

# Views of Swami Vivekananda on philosophy of education

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## ABSTRACT

The key idea of this paper is to look at the views of Swami Vivekananda on Philosophy of Education. According to Swami, education is the manifestation of perfection already present in the man. Nationalism and spiritualism were the basics for his philosophy of education. Swami had a definite faith that nothing comes from outside. Having faith in ancient Indian values, culture and tradition he was also in favour of scientific and modern approach towards learning, understanding, teaching and spreading the knowledge and education. Swami Vivekananda criticized the pattern of education introduced by the British and said it is not suitable to Indian culture. For him education is the process through which character is formed, mental power is enhanced and intellect is sharpened, in total it helps the individual to stand on his own feet. Education which helps a man for struggle of existence is real education. Education is a powerful instrument to achieve all developmental qualities in the people. Swami wants to make the individual to recognise his cultural heritage and to struggle throughout his life, so that he should be able to understand that education is the right choice to upcoming of human beings.

**KEYWORDS:** Character development, Social Progress, Man-making, Self Education.

## Introduction:

Swami Vivekananda views that education is not information of knowledge which will be inserted into the mind of a child by force. According to Vivekananda “education is the manifestation of the perfection already present in the man”. He also said that education does not mean gaining only information. In his view education is that 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.” He was of the view that education should help in life-building, man-making and character-making and also he said that knowledge without culture lifeless. According to Swami Self-development, freedom to growth and character formation are the main aims of education. The good education helps in life building, man-making, character forming, and assimilation of ideas. This would assist the ordinary people to prepare themselves for the struggle of life. The key feature of his philosophy of life is to become brave through struggle and serve the humanity. Swami wants to make the individual to recognise his cultural heritage and to struggle throughout his life, so that he should be able to understand that education is the right choice to upcoming of human beings. Vivekananda wanted to make individual fearless, so that he could face any situation boldly and positively without any suppression. By synthesising the idealistic philosophy of the west and creative ancient Hindu philosophy, he got a glory and greatness to the Hindu way of living.

## Philosophy of Education:

According to Vivekananda education is plying a key role in shaping the future of humanity. He always emphasized on “man-making” education. The education which prepares the individual to struggle for his existence is the real education. Real education helps the person to come out from darkness. Real education

prepares a man to serve the humanity, by developing the character. He criticized the educational system and said that, “You regard that man to be educated who obtains some degree, has passed out some examinations, and is able to deliver fluent lectures. But this is not real education. The real education shapes the character, and develops mental power. Vivekananda was of the view that Knowledge is inherited and nothing comes from outside. Education which helps a man for struggle of existence is real education. For achieving all developmental qualities in the people education is a necessary. Self learning is the real education. Teacher only gives advises. The teacher is a guide and he only motivates and encourages the students to find out the hidden treasure of knowledge that lies dormant within him. He was against the bookish knowledge and condemned rote memory. Keeping faith in ancient Indian values, culture and tradition he was great admirer of scientific and modern approach towards learning, understanding, teaching and spreading the knowledge and education.

### **Education according to Vivekananda:**

Education is the manifestation of the perfection already present in man. It perceptibly indicates that something is already present there which is waiting for expression. According to him, knowledge is inherent, not developed from external sources. Knowledge has great potential. He also defines education as “life-building, man-making, character-making assimilation of ideas”, and not a certain “amount of information that is put into your brain by force. The best meaning of education is man making and character building. Love from the teacher has direct influence on the mind of learner. The real education helps in the growth and expansion of true personality. Swami was in favour of total human development. The overall development of man and mankind should be the priority of education. The child should be taught through by love, it makes fellow feelings and love for human beings. Education must help the person to recognise his cultural heritage and to use it in his struggle of life. Education is a life-long process towards the fullest development of human personality, self-discovery, self perfection, self-awareness and self-manifestation.

### **Aims of Education as per Vivekananda:**

According to Vivekananda overall development of man and mankind should be the priority of education. Education which is not emphasizing building good moral character, physical work and use of mother tongue and to generate the sense of nationality is of no use. The training, by which the current and expression of will are brought under control and become fruitful, is called education. The present education system is producing biological machines instead of producing human. Education can't be called national unless it, inspires love for the nation, love to learn and love to nurture the ancient culture, value, tradition and valuable knowledge of the nation. What our country now wants are muscles of iron and a nerve of steel, gigantic wills which nothing can resist, which can penetrate into the mysteries and secrets of the universe and will accomplish their purpose in any fashion, even if it means going down to the bottom of the ocean, meeting death face to face. It is a man-making religion that we want. It is man-making theories that we want. It is man-making education all round that we want.

### **Aims of education according to Vivekananda:**

#### **1. Aim of attaining Perfection :**

Education according to Vivekananda should help the individual in attaining the perfection. According to Vivekananda all worldly and spiritual knowledge is already present in man and education is the means which helps the individual to bring out this already gained knowledge. Real education removes the curtain over it and helps the knowledge to come out and shine like the sun which lights the world. This is meant attaining perfection.

#### **2. Aim of Physical and Intellectual growth :**

The second aim of education is the physical and intellectual growth. After studying the sacred book the child is able to become fearless and encourage national growth and development. Vivekananda asserted that education should help the child to stand on his own feet.

**3. Aim of Moral and Spiritual progress:**

In the views of Swami Vivekananda the strength of a nation is not only determined by its military might, but also by the greatness of its citizens. But this greatness of citizens is only possible when they are morally and spiritually developed. Education plays a crucial role in the growth of such progresses.

**4. Aim of Character progress:**

According to Vivekananda character progress is of very importance. For progress of character Vivekananda emphasized the practice of Brahmacharya which boosts the development of mental, moral and spiritual powers leading to purity of thoughts, words and deeds.

**5. Aim of confidence on Self:**

To believe and have confidence on self was the main suggestion of Vivekananda to individuals. They should inspire a spirit of self surrender, sacrifice and renunciation of material pleasures for the good of others. Education should help in the development of such qualities. Vivekananda encouraged his countrymen. "Arise, awake and stop not till you reach the destination."

**6. Aim of realizing Unity in Diversity:**

The original aim of education is to develop inner feelings of individuals so that they are able to realize unity in diversity. Swami Vivekananda also stated that physical and spiritual worlds are one; their distinctness is an illusion (Maya). Education should develop the sense which finds unity in diversity.

**7. Aim of Religious progress:**

Swami Vivekananda gave importance to religious progress aim. According to him, every person should be able to find and develop the religious seed embedded in him and thus find the absolute truth or reality.

**8. Aim of self Development:**

Vivekananda emphasized education for self-development. According to Vivekananda western education mainly focuses on man's adjustment with the environment. But according to Indian philosophy real knowledge comes from inside. Vivekananda held that the function of education is the uncovering of the knowledge hidden in our mind.

**9. Freedom in growth:**

Child should be allowed to grow according to his own nature. There should not be any sort of pressure on the child. He should be given full freedom to develop. The child should be encouraged in solving his problems himself.

**10. Women Education:**

Vivekananda considered that women to be the incarnation of power and urged men to give them respect. Vivekananda precisely pointed out that nation can never march forward unless women secure a reputable place in this country. He wanted to make women strong, fear-less, and conscious of their chastity and dignity. According to Vivekananda men and women are equally skilled not only in the academic matters, but also must have equivalent companion in the home and family. The ideal women in India is the mother, the mother first, and the mother last. The word woman calls up to the mind of the Hindu, motherhood; and God is called mother.

**11. Aim of Character Formation:**

The aim of education is character formation. This depends upon the principles cherished by the individual. The teacher should present high ideals before the students. The best way of developing a character in the individual is the personal example of high character set by the teacher in front of his students. In ancient Indian system of education, the teachers used to present high ideals before the pupils, who in their turn imitated these ideals according to their capacities.

**12. Universal Education :**

Vivekananda advocated for the universal education so that the weaker sections of the society also get education. Education is the powerful instrument for this process. Thus education should spread to every household in the country. If the children do not come to the school the teacher should reach them. Vivekananda emphasized education for all sections of society, rich and poor, young and old, male and female.

**13. Curriculum in education:**

Vivekananda emphasized the addition of all those subjects and activities, in the curriculum, which promote material welfare with spiritual advancement. For spiritual perfection Swami prescribed Religious, Philosophy, Puranic lore, Upanishads, Company of saints and their preaching's and for material advancement and prosperity he recommended Languages, Geography, Science, Political Science, Economics, Psychology, Art, Agriculture, Industrial and Technical subjects together with Games, sports and other Physical exercises. Vivekananda prescribed the ancient spiritual methods of teaching wherein the teacher and student lived in close association. He was having the opinion that the schools should produce self reliant individuals who can earn their living after concluding their education. Vivekananda recommended that professional courses should also form a part of curriculum crafts may be taught along with other subjects. The curriculum for girls may include "needlecraft, cookery, child-rearing, and other useful subjects.

**Principles of Education:**

Vivekananda advocated the same ancient spiritual methods of teaching, where teacher and his students lived in close relationship. The following are the basic principles of education.

- i. Through Education child should be able to develop physically, mentally and spiritually.
- ii. Education should help in the development of character, mental powers, intelligence and inculcate self-confidence.
- iii. The focus is the key to all the knowledge. For this Practicing of Brahmacharya is very essential.
- iv. Education regarding Religious should be given through sweet impressions and fine conduct in preference to books.
- v. Education should foster spiritual faith, devotion and self-surrender in the individual and should foster full development through service and sacrifice.
- vi. Those subjects must be included in the curriculum which promotes the material and spiritual advancement of a child.

**CONCLUSION:**

From the examination of Vivekananda's scheme of education, it can be concluded that the boost of masses is achievable only through education. Vivekananda's views on education brings a radiance of its useful, practical



and broad character. Vivekananda tries to materialize the moral and spiritual welfare and upliftment of humanity. According to him, we can become the strong nation with peace and harmony with the help of education. The main objectives of education are: self development, fulfilment of swadharma, freedom of growth and character formation. He had realized that humanity is passing through an emergency and the mess will keep growing in due course of time. Swami Vivekananda opposed the system of education introduced by the British and said it is not suitable to Indian culture. He was having the view that it turned men into slaves, capable of slavery and nothing else. According to him the aim of education should be life-building, man-making and character-making and swami also said that knowledge without culture is nothing. In true with this philosophy, Vivekananda defines education as 'the manifestation of the perfection already in man.' The aim of education is to manifest in our lives the perfection, which is the very nature of our inner self. This perfection is the self realization and acquiring the infinite power in form of confidence which resides in everything and every existence - consciousness and bliss. For achieving this, one will have to eliminate one's ego, ignorance and all other false identification, which stand in the way. Right kind of education is the only way to overcome all kind of hindrance in life.

