

# Vivekananda's Idea about Man-Making Education

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## ABSTRACT

*The nineteenth century India produced a galaxy of great sage who have enriched our national life by their talent and individuality. Swami Vivekananda is one of them the famous philosopher as well as educationist in the history of Indian education. His educational thoughts and ideas have been influenced by his philosophy of life. Swami Vivekananda believed in the Vedanta philosophy which considers that the ultimate goal of human life is to attain 'Unity with the Creator'. Swami Vivekananda always believed that the development of a nation is not possible without real education. According to him, development of good personality in every human being is very essential in case of nation building. That's why, Swami Vivekananda emphasised on Man making education by which we can made a good citizen for our national development. Knowledge is inherent in man, no knowledge comes from outside; it is all inside. What we say a man 'knows', should, in strict psychological language, be what he 'discovers' or 'unveils'. What a man 'learns' is really what he 'discovers' by taking the cover off his own soul, which is a mine of infinite knowledge. We say Newton discovered gravitation. Was it sitting anywhere in a corner waiting for him? It was in his own mind; the time came and he found it out. All knowledge that the world has ever received comes from the mind; the infinite library of the universe is in your own mind. The external world is only the suggestion, the occasion, which sets you to study your own mind.*

**KEYWORDS:** Man-Making Education, Elements, Role of Teacher.

## INTRODUCTION

Swami Vivekananda (January 12, 1863–July 4, 1902) is considered as one of the most prominent spiritual educationist and thinker of India. His educational thoughts and ideas have been influenced by his philosophy of life. He was disciple of Ramakrishna Paramahansa and the founder of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission. Swami Vivekananda supposed in the Vedanta philosophy which considers that the ultimate goal of human life is to attain 'Unity with the Creator'. According to him 'God resides in every human heart'. So that, the best worship of God is service to mankind. Swami Vivekananda always believed that the development of a nation is not possible without real education. –Education is not the amount of information that is put in to 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 were identical with inform According to him, development of good personality in every human being is very essential in case of nation building. That's why, Swami Vivekananda emphasised on Man making education by which we can made a good citizen for our national development.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THIS STUDY**

- To point out swami Vivekananda view of man making Education.
- To study the aims of man-making education.
- To understand the elements of man making education.
- To examine the role of teacher in man-making education

## **METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY**

This study was purely theoretical based. The information for the study has been collected mainly from two major sources i.e., to study the biography of Swami Vivekananda as only the primary Source of the data collection and as secondary sources, the investigator was collected data from different type's books, journals, articles written by great educators about Swami Vivekananda's Man Making Education. The study was delimited to only the Man-Making Education of Swami Vivekananda.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **MAN-MAKING EDUCATION**

Swami Vivekananda vision denotes the direction of -man making education that is, it is education, which should foster a spirit of services. Vivekananda says, -Education is not the amount of information that is put into the brain and runs riot there, undigested all your life. We must have life-building, man-making, character-making, assimilation of ideas. To him good education is only that which unfolds all the hidden powers in man. Real education requires the cultivation of a sense of humility. The end and aim of all training is to make the man grow. Swamiji strongly contended that man-making education had to be purposive and free from narrowly conceived objectives Education should not involve simply the stuffing of the brain, but the training of the mind. The character of any man is really the collective of his innate tendencies, the sum total of mind. Both pleasure and pain, misery and happiness, are equal factors in the formation of his character. In studying the characters of great men/women the world has shaped, it would be found that it was misery that taught more than happiness. Education should unveil the divinity in man/woman and this divinity should be seen in treating lunatics, in punishing criminals and in everything that is connected with human life. Man-making education is inherent in character development as well as vocational development. What India needs today is character and strengthening of the will. This can be achieved through man-making education. Man-making education also brings out the significance of the famous words said by Vivekananda at the World Parliament of Religions held in 1893 at Chicago. These

were, -HELP, ASSIMILATION, HARMONY and PEACE. Indeed the goal of man making education is to build inner strength and a strong character that guides an individual to make a meaningful and a contented life. In a letter written to his Madras disciples on November 19, 1894, Swami Vivekananda explained that neither money, nor name nor fame nor learning that pays, but only love.

Education should be for all and it should involve a frequent growth of personality, steady development of character and the qualitative improvement of life. Vivekananda suggests that education should lay proper emphasis on creativity, originality and excellence. This sense of humility is the basis of a man's character, the true mark of a balanced personality. Swamiji did not favour the idea that education should be examination oriented, preparing people for jobs. It should be training for life. In Swamiji's words - "The end of all education should be man making. He advocated for an educational system that is truly man making. Such an education, according to him, will mean manifestation of perfection already in man. In short man making education underscores the importance of the famous word – help, assimilation, harmony and peace. The training by which the current and expression of will are brought under control and become fruitful, is called education. What our country now wants are muscles of iron and nerves 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 man-making religion that we want. It is man-making theories that we want. It is man-making education all round that we want.

What India wants is character and strengthening of the will. The will is Almighty and if one can continue to exercise his/her will, he/she is sure to go higher and higher. It is strength of will or character that can cleave through wells of difficulties. -Watch a man and his most common actions; those are indeed the things which will tell you the real character of a great man. "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." The end and aim of all training is to make the man grow. The training by which the current and expression of will are brought under control and become fruitful is called education. This vision of education was in tune with the modern day requirement but in sharp contrast with the old system of Indian education.

The education that you are getting now has some good points, but it has a taint is merely and entirely a 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. And the result is that fifty years of such education has not produced one original man in the three Presidencies. Every man of originality that has been produced has been educated elsewhere, and not in this country, or they have gone

to the old universities once more to cleanse themselves of superstitions. 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 यथा खरश्चन्दनभारवाही भारस्य वेत्ता न तु चन्दनस्य। — "The ass carrying its load of sandalwood knows only the weight and not the value of the sandalwood." If education is identical with information, the libraries are the greatest sages in the world, and encyclopaedias are the Rishis. 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.

The ideal of all education, all training, should be this man-making. But, instead of that, we are always trying to polish up the outside. What use in polishing up the outside when there is no inside? The end and aim of all training is to make the man grow. The man who influences, who throws his magic, as it were, upon his fellow-beings, is a dynamo of power, and when that man is ready, he can do anything and everything he likes; that personality put upon anything will make it work. Swamiji does not accept information as education. He advocates a type of education, which is man-making, life-building and character-formation. Education should also help in the development of originality. It should unfold all the hidden powers in man. A child should learn to accept pleasure and pain, misery and happiness as equal factors in the formation of character. Accordingly education should develop these qualities in man. Man-making education includes physical and health education. He was also greatly concerned about the proper care of the body and the healthy development of one's physique. He urged, *–Be strong my young friends, that is my advice to you. you will be nearer to heaven through football, than through the 'Gita'. These are bold words but I have to say them to you. I know where the shoe pinches. You will understand the 'Gita' better, your biceps, your muscles a little stronger*". He emphasized repeatedly, *–Strength is goodness. Weakness is sin*

### AIMS OF MAN-MAKING EDUCATION

- **Character Development:** Man-making education implies that education should built character. Education is an instrument for human betterment. The basis of all systems social or political, rests upon the goodness of man. Swami Vivekananda believes that character, strong mind and sharp intellect prepare the child for better life. He further says, *–If you really want to judge the character of man, look not at his great performances watch a man do his most common actions. Those are indeed the things which will tell you about the real character of other great man*. Therefore, character development is the first aim of man making.

- **Develop the spirit of social service in man:** Vivekananda is deeply distressed by the utter poverty and backwardness of the people. He remarks, *–So, long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every man a traitor who, having been educated at their expense, pays not the least heed to them . . . I call him a 'Mahatma' who feels for the poor. Let these people be your God—*

think of them, work for them. Thus, the most important aim of man-making education is inculcating the spirit of selfless service in man.

• **Mental development:** The third aim of man-making education is developing a strong mind. Mental development is very essential to enable the child to stand on his own leg.

• **Rational development:** The rational development of man enables him to believe in the unity of all religions. Such rational attitude in man very important to develop a noble character in him, which is the purpose of man-making education.

• **Self-education:** You cannot teach a child any more than you can grow a plant. The plant develops its own nature. The child also teaches itself. But you can help it to go forward in its own way. What you can do is not of a positive nature but negative. You can take away the obstacles, and knowledge comes out of its own nature. Loosen the soil a little, so that it may come out easily. Put a hedge round it; see that it is not killed by anything. You can supply the growing seed with the materials for the making up of its body, bringing to it the earth, the water, the air that it wants. And there your work stops. It will take all that it wants by its own nature. So with the education of the child. A child educates itself. The teacher spoils everything by thinking that he is teaching. Within man is all knowledge, and it requires only an awakening, and that much is the work of the teacher. We have only to do so much for the boys that they may learn to apply their own intellect to the proper use of their hands, legs, ears and eyes.

• **Free Growth** That system which aims at educating our boys in the same manner as that of the man who battered his ass, being advised that it could thereby be turned into a horse, should be abolished. Owing to undue domination exercised by the parents, our boys do not get free scope for growth. In everyone there are infinite tendencies which require proper scope for satisfaction. Violent attempts at reform always end by retarding reform. If you do not allow one to become a lion, one will become a fox.

• **Positive Ideas** We should give positive ideas. Negative thoughts only weaken men. Do you not find that where parents are constantly taxing their sons to read and write, telling them that they will never learn anything and calling them fools and so forth, the latter do actually turn out to be so in many cases? If you speak kind words to them and encourage them, they are bound to improve in time. If you can give them positive ideas, people will grow up to be men and learn to stand on their own legs. In language and literature, in poetry and arts, in everything we must point out not the mistakes that people are making in their thoughts and actions, but the way in which they will be able to do these things better. The teaching must be modified according to the needs of the taught. Past lives have moulded our tendencies, and so give to the pupil according to his tendencies. Take everyone where he stands and push him forward. We have seen how Sri Ramakrishna would

encourage even those whom we considered worthless and change the very course of their lives thereby. He never destroyed a single man's special inclinations. He gave words of hope and encouragement even to the most degraded of persons and lifted them up.

• **Assimilation of Ideas** Education is not the 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 were identical with information, the libraries would be the greatest sages in the world and encyclopedias the Rishis.

### **Elements of Man-Making Education**

The chief elements of Swami Vivekananda's -Man-Making Education are based on the Pedantic philosophy of his life. The end of all education, all training, should be man-making. Man making for him(s) means a harmonious development of body, mind and soul.

- Man making education must develop such individuals who are ethically sound, intellectually sharp, physically strong, religiously liberal, spiritually enlightened and vocationally sufficient.
- Unity with the Creator
- Attainment of social equality
- respect for all religions and no religion is superior or inferior to other
- love is the highest good of all religions
- Service to man is equated with devotion to God because God resides in every human heart.
- Man making education stands for rousing man to the awareness of his true self.
- Man should attain the knowledge of science and spirituality.
- Swami Vivekananda was a prophet of humanity. His concept of man transcends the cultural boundaries of the East and the West. He was a rationalist and a man must develop a rational attitude in life.

### **ROLE OF TEACHER IN MAN-MAKING EDUCATION**

Swami Vivekananda says, -Education is a personal contact with the teacher. There would be no education without the personal life of a teacher. It is the personality of man that really impresses us and not merely his words. The words and thoughts contribute only one-third and the personality is two-third in the making of the real man. For man making, the teacher should come down to the level of the students and transfer his soul to the student's soul. The teacher should be a friend, philosopher, guide and tyagi for creating a real man. Swami Vivekananda wants the teacher to provide the proper environment for the child to grow naturally.

## CONCLUSION

Swami Vivekananda's ideas on man-making education are very much relevant in our day to day life. Man-making education solve so many problems which are raised are recent time. As termed by Swami Vivekananda, Education –system is no more than a clerk-making machine. It does not make a man, it does not teach them to be original. The fault isn't in education; the fault is in the system. We are lucky enough to consider the fact that with the changing world, this system is changing too. But if we see the current scenario there is a rampant corruption, crime, unlawful activities, and exploitation taking a toll on India. Then how can we boast about our literacy rate when this has failed to achieve the basic purpose of empowered society which we wish to achieve. It's the fault in our education system and hence it's badly need a reform. According to me; the practical knowledge is more important than all the things. The schools and colleges have forgotten the values and religion and rather they have made this as a business and tension for families and students. Everyone needs marks jobs. What about knowledge and entrepreneurship think about it Indians. In olden days peoples are studied for to get knowledge, intelligence etc. but now days we are studying only for job. Now, the world has started focusing on –Man-Making –system. Thus, in order to develop, we need to provide the society with education that Makes a man, a responsible citizen and follows morality.

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