



Educational work of swami Vivekananda

Prof. Dr. Saraswati Rachayya Ratkalle

“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.

Swami Vivekananda

“We want that education, by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, intellect is expanded and by which one can stand on one's own feet.” Education must build up character and manifest our real nature.”

Swami Vivekananda

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela.

“Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man.”

Swami Vivekananda

❖ **Swami Vivekananda's vision of Education:**

"We want the 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". "A nation is advanced in proportion to education and intelligence spread among the masses".

Swami Vivekananda wished all-round development of education to heart and mind, to strengthen character and national consciousness, to assist within the cultivation of strength and energy, nurture the brain and intellect and stir feelings of kindness and sympathy.

He pointed that, education must give spiritual awareness leading to greater strength and self-confidence. Swami Vivekananda firmly believed that education is something more than merely passing examinations and getting some employments. An education which helps one only to earn one's livelihood is not a great value. Vivekananda advocated for an educational framework that combined modern scientific knowledge with spiritual wisdom, emphasizing character-building to instill moral values, self-confidence, and social responsibility. "Man-making" education, emphasizing character development, self-reliance, and the manifestation of inherent potential. He believed education should foster both physical and spiritual growth, with a strong emphasis on moral and ethical values. He advocated for a holistic approach that includes intellectual, physical, and spiritual development, and he placed great importance on the role of teachers as guides and mentors.

The true aim of education is to develop insight into the individuals so that they become able to search out and realize unity in diversity. Vivekananda said that, physical and spiritual worlds are one; their distinctness is an illusion. Education must be capable of developing this sense which finds unity in diversity.

Education is the foundation upon which individuals, communities, and societies are built. It empowers individuals with knowledge, skills, and values necessary to succeed in life. Education helps to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills.

- Vivekananda believed education is the manifestation of perfection already in men. He thought it is a pity that the existing system of education did not enable a person to stand on his own feet, nor did it teach him self-confidence and self-respect.
- Swami Vivekananda once said, "Whatever you think, that you will be. If you think yourselves weak, weak you will be; if you think yourselves strong, strong you will be." He also said, "See for the highest, aim at that highest, and you shall reach the highest." His message was simple yet powerful.

Education :-

The full form of "Education is :-

1. **E- Energy**
2. **D- Discipline**
3. **U- Unity**
4. **C- Confidence**
5. **A- Aim**
6. **T- Talent**
7. **I- Interest**
8. **O- Opportunity**
9. **N- Nationality**

These aspects of education should be developed through Education.

❖ **According to swami Vivekananda, to give education is :-**

- **"Man-making" Education:**
- Vivekananda's core idea was that education should focus on building character, strengthening the mind, and developing self-reliance, rather than simply imparting information.
- **Holistic Development:**
- Vivekananda emphasized the harmonious development of the body, mind, and soul, integrating spiritual and ethical values into the educational process.

- **Spiritual Growth:**
- Vivekananda believed that education should lead to spiritual awareness and a deeper understanding of oneself and the world.
- **Manifestation of Perfection:**
- He believed that education is the process of revealing the perfection already present within each individual.
- **Self-Reliance:**
- He stressed the importance of self-confidence, self-respect, and the ability to stand on one's own feet.
- **Social Service:**
- Vivekananda believed that education should inspire a sense of social responsibility and a desire to serve others.
- **Importance of Women's Education:**
- He was a strong advocate for women's education, believing they should be nurtured and empowered to realize their full potential.
- **Importance of Teachers:**
- He viewed teachers as guides and mentors who inspire students to realize their full potential and achieve self-realization.

Practical Applications:

Curriculum: He suggested a curriculum that includes physical culture, aesthetics, classics, language, religion, science, and technology.

Teaching Methods:

He advocated for various methods, including discussion, self-education, and the Guru-pupil relationship.

Character Building:

He emphasized the importance of moral and ethical values in shaping character.

In essence, Swami Vivekananda's educational philosophy is a call for a transformative education that empowers individuals to reach their full potential, contribute to society, and live meaningful lives.

He pointed that education must give spiritual awareness leading to greater strength and self-confidence. Swami Vivekananda firmly believed that education is something more than merely passing examinations and getting some employments. An education which helps one only to earn one's livelihood is not a great value. Real education is that which enables one to stand on one's own legs." According to Vivekananda, "Education is not the amount of information that we put into your brain and runs riot there, undigested, all your life. We must have life building, man making, and character making assimilation of ideas.

- Vivekananda's scheme of education included physical culture, aesthetics, classics, language, religion, science, and technology to develop students' body, mind and soul. He emphasized including India's spiritual values and culture through studying classics like the Vedas and Upanishads.
- To lead the child on the right path by means of individual guidance by the teacher. Vivekananda's educational ideas have been influenced by three major factors; 1) love for his master 2) love for the nation, and 3) personal convictions.
- Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man." This profound quote by Swami Vivekananda emphasizes that education is not just about acquiring knowledge but about bringing out the inherent potential within each individual.
- According to Vivekananda, for man making education, it is inevitable to impart moral and value education. His man making education emphasises on personality development of an individual with inculcation of all values. In his opinion, true education results in the growth and expansion of balanced personality
- He suggested taking courage and work on. Patience and steady work, according to Swami Vivekananda, this is the only way to get success. According to Swami Vivekananda, "faith in ourselves and faith in God- this is the secret of greatness".
- Central to this philosophy is the pivotal role of the teacher, who is not merely an instructor but a guide and mentor in the true sense. According to Vivekananda, teachers must inspire students to recognize their inner potential and lead them towards self-realization and empowerment.
- According to swami Vivekananda Man-Making means a harmonious development of the body, mind, and soul. He developed the concept of unity in diversity. To him the true aim of education is to developed a oneness of feeling toward material and the spiritual world.
- Vivekananda advocated for education as a means of empowering individuals and enabling social transformation. He emphasized the need to eradicate ignorance, superstition, and social prejudices through education and promote a more inclusive and egalitarian society.
- Vivekananda emphasized concentration as the key method of teaching and learning. He believed that knowledge is inherent in every person's soul and the teacher's role is to help students manifest that knowledge by removing obstacles.
- Swami Vivekananda's educational philosophy emphasized a holistic curriculum that fosters character development, intellectual growth, and spiritual awareness. He advocated for a blend of modern science and technology with India's spiritual heritage, focusing on both material and spiritual well-being. His vision included practical skills training, physical education, and moral and religious instruction, all aimed at creating self-reliant and well-rounded individuals.
- He pointed that education must give spiritual awareness leading to greater strength and self-confidence. Swami Vivekananda firmly believed that education is something more than merely passing examinations and getting some employments. An education which helps one only to earn one's livelihood is not a great value.
- Purity, patience, and perseverance are the three essentials to success and, above all, love. - Swami Vivekananda.

- Any action that makes us go Godward is a good action, and is our duty; any action that makes us go downward is evil, and is not our duty. From the subjective standpoint we may see that certain acts have a tendency to exalt and ennoble us, while certain other acts have a tendency to degrade and to brutalize us.

- Swami Vivekananda spelt out the four pathways of attaining moksha from the worldly pleasure and attachment in his books — Raja-yoga, Karma-yoga, Jnana-yoga and Bhakti-yoga. Karma-yoga, or the yoga of selfless action tells that through the correct actions, the 'troublemaker' ego can turn into the 'troubleshooter' ego.

Swami Vivekananda's contribution to Education: -

Swami Vivekananda emphasized the transformative power of education in shaping individuals and society. He believed that education should not be limited to the acquisition of information but should aim at the holistic development of the individual, enabling them to manifest their inherent divinity.

- Swami Vivekananda advocated concentration and meditation as the most important methods of study. Concentration is the essence of education and determinates one's success in life. Other techniques which he emphasized were oral lecture method, discussion and question answer method.

- The main focus of the teaching-learning process is to make the entire hidden potential manifest, rather manifest to the highest possible level. Thus it is critical in shaping the future of humanity. Vivekananda said “Education must provide life building, man-making, character-building assimilation of ideas.

- According to swami Vivekananda Man-Making means a harmonious development of the body, mind, and soul. He developed the concept of unity in diversity. To him the true aim of education is to developed a oneness of feeling toward material and the spiritual world.

- The only true teacher is he who can immediately come down to the level of the student, and transfer his soul to the student's soul and see through the student's eyes and hear through His ears and understand through his mind. Such a teacher can really teach.

- One of Vivekananda's key insights was the concept of “man-making education.” He believed that the purpose of education is to unfold the inherent divinity within each individual and to help them realize their true nature.

- According to swami Vivekananda Man-Making means a harmonious development of the body, mind, and soul. He developed the concept of unity in diversity. To him the true aim of education is to developed a oneness of feeling toward material and the spiritual world.

- Vivekananda's main ideal of education was man-making, character building and assimilation of ideas. He was anxious to put into operation a scheme of education for women which would make them fearless, conscious of dignity.

❖ Swami Vivekananda For youth says that,

- “Take risks in your life, if you win, you can lead! If you lose, you can guide!” – this insightful quote by Swami Vivekananda, encourages the youth to embrace challenges and view setbacks as opportunities for growth.

- He pointed that education must give spiritual awareness leading to greater strength and self-confidence. Swami Vivekananda firmly believed that education is something more than merely passing examinations and getting some employments. An education which helps one only to earn one's livelihood is not a great value.

- Vivekananda advocated for practical education that has real-world applications. He believed in learning by doing and encouraged students to apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations. This approach helps in the development of problem-solving skills and practical wisdom.
- He suggested taking courage and work on. Patience and steady work, according to Swami Vivekananda, this is the only way to get success. According to Swami Vivekananda, "faith in ourselves and faith in God- this is the secret of greatness"
- According to Swami Vivekananda, the prime aim of education is spiritual growth and development. But this does not mean that he did not advocate material prosperity and physical well-being.
- Vivekananda's value-based education encompasses development of character and personality, spiritual development and development of nationalism, which are the strong pillars of our society. Swamiji's value-based education will guide and lead our youth to go through the journey of life in proper direction.
- Swami Vivekananda's five characteristics of a great leader – Compassion, Optimism, Faith, Humor and Mindfulness, citing examples from the lives and the works of own.
- He suggested taking courage and work on. Patience and steady work, according to Swami Vivekananda, this is the only way to get success. According to Swami Vivekananda, "faith in ourselves and faith in God- this is the secret of greatness"

❖ **10 Lessons by Swami Vivekananda are**

- Arise! Awake! and stop not until the goal is reached.
- You cannot believe in God until you believe in yourself.
- You have to grow from the inside out. None can teach you, none can make you spiritual.
- There is no other teacher but your own soul.
- In a conflict between the heart and the brain, follow your heart.
- They alone live, who live for others.
- Neither seek nor avoid, take what comes
- Comfort is no test of truth. Truth is often far from being comfortable.
- The fire that warms us can also consume us; it is not the fault of the fire.
- Ask nothing; want nothing in return. Give what you have to give; it will come back to you, but do not think of that now.
- Do one thing at a Time, and while doing it put your whole Soul into it to the exclusion of all else.
- Vivekananda said, "We want that education, by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, intellect is expanded and by which one can stand on one's own feet." Education must build up character and manifest our real nature.
- One of the key aspects of his teachings is the emphasis on self-realization and the discovery of one's true potential. Swami Vivekananda stressed the importance of self-confidence, self-discipline, and selfless service as the pillars of personal and societal growth.
- Vivekananda's value-based education encompasses development of character and personality, spiritual development and development of nationalism, which are the strong pillars of our society. Swamiji's value-based education will guide and lead our youth to go through the journey of life in proper direction.

❖ **The four pillars of nationalism according to Swami Vivekananda are:**

- Consciousness and pride in the ancient glory of India.

- Development of moral and physical strength.
- Awakening of the masses.
- Unity based on common spiritual ideas

❖ **Role of teacher according to Swami Vivekananda: -**

• The pivotal role of the teacher, who is not merely an instructor but a guide and mentor in the true sense. According to Vivekananda, teachers must inspire students to recognize their inner potential and lead them towards self-realization and empowerment.

• Education has been present in our own soul since birth. So it is an intrinsic issue which is manifested by the only teacher who is introduced as an external issue. Vivekananda said that teacher would be a good personality, knowledgeable, etc for character building of student.

• As Swami Vivekananda said that, The only true teacher is he ,who can immediately come down to the level of the student, and transfer his soul to the student's soul and see through the student's eyes and hear through His ears and understand through his mind. Such a teacher can really teach and none else.

• The only true teacher is he who can immediately come down to the level of the student, and transfer his soul to the student's soul and see through the student's eyes and hear through His ears and understand through his mind. Such a teacher can really teach and none else. Vivekananda gave importance to curriculum for religious education, scriptures like Bhagavad-Gita, Upanishads and the Vedas. These are the eternal sources of the life force of Indian culture. For our spiritual education study of these scriptures is necessary as they are full of spiritual wisdom.

• Education has been present in our own soul since birth. So it is an intrinsic issue which is manifested by the only teacher who is introduced as an external issue. Vivekananda said that teacher would be a good personality, knowledgeable, etc for character building of student.

• According to Swami Vivekananda, The Four Yogas are the collection of Swami Vivekananda's lectures when he visited the West. The lectures are broken up into Four Yoga practices; Karma Yoga, Bhakti Yoga, Raja Yoga, Jnana Yoga.

Here are some teachings of Swami Vivekananda that we can learn:

Believe in yourself: Swami Vivekananda believed that every individual divine and has the potential to achieve greatness. ...

Serve others: Swami Vivekananda believed that the purpose of life is to serve others.

• Ramakrishna Paramhansa, his mentor and spiritual Guru, supported and helped him to come out of the financial crisis after his father's death. Ramakrishna Paramhansa made him realise that God resides in every person and thus, strengthened his spiritual beliefs.

• He pointed that education must give spiritual awareness leading to greater strength and self-confidence. Swami Vivekananda firmly believed that education is something more than merely passing examinations and getting some employments. An education which helps one only to earn one's livelihood is not a great value.

- 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.
- According to Vivekananda, the relationship between the teacher and the taught is possible only in a Gurukula system of education. Therefore, he favoured the ancient Indian Gurukula system of education. In these Gurukulas, the pupils served the teacher, who in his turn helped the pupils everywhere to achieve knowledge.
- The only true teacher is he who can immediately come down to the level of the student, and transfer his soul to the student's soul and see through the student's eyes and hear through His ears and understand through his mind. Such a teacher can really teach and none else.
- To lead the child on the right path by means of individual guidance by the teacher. Vivekananda's educational ideas have been influenced by three major factors; 1) love for his master 2) love for the nation, and 3) personal convictions
- **Promotion of Education:** Vivekananda advocated for an educational framework that combined modern scientific knowledge with spiritual wisdom, emphasizing character-building to instill moral values, self-confidence, and social responsibility.
- Education has been present in our own soul since birth. So it is an intrinsic issue which is manifested by the only teacher who is introduced as an external issue. Vivekananda said that teacher would be a good personality, knowledgeable, etc for character building of student.
- Swami Vivekananda's revolutionary approach to education emphasized the holistic development of an individual, combining academic knowledge with character building and moral values. His teachings emphasized experiential learning, self-realization, and the cultivation of a strong ethical foundation.
- "Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man." This profound quote by Swami Vivekananda emphasizes that education is not just about acquiring knowledge but about bringing out the inherent potential within each individual.
- According to Vivekananda, teachers must inspire students to recognize their inner potential and lead them towards self-realization and empowerment.
- Education is a powerful tool for change. No matter what you're fighting for, leading with a sharp mind can create more positive change than running toward challenges with a sharp sword.
- "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.
- Education, in its simplest form, is the process of acquiring knowledge, skills, values, and habits through various forms of learning. It encompasses formal instruction in schools and universities, as well as informal learning experiences throughout life. Essentially, education empowers individuals to develop their potential, contribute to society, and navigate the complexities of the world.

Here are 10 key aspects of education:

1. Knowledge Acquisition:

Education provides a foundation of facts, concepts, and information across various disciplines.

2. Skill Development:

It hones practical abilities like critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and creativity.

3. Personal Growth:

Education fosters self-awareness, confidence, and the development of a positive self-image.

4. Socialization:

It helps individuals interact effectively with others, understand diverse perspectives, and build strong relationships.

5. Economic Advancement:

Education often leads to better job opportunities and increased earning potential.

6. Social Progress:

It contributes to a more informed, engaged, and productive society.

7. Moral Development:

Education can instil ethical values, promote responsible citizenship, and foster a sense of social justice.

8. Adaptability:

It equips individuals with the skills to adapt to changing circumstances and embrace lifelong learning.

9. Empowerment:

Education empowers individuals to pursue their dreams, achieve their goals, and contribute to positive change.

10. Cultural Understanding:

It promotes appreciation for different cultures, perspectives, and ways of life.

- We strive to make education a key aspect of the value of education is respect, which motivates individuals to treat others, the environment, and themselves with kindness and compassion. By fostering respect, value education promotes peaceful coexistence and reduces conflict in diverse communities.

❖ **Swami vivekanandas thoughts about Education:-**

Character Building:

This suggests that continuous good thoughts and deeds shape our character, leading us towards positive actions and ultimately, liberation.

Work as Worship:

Vivekananda encourages viewing work as a form of worship, offering it to a higher power (or the inherent goodness within) without expecting personal gain. This detachment from the fruits of labour is key to finding joy and freedom in work.

Spiritual Strength:

Vivekananda emphasizes the significance of spiritual strength and knowledge in overcoming ignorance, which he sees as the root of evil and misery.

Freedom in Action:

He advocates for working with freedom, not compulsion, and encourages treating work as a master, not a slave. This means working with love and dedication, without being bound by the desire for personal reward.

Non-Attachment:

A core concept is non-attachment to the results of work. Just as a lotus flower float on water without getting wet, we should engage in work without being entangled in its outcomes.

Incessant Work:

Like the divine, we should work continuously, but without being driven by selfish desires. His philosophy of education is based on universal principles of morality and ethics. He wanted to teach the common masses of India the ideals of synthesis, tolerance and universal harmony. His philosophy gives equal importance to the claims of spirit and matter. To him diversity is as real as unity.

Swami Vivekananda's Rules :-

- Who is Helping You, Don't Forget them. Who is Loving you, Don't Hate them. Who is Believing you, Don't Cheat them. May the Secret of Work," by Swami Vivekananda, emphasizes that, true fulfilment and

liberation in work come from selfless service and detachment from the results. It's about working like a master, not a slave, with freedom and love, treating work as worship.

• **Conclusion:-**

"The Secret of Work," by Swami Vivekananda, emphasizes that true fulfilment and liberation in work come from selfless service and detachment from the results. It's about working like a master, not a slave, with freedom and love, treating work as worship.

References :-

1. Bharathi, K.S.(1998), Encyclopaedia of eminent thinkers: the political thought of Vivekananda, New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company, ISBN 978-81-7022-709-0
2. Bharathi SV. Educational philosophy of swami Vivekananda. New Delhi: Discovering Publishing House; c2011.
3. Chattopadhyay, Rajagopal (1999), Swami Vivekananda in India: A Corrective Biography, Motilal Banarsidass, Publ., ISBN 978-81-208-1586-5
4. Gupta, N.L. (2003), Swami Vivekananda, Delhi: Anmol Publications, ISBN 978-81-261-1538-9
- 5.. Rangachari D. Swami Vivekananda a man with a vision. United Kingdom: Penguin Publication; c2011.
6. Saravanakumar.A.R. ,(2016), Man Making Education National Conference on Swami Vivekananda : A Youth Icon (SVYI-2016), Swami Vivekananda Centre for Higher Research and Education, Alagappa University Karaikudi.
7. Singh V. Swami Vivekananda: Pioneer in Social Revolution, Vista International Publishing House, Delhi; c2008.

