

A STUDY ON UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD THROUGH EDUCATION IN THE VISION OF MAR IVANIOS, SERVANT OF GOD.

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Abstract: This article highlights the great perspective of Mar Ivanios, Servant of God on Universal Brotherhood of a vast community in the society. The educational scenario during the time of Mar Ivanios was under the clutches of different kinds of values deteriorating in India especially in Kerala. To know the world and to have unity of universal brotherhood, it is inevitable that we should educate our generation properly. Freedom is the right of each and every one. In the history of humanity we could see that the avariceness and selfishness of man deviated from the essence of human values. The main purpose of education is behavioural change of selves and to make the whole world fine. It is the function of education to educate each and every one to know how to behave in the society and what extend he can establish himself through his profession and finally to achieve self-realization.

Keywords: Education, Universal brotherhood, Freedom, Values, Behavioral change.

1. INTRODUCTION:

To know the world and to have unity and universal brotherhood, it is inevitable that we should educate our generation properly. Freedom is the right of each and every one. In the history of humanity we could see that the avariceness and selfishness of man deviated him from the essence of human life. Each and every king or ruler who tried to enlarge his boundaries of land and wealth, unfortunately they forgot the reality of real knowledge. There is a saying that if wealth is lost nothing is lost, if health is lost, something is lost; if character is lost everything is lost. So, it is character that matters. The purpose of education is behavioral change. It is the function of education to educate each and every one how to lead a successful life in the society and what extend he can establish himself through his profession and finally to achieve self realization. The philosopher Hobbes says man to man is wolf. Ma'n, he has lost his aim in life and also a clear vision about life. He runs after worldly possession and position. It is the need of the time to liberate our world from the clutches of selfishness animosity, enmity, heartedness, greed for money and power. Since each person is part of this universe it is evident that justice must be done. Justice means to give what is due to the other. The insular mentality of persons and nations brought in anarchy and confusion among nations. Though we belong to different nationality, we are members of the same universe. According to Mar Ivanios

to have universal brother hood we must know how to understand, to care, to acknowledge, accept, to respect, to tolerate and to love. He recommended these values have to be incorporated along with educational syllabus. The latin word 'educare' means 'to draw'. Each one should develop upthrough education and must draw out the best things possible from one's body, mind and soul.

No man is an island. Now a days fear that pervades everywhere. Individuals, communities, societies, nations are all under clutches of fear. Where there is love, there not fear. We people must love each other. This universe has changed a lot in different fields, real aim of knowledge is seriously forgotten. We are in need of great personalities like Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, Guru NityaChaithanyaYathi, Swami Vivekananda and Mar Ivanios, Servant of God to propogate universal brotherhood through education.

2.NEED AND SIGNIFACANCE OF THE STUDY:

Schools must be the centers of knowledge of different kinds. Though education scenario technically very much improved but the value system deteriorating. Mar Ivanios Servant of God knew very well the importance of value oriented education. For him value of universal brotherhood must be inculcated in the minds of pupils. As an Indian he believed that each one should foster and promote universal brotherhood. According to him the means to achieve universal brotherhood is made possible through proper education. Hence he started a number of schools and communities to teach and empower universal brotherliness. Education is for self realization. Universal brotherhood is so important in realizing oneself and accepting other selves. It is so essential that universal brotherhood must be acknowledged well and propagated. Hence Mar Ivanios Servant of God started schools and institutions to promote universal brotherhood. His ideas about universal brotherhood are so relevant today and tomorrow.

3.STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The study intended to identify and reveal the educational contributions of Servant of God Mar Ivanios relevant in the present scenario. The study is entitled as **“A STUDY ON UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD THROUGH EDUCATION IN THE VISION OF MAR IVANIOS, SERVANT OF GOD.”**

4.OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To identify the contribution of Mar Ivanios servant of God in the empowerment of universal brotherhood through education.
- To analyse the contributions of MarIvanios servant of God in empowering universal brotherhood.
- To examines social changes achieved through universal brotherhood and the achievements from the educational institutions started by Mar Ivanios.

5.SAMPLE:

- Students who have been taught by Mar Ivanios
- Students who have studied in various institutions those were started by Mar Ivnios servant of God.
- Experts persons in the field of public administration from thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala.
- Higher religious authorities of Malankara Syrian Catholic community.

6.METHODOLOGY:

Documental analysis cum normative survey method was adopted to collect data for the present study.

7.TOOLS USED FOR THE STUDY:

- i) Documental Analysis
- ii) General data sheet
- iii) Interview Schedule
- iv) Interview
- v) Questionnaire
- vi) Opinionnaire

Mar Ivanios started a number of schools to teach and promote the values especially universal brotherhood. He is the champion who promoted universal brotherhood through his educational institutions. The educational institutions started by Mar Ivaivos servant of God changed the face of Kerala people. Some of the Educational institutions started by Mar Ivanios is given in Table No: 1

Table No: 1

Educational institutions started by Mar Ivanios servant of God

Type of Institution	Number of Schools	Approximate Number of students	Approximate Number of Teachers
Lower Primary Schools	78	2800	60
Upper primary Schools	18	8000	140
High Schools	15	4000	100
Colleges	1	1500	75
Total	112	16300	375

Sources :Arch Bishop Mar Ivaivos Vol I & II by Fr. Inchakkalody

The investigator has collected data for his study interviewed fifty high school teachers and 10 expert personalities. He selected the samples from Thiruvananthapuram district in Kerala using the random sample technique. He analysed the data collected from the sample and interpreted in Table No. 2

Table No. 2

A study on universal brotherhood through education in the vision of Mar Ivanios Servant of God Opinions of high school teachers

Sl.No	Levels of Relevance	(Male) No=25 No & %	(Female) No=25 No & %	(Total) No=50 No & %
1	High	23 (92%)	22 (88%)	45 (90%)
2	Medium	2 (8%)	3 (12%)	5 (10%)
3	Low	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

The above table reveals the fact that 90% of the high school teachers under study have the opinion that Mar Ivanios servant of God's perspective on a study on universal brotherhood through education in the vision of Mar Ivanios Servant of God.

Education is a multi-faceted reality influences a number of fields of human life. Mar Ivanios, Servant of God who advocated a system of Universal Brotherhood. He proclaimed that the whole world is one 'VasudevaKudumbakam', whole world is one family. Today, it is urgent that our education must give much emphasis to love one another. When we teach history of India, students must absorb the great personalities of the persons whom they meet in the text. In the past there was great number of eminent personalities who advocated the need for universal brotherhood. To build up nationality the rapport between teacher-student, parent-teacher and student-student must be safe guarded. It is Mar Ivanios who also commented the future of the nation is moulded in the class rooms. India once upon a time under the rule of British government. The ardent desire for freedom made Indian people to achieve that goal through brotherhood. Mahatma Gandhi has chosen the way of Ahimsa system to gain freedom. The democratic India opened a broad system of education. The British rule of education meant only for making clerks to do the work, they considered Indians as their slaves. Independent India emerged into a new system of education, through the visions of great educationalists like Mar Ivanios, Servant of God. He started Elementary, Primary, Secondary and centers of higher studies to strengthen his country and his people their

by to bring oneness. Hence, the scenario of education gradually bloomed and progressed. Indian people were very keen in keeping the principles of democracy such as equality fraternity and liberty. Though these democratic values existed in India many politicians deviated from the dreams of their ancestors and walked in their own ways dis regarding democracy. As a result inequality in different sectors pervaded everywhere. In Kerala different kinds of equality existed in the last century. There had communal violence, caste discrimination, economic instability, racial discrimination etc still existed. Many eminent persons come forward to keep the solidarity of India, Mar Ivanios, servant of God was one among them. Mar Ivanios wanted to bring unity in diversity. He started a number of schools: Elementary, Primary Secondary, Colleges for molding good citizens of India. He taught that good education means understanding oneself and accepting other selves, other nations, culture, to foster universal brotherhood. A good education is meant for building upon ones nation and acknowledge and respect other nations values and culture. Mar Ivanios insisted on the fact that a good education system must provide all the aspects which are necessary for ones own development and the development of nations.

8. MAJOR FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The document analysis and interviews revealed the followings findings and conclusions;

8.1 Indian Spirituality: The Cradle of Universal Brotherhood

In Sanskrit there is a saying '*LokaSamasthaSukhinoBhavanthu*', that means 'the whole world must be fine'. This is the real prayer and essence of Indian spirituality. The Rishis of India who prayed

"Asathoma Sat Gamaya,

ThamasomaJyothirGamaya,

MrithyomaAmrithamgamaya

:lead us from untruth to truth from darkness to light, from death to life. Indian spirituality is a unique one in nature. All the sages meditated on God the eternal to have universal brotherhood. Indian systems of education like Patanjali, Ashtanga Yoga, Nyayavaisheshikagurukula system etc. nurtured a very great value oriented education to have universal brotherhood. '*Ahem BrahmaswaminThathvamasi*'. 'I am God you are also God'. This is the understanding of Indian spirituality. Hence Indian spirituality demands universal brotherhood. Each one should respect each other. Each one bearing its spirit of God in his being.

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8.2 Exchange of culture for universal brotherhood.

Since we belong to the same world under the same canopy there should have exchange of culture of one nations to the other. Each country having its own great culture and pedigree. It is the responsibility of education to bring out the best in one's culture and the culture of other nations. To understand another country and another person one is in need of exchanging values and education each other for cultural adaptation. As Sankaracharya said there is no two gods 'Advaitha' there is only one God, Mar Ivanios, Servant of God also established this fact. He said we should not compartmentalize people and nation on the basis of religion and caste. For him religion is means to achieve God, relates oneself with God. Hence, religion should only relate man with man, country with country there by universal brotherhood must be established.

8.3 Christian love and universal brotherhood

Mar Ivanios was a prophet of loving one another which he understood and learned from Jesus Christ his master. Many great personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Tagore, Vivekananda they said it is Christ, who

has opened the windows of love to the world. That is why Christ who said to his disciples, go to entire world, and proclaim the gospel of love. Universal brotherhood. Nothing is greater than a person loving another person. It is Jesus who said love your enemy to bring peace and harmony on earth. Mar Ivanios a disciple of Christ followed the teachings of Christ and taught his generation how to live a successful life through education and thereby reaching universal brotherhood. For him, if a child is educated, especially girl child a family will be saved and if that process may continue, the education of the families gradually permeates in to the whole world. So that we may be blessed with universal brotherhood. Mar Ivanios, envisaged a world of love, Universal brotherhood considering each one as unique, worthy and precious.

Fulton J Sheen, he commented that each person having a unique role to fulfill in his society, nobody else can do that. For the growth of this universe, each person is necessary. To bring universal brotherhood give respect and take respect. Education is for integral development of persons.

In this world there exist different kinds of governments, Oligarchy, Monarchy, Socialist, Dictatorship, Communist, Democratic. The history of the world revealed the fact that all the different types of government except democratic is slowly disappearing from the scene. Democracy is a government of the people, by the people and for the people. Today it is seen that the edifice of democracy is not well kept due to lack of educational support. The uneducated and illiterate people are become the leaders of the people. So that the quality of democracy is deteriorating day by day. Plato has stated well: Philosopher must be the king in his book 'The Republic'. To strengthen the universal brotherhood through democracy proper education must be given to generations. Mar Ivanios realized the fact that democracy and universal brotherhood are two sides of the same coin.

Today the earth has become a new one. The age old systems have totally transformed into a world of information technology, scientific innovations, political power, economic growth and other developments. Each country is not powerful and strong in its own way. The lurking danger of this situation is not well understood by all. Each nation tries to conquer the other nations with their economic and political power. Respect for each other is now a mirage, each one thinks that he is omnipotent and omniscient. This kind of perception, with in no time endanger our universe. Hence it is the high time to bring solidarity and universal brotherhood among people and nations, Mar Ivanios, servant of God like Swami Vivekananda, Gandhiji, Sri .Radhakrishnan, other great educationalist very well felt the need of peace through universal brotherhood. For him, the only means to achieve this goal is value oriented effective education. His contribution on this regard is indisputable. He has started a number of schools and colleges which were being the centers of universal brotherhood. For him good education will make person to understand, respect love oneself and others. If a nation is providing universal education effectively then the dreams of our ancestor's about universal brotherhood will be a reality.

Nature and universal brotherhood.

Universe the word includes not only human beings but also the world of living as well as non-living beings. Human nature is biased to conquer and exploit other things and places, persons and this is the reason why there exists inequality and disequilibrium in this world. Through right education man must know how to live in this world successfully in a harmonious way. We should love and protect our nature. The being in the nature birds, insects animals rivers, mountains, plants and all others must be protected respected and let them to live without fear. This cosmos is not simply meant for man but for all the beings in this universe. Live and let others to live is the cosmic law nobody is allowed to violate it. There must exist a reciprocal relation between beings. Education must inspire men to think how to make this world fine. Each one having a unique place in this universe. To have an equilibrium of universal brotherhood each one should not about the nature as its mother and protect the mother with utmost care and love. The nature our mother teaches us love, care and concern by way of providing care, water, food, shelter, protection etc It is inevitable that equilibrium of nature must be kept always to have universal brotherhood. It is saint Francis Assisi who called the wolves as his brothers. This echos the necessity of universal harmony and brotherhood even with animals. Nobody should try to disturb and destroy any being or non-living being for his selfishness. The whole world is a family, all the living and non-living being are the members of this family. When we would understand and acting accordingly then only we will have universal brotherhood.

8.4 Schools: Centres of Universal Brotherhood

Schools are the places of knowledge. Real knowledge should be imparted from the centres of wisdom. Schools are supposed to become centers of wisdom. In the past where at the schools people were taught morals and values. The students who are studying in the schools are of different kinds, but there is no inequality among them. School teachers are supposed to teach students to love one another and care one another. Teachers must teach the students the fact that all are sharing one and the same brother hood because, they are the sons of the one and only God. Mar Ivanios, servant of God who realised that to have universal brotherhood, its practice must be started from the grass root level that means from tender ages, in other words, great value like universal brotherhood must be taught in the class rooms. It is there in the class rooms teachers can very well mould the students as they wish. Hence, Mar Ivanios started a number of primary schools, secondary schools and colleges to impart knowledge and its practice of universal brotherhood.

He insisted that all children whether male or female should be given good education to know how to lead a successful life in this world especially in democratic India. He worked to mould each person to a status of universal citizenship. He taught his students at Serampur College about the beauty of universal citizenship to foster patriotism and democracy. His ideas influenced a lot of students to the schools which he has started. He taught his students to follow a style of behaviour which should accept each and everyone as what they are. He propagated the idea of respect one another; give respect and take respect. Students rushed

into the schools which were started by Mar Ivanios. Now St. Mary's school at Pattom started by Mar Ivanios having nearly 12000 students -largest school in Asia, Shining as a symbol of universal brotherhood. All feel that they are the children of the same family of universal brotherhood. Institutions established by Mar Ivanios servant of God as a real monuments of universal brotherhood.

8.5 Society and universal brotherhood

No man is an island. In a society, the members must go hand in hand in loving, caring, understanding, respecting etc. A powerful society is one that which understands each other and supporting each other. In a society the value system must be safe guarded intactly . A good society must follow a series of good values like, love, companionship, caring, sharing, understanding, supporting, forgiving, to foster universal brotherhood etc. A group having no such values will not permit long. Mar Invanios, Servant of God once left his disturbed community and started a community where he advocated peace and harmony among people. He propagated in his community impressed by the discipline of Francis of Assissi's calling a wolf as his brother to generate the sense of universal brotherhood. He accepted that the spirituality of Francis Assissi calling nature as his brother. For him brotherhood is to bring peace and harmony through loving one another. In the church where he lived taught his followers to propagates the necessity of loving one another. Mar Ivanios Servant of God had a strong faith in democracy and democratic values This love for his country was commutable. According to him a good Indian must be a good universal citizen. Undoubtedly we could say that Mar Ivanios servant God was a prophet of universal brother hood. His famous orations at different placeses were testimonials to his understanding about universal brotherhood.

9 Conclusion

As a prophet of the 20th century Mar Ivanios, Servant of God emphatically insisted on the necessity of unity of humanity in the world. The community which works together will stay together. He urged the need for the world unity in other words universal brotherhood. He visited many countries to adopt the culture of those nations and to compare and adjust his value system with that of other countries to bring a fruitfull universal understanding of others. Being a citizen each one should know ones own value system and accommodate others value system in order to acknowledge universal brotherhood. Each nation should share their better innovations and benefits with other nations and vice versa. Through universal brother hood we can keep away the thought of war and enmity between and among others. We must firmly believe that the world we are living is not solely meant for one person rather many. The whole world is a single family where we must live in peace and harmony. Mar Ivanios servant of God strongly believed in the essence of universal brotherhood through serving each and everyone considering them as God's sons.

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