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## Swami Vivekananda and Modern Education.

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Swamiji's unprecedented presence can be witnessed in every steps of our national life. He was the person credited for the rejuvenation of a lifeless nation and on this consideration he may be assessed as the progenitor of the new India – an India capable of standing on her own pedestals. He, perhaps, dreamt of his fellow Indians to grow from all corners- for the development of their complete self. The true-self of the Saint is undoubtedly much bigger than his partial self as educationist, philosopher, the Guru etc. He, perhaps, professed that the only medium for self-development is the education and his effort was unidimensional towards that end.

He, as may be safely affirmed, for the first time identified that the root cause of India's backwardness is the lack of proper education. He was not in support of an implanted negative education system. He, rather believed in an education which will reshape a citizen in their true sense if the term. True education will nurture his basic feelings for human values by converting him to an honest citizen. It is evident from historical record that development of a nation is proportionate to its development of education and intelligence. So, only education can deliver the desired result for India and the Indians. This path appears more fruitful in the long run and free from political nuisance and atrocities.

Swamiji professed two elemental indicators of proper education- that academic curriculum should be Vocation-based so as to eradicate poverty and that also, the curriculum should be Value-based as the worldwide hatred and mass inconvenience can only be minimised the practice of basic human values. The major four flaws of Indian society –as indicated by Swamiji are- disrespect for common people, social inequality, women exploitation and narrow political game plan –are to shun off from Indian society. A decision shines bright if taken after banishing one's self-interest.

Swamiji did not support any blind imitation. We may learn from others but blind imitation is injurious to any culture. It will not allow the indigenous culture to grow naturally. One has to practice the best things available in his own culture and at the same time the best practices from other culture may also be incorporated in the list. Proper education can, only, remove the narrowness from one's mind.

One of the biggest impediments of national educational planning lies in the fact that they are overburdened by political motive and stressed by power politics. That, perhaps, turned a fortunate group as the academic beneficiary. The root cause of failures of policies, so far, is perhaps, lie in the fact that they could not address the common mass of the country properly and mass-participation was denied as a result. But it's a matter of great hope that in NEP 2020 an effort for addressing the flaw is witnessed.

Slumbered Indian human resources are to be awakened soon. By the propagation of qualitative and value-based education this aim can be achieved. Only then our expectation for regaining our ancient status of being world-leader will be fulfilled.

A true modern education policy should be a medium for the provision of factual knowledge, enhancement of skill and vocational approach may eradicate poverty of the students. At the same time the policy should also foster and imbibe in the minds of the students basic qualities like broad mentality, fellow feeling and innovation. To be fruitful in India a policy must address the village people equally as the majority of Indians live in villages. Political promise should be kept aloof. If at all there should be a promise it should be made from the heart.

Curriculum should be prepared with utmost care and diligence. It should include science, technology, humanities, aesthetics, language, literature, sports and physical education, art and music, all modern knowledge. A student should be flexible to offer his choice. Narrowness and fundamentalism of any kinds should strictly be avoided. Proper attention should be given to universal women education.

For implementation of education policy educated, motivated and trained manpower is essential. Teachers should be torch-bearers of an education movement. They should be properly oriented and appointed in adequate numbers. Proper national bias should be maintained at any cost. There should, also, be provisions for the under-privileged. Funding for modernisation of academic institutions should be adequate. Originality in research should be acknowledged and encouraged.

Swamiji's India will defeat all such burdens for future prospect. The Indian Renaissance will be possible by the awakening of the Indian mass and this time education will play the dominant role.

Reference: Selections From the Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda, Advaita Ashrama, Kolkata 700014

