view, ethics and religion are one and the same. God is always on the side of goodness. To fight for goodness is the service to God. The moral and religion education develop the self-confidence among the young men and women.

SELF EDUCATION

Self education is the self knowledge. That is, of our own self is the best guide in the struggle of our life. If we take one example, the childhood stage, the child will face lot of problems or commit mistakes in the process of character formation. The child will learn much by his mistakes. Errors are the stepping stones to our progress in character. This progress will need courage and strong will. The strong will is the sign of great character will makes men great.

CONCLUSION

Swami Vivekananda has described national education a ship and he told that it helps the people in the way of passing their life and it give safe travel in the life. If national education system in India made alter and bring the system towards the thoughts of Swami Vivekananda it is able to bring out intellectual young people more numbers that it creates now. This dream system will create India with more power in all aspects of education. Vivekananda views on education bring a light of its constructive practical and comprehensive character. Swami Vivekananda suggested trying to give up jealousy and conceit and learn to work united others.

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