



# A Study on Thoughts of Swami Vivekananda on Moral Values and Character Development

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## Abstract

Education is not meant for information but for life building, man making, character making and assimilation of ideas. Hence, fostering moral development and formation of character in child should be the aims of our education. The primary goals of education should be enabling students to gain knowledge and moral values. Swami Vivekananda considers religion as the backbone of the society, the central theme of life and the inner most core of education. He say's "India lives in cottages; education must reach them". If the poor boy can not come to education, education must go to him. According to him, Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man. To him education/knowledge construction is a process of inculcation not building. As fire is in a piece of flint and it comes by suggestion such knowledge is in the mind of a child. education is the suggestion to bring it out. It is the base of modern child centric education.

**Keywords:** *Moral values, Education, Character formation.*

## Introduction

Swami Vivekananda is the first philosopher of the world to trace "Modern Child Centric Education" 125 years ago. Swami Vivekananda is not only a great patriot and a nationalist but also a great internationalist. He is a practical saint of modern India. His wide travels in India have given him first-hand knowledge of the socio-economic conditions of the people of our country. Travelling throughout the length and breadth of India, mostly on foot, Narendra was trying to work out a purpose for his life. while on the road, he often faced starvation and frequently found himself with nowhere to stay. To Narendra, this was an opportunity to study India and its needs at first hand. He observed that his country possessed a priceless spiritual heritage, but had failed to reap its benefit. The weak points were poverty, caste, neglect of the masses, oppression of women and a faulty system of education.

Swami Vivekananda has a firm faith that all different religion of the world lead to the attainment of unity with the creator. Well, you consider a man as educated if only he can pass some examinations and deliver good lectures. The education does not help themselves for the struggle for life, which does not bring out strength of character, a spirit of philanthropy and the courage of a lion. Real education is that which enables one to stand on one's own legs. The education that you are receiving now in schools and colleges is only making you a race of dyspeptics. You are working like machines merely, and living a jelly- fish existence. Vivekananda wanted that the education for total human development was the main vision. Education is a life- long process towards the fullest development of human personality, self -discovery, self-perfection, and self-manifestation.

## Objectives of the study

The author has conducted his study on the basis of following objectives-

- To know about views of Swami Vivekananda on Moral values.
- To point out Swami Vivekananda's concept of Character Development.

## Methodology of the study

This study is on theoretical basis. All data for the study has been collected from various secondary sources such as reference books, journals, Wikipedia, articles, internet and websites etc. In this study we have discussed only thoughts of Swami Vivekananda on Moral values and Character development. This study has few delimitations because it did not discuss others concept about education of Vivekananda.

## Moral values and thoughts of Vivekananda

Moral education means an ethical education that helps choose the right path in life. Moral education makes one perfect. Values are positives potential in human being. Values are the rules by which we make decision about right or wrong, real and unreal, should and should not, good and evil, its also tell us which are more and less important. Morality speaks of a system of behavior in regards to standards of right or wrong behavior. moral values have to be taught to the students by an education a school and also at their house.

Vivekananda gave a clarion call to cultivate the highest moral and spiritual virtue like faith in one's divine nature (called Atman or Soul or Spirit in different traditions), truth, purity, honesty, perseverance, courage, strength, love, sympathy for and service to all, modesty, humility, and politeness. The only definition that can be given of morality is this, that which is selfish is immoral, and that which is unselfish is moral. Vivekananda also observed that, if education is to serve the entire human being, in all his or her dimensions, the pursuit of knowledge will be a lifelong process.

There are two levels of values designated by the ancient Indian scriptures, para vidya (spiritual values) and apara vidya (secular values). And the fact today, there is a moral decadence. There are several cases that were done by the teenagers or students such as crime, violence, married by accident, gangster, corruption, drugs, bullying, children are not to trust anyone etc. For example, motor cycle gang in Bandung which makes people worried and afraid to go out at night and Nero gang. The members of the gang are teenagers and students. But in the present culture children are reared increasingly in toxic environments that pose special challenges for their moral and special development. Values are the basic principle that influence human's behaviors. That is why it needs an appropriate educational method to teach those values to the students, so it will be implemented to be positive life principles that will be developed by the students in their future. For example, one student done a crime, violence or pregnant before married, their future will be destroying by it. When they in jail, of course their study will messy or if a girl student pregnant, then she is got married, of course she can not continue her study, being a young mother at the teenage age.

The teaching of moral values is very important to our education. How to teach moral values at the school and whether the moral values have an impact on the student's achievement and behavior. School is an appropriate place to teach moral value besides home. The quality of early teacher-student relationships can have strong influence on academic and social outcomes. That is why moral values or character building is possible to be taught at the school, at home, and our environment. Moral values can be put as a part in curriculum at school. And the teacher also has an important part to teach moral values or character building to their students. they can impart values to the lesson topic or activity at the class. When the teachers have a good belief, it will influence the students. Swami Vivekananda states that the true teacher is one who can immediately come down to the level of the student, and transfer his soul to the student's soul and see through and understand his mind. To curb this problem, school should adopt and offer special classes, seminars and workshops with an expert counsellor under the guidance of educators who can help in incorporating 'values' lesson into the curriculum in order to foster well-rounded personality development in children. They will

respect the teachers and obey the teacher's advice. The students would not be cheating while doing their exam because the teacher has told that cheating is a bad thing and they understand it will. They were study hard to prepare the exam and more serious.

In this industrialized era, most of the parents are working because of which they spend less time with their children due to which they lack moral values and are not able to differentiate between what is wrong and right. The present scenario needs to under go a radical change as the country's future depends on its children.

### **Character Development Education and Thoughts of Swami Vivekananda**

'Man making, national building'. let us built the character of the man and thus build up our nation. Character building was fundamental in Vivekananda's educational scheme, as against career-orientation, which occupies Centre-stage in today's education. A person's character is determined by the sum total of these impressions. when a large number of these impressions come together, they form a habit. This then becomes a powerful force, for character is but repeated habits. This is why, through the acquisition and repetition of desirable habits, one's character can be remodeled. If good impressions prevail, the character becomes good, if bad, it becomes bad. And the swami expected that the education system would be suitably designed to produce such wholesome human beings.

The history of the world is history of a few men who had faith in themselves. That faith calls out the divinity within. You can do anything. You fail only when you do not strive sufficiently to manifest infinite power. As soon as a man or a nation loses faith, death comes.

A famous quote says "if wealth is lost nothing is lost, if health is lost something is lost, when character is lost all is lost".

According to Vivekananda, "Three things are necessary to make every man great, every nation great".

- Conviction of the powers of goodness
- Absence of jealousy and suspicion
- Helping all who are trying to be and do good

#### **Some Principle Virtues of Character**

- Faith in One's Divine Self
- Truth, Unselfishness, Love, And Service
- Strength
- Patriotism

#### **What Is Character?**

If you take the character of any man, it really is but the aggregate of tendencies, the sum total of the bent of his mind; you will find that misery and happiness are equal factors in the formation of the character, good and evil have an equal share in molding character, and in some instances, misery is a greater teacher than happiness. In studying the great characters of the world has produced, I dare say, in the vast majority of cases it would be found that it was misery that taught more than happiness, it was poverty that taught more than wealth, it was blows that brought out their inner fire more than praise.

#### **What is the development of Character?**

He believes that the greatness of the people of a country is measured by its moral development and character formation. Education is an instrument for human betterment. No nation is great or good because its parliament enacts this or that, but because, its men are great and good. He believes that character, strong mind and sharp intellect prepare the child for better life. He say, "We want that education by which character is formed". So, swami Vivekananda emphasizes the practice of brahmacharya for building a strong character leading to purity in thoughts, words and deeds. No knowledge comes from outside, it is all inside.

### **How to judge the real Character of man?**

Every fool may become a hero at one time or another. Watch a man does his most common action; those are indeed the things which will tell the real CHARACTER for a great man. Great occasions rouse even the lowest of human beings to some kind of greatness, but he alone is the really great man whose character is great always, the same wherever he be.

### **Character mighty stream of tendency**

Karma in its effect on character is the most tremendous power that man has to deal with. Man is, as it were, a centre and is attracting all the powers towards himself, and this centre is fusing them, out of then he fashions the mighty stream of tendency called CHARACTER.

### **Is it possible to reform Character?**

Yes, the mind, to have non-attachment, must be clear, good and rational....Never say any man is hopeless, because he only represents a character, a bundle of habits which can be checked by new and better ones. Character is repeated habits and repeated habits alone can reform character.

### **Powers of Character**

Truth, purity and unselfishness – wherever these are present, there is no power below or above the sun to crush the possessor there of. Equipped with these, one individual is able to face the whole universe in opposition.

.... But mind you this is life's experience; If you really want the good of others, the whole universe may stan against you and cannot hurt you. It must crumble before your power of the Lord himself in you if you are sincere and really unselfish.

### **Conclusion**

Swami Vivekananda is a great educationist and he occupies a very prominent place among the Indian thinkers. The right of education for everyone, guaranteed by the constitution of India, was Vivekananda's dream, but it is still a far cry from its goal. His vision of education, science and cultures as the essential instrument of human development. He calls for that education which is man making and national building. According to Vivekananda, thus we can make a society or nation or universe where everything is good, no corruptions, no anti-social activities, no immoral activities are existing.

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