

A Study of Philosophical Ideas and Educational Principles of Vivekanand

Dr. Virender Kumar (First-Author)

Assistant Professor, G. D. College of Education, Bhuna (Fatehabad)

Mr. Ajay Kumar (Second-Author)

Assistant Professor, G. D. College of Education, Bhuna (Fatehabad)

ABSTRACT

The first special characteristic of philosophy is that it comes out of special circumstances & specific experience that is why different persons adopt different philosophies of life. The "Swami Vivekanand" philosophy of life is very glorifying and inspiring to humanity. According to him human life was a constant struggle where in only the victorious were able to exist and live. The vanquished decayed & died out. The basis of his educational philosophy was Vedanta and Upanishads. He believed that each living being had a soul and to recognize it was true religion. In the present study an attempt is made to explain the Philosophical Ideas and Educational Principles of Swami Vivekanand.

Keywords-Philosophical idea, Educational principles.

I. INTRODUCTION

Modern age is the age of technological advancement with tremendous growth in commerce and industry, the general prosperity has made man to function as a machine forgetting his moral code of conduct. There is a downfall in the sense of owners and man has almost overlooked the ethic. There is a fast deterioration in spiritual thought and humanitarian spirit. At this juncture, the researcher recollects the philosophical outlook of the great Greek thinkers and philosophers of whom Vivekanand is reckoned to have played a humanitarian role for the general good of mankind. Although the material prosperity has upgraded the general standard of living of the people, yet, the significance of moral and spiritual development can not be overlooked. In view of this, the researcher seeks to emphasize the need of total development of personality through the present problem. Keeping all historical and philosophical aspects of the matter in mind, the investigator has preferred to select this problem for the specific purpose of study and to seek the practical application in day to day life of an individual.

Statement of the Problem

The problem proposed for investigation is "A Study Of Philosophical Ideas and Educational Principles of Vivekanand"

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1 To find out the meaning of education and philosophy according to Vivekanand.
- 2 To find out the aims of education according to Vivekanand .
- 3 To find out the curriculum according to Vivekanand.
- 4 To find out the method of teaching according to Vivekanand.
- 5 To find out the method of discipline according to Vivekanand.
- 6 To find out the views on adult education, women's education and vocational education.
- 7 To find out the teacher taught relationship according to Vivekanand.

III. METHOD & PROCEDURE

According to the nature of the specific problem at hand, in the present study, the researcher has adopted historical and philosophical method for the purpose of study. It's completion dependent mainly on authoritative books. The researcher has utilized library technique and took deep insight and in depth study of philosophical writings, works of Vivekanand. The assistance of Journals of educational research and comments and criticism also led to the completion of the present study.

Delimitation of the study

The Present study is delimited to Vivekanand's views.

Educational Philosophy of Swami Vivekanand

Swami vivekanand's philosophy of life is very glorifying and inspiring to humanity. He was of the view that human life was a constant struggle where in only the victorious were able to survive. Hence each individual should prepare himself fully for the struggle and face all the challenges boldly and confidently. He felt great sorrow at the miserable conditions of the Indian masses in his own time. He says that a coward, sad and in different person can do nothing in his life only the brave can uplift the world. Hence, he encouraged his countrymen to become brave, courageous, fearless and dynamic.

Vivekanand's educational philosophy is a reflection of his general philosophy of life Indian nationalism and spiritualism were the basic foundations of the whole existence of Vivekanand. The basic of his educational philosophy was Vedanta and Upanishads. He believed that each living being had a soul and to recognise it was the true religion.



Basic principles of educational philosophy were as follows

- Only study of books is not education.
- Knowledge lies in the mind of man. He should uncover and develop it by his own efforts.
- Concentration is the key to all knowledge.
- Education should develop the child physically, mentally and spiritually.
- Education should develop character, mental power intelligence and inculcate self confidence together with self reliance.
- Boys and girls should receive the same education.

Concept of Education

Education is not the amount of information inserted by force into the mind of a child According to Vivekanand, if education meant information only, then, libraries could be the greatest saints of the world and Encyclopedias had become Seers and Rishis. In his own words” Education is the manifestation of divine perfection already existing in man”.

Aims of Education

Vivekanand seems up the aims of education in one sentence "The end of all education, all training, should be man making" He, however, recommends the following aims of education.

- The Aim of Manifesting Divine perfection
- The Aim of Physical and Mental Development
- Moral and Spiritual Development
- Character formation
- Creation of Self confidence and Self Realization
- The aim of achieving unity in Diversity
- The aim of religious Development
- All round development of personality
- Promotion of Universal Brotherhood

Curriculum

According to Swami Vivekanand, 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. He feelingly advocated the inclusion of all those subjects and activities in the curriculum, which faster material welfare with spiritual advancement. For spiritual perfection, Swami Ji prescribed Religion, philosophy, Upanishads, puran, Company of Saints and their preaching and for material advancement and prosperity, he recommended languages, geography, science, political science, Economics, psychology, Art, Agriculture industrial and Technical subjects together with games, sports and other physical exercise.



Methods of Teaching

- **Methods of concentration**

Vivekanand laid emphasis on concentration as a method of attaining knowledge. Concentration is the sole key to the treasure of knowledge.

- **Brahamcharaya for Concentration**

Vivekanand believes that Brahmacharya is necessary for developing the power of concentration.

- **Discussion and Contemplation**

In addition to concentration, Vivekanand lays emphasis on the importance of discussion and contemplation as methods of education.

- **Faith and Reverence**

The educated must have reverence for his education. The progress of any kind is impossible in the absence of reverence.

- **Method of individual Guidance and Counseling**

Pupils can be kept on the right path through the method of individual guidance and counseling.

- **Freedom in Education**

Vivekanand is a strong supporter of freedom in education because he believes that it is the first requisite of development. Hence, no teacher should exert any kind of pressure on his pupils.

IV. ROLE OF TEACHER

Swami Vivekanand discusses the role of teacher as given below

- **Impact of personality**

Vivekanand attaches great importance to the personal life and character of the teacher. A teacher must be dedicated to his profession and teach with devotion, with purity of mind and heart.

- **Love for the students**

The teacher must have love for his pupils. Love is the best medium to transmit the spiritual force. The teacher must work for his pupils only out of love.

- **Sympathy for the Pupils**

A teacher can never teach without sympathy, "A true teacher is one who can throw his whole force into the tendency of the taught without real sympathy, we can never teach well.

Place of Child

Like Froebel, Vivekanand regards child as the pivotal point of education. He is the store house of knowledge, knowledge resides within him.

Universal Education – Mass Education

In the times of Swami Vivekanand, education was not available to the common people; it was confined to the well to do persons only. The poor and the miserable used to starve and die of hunger. Swami ji yearned to improve the condition of the masses and thus advocated mass education as the only way to achieve any improvement in individual as well as society.

Women Education

Vivekanand was a great champion of women education. He was highly impressed to see the women of the west working with their husbands shoulder to shoulder. Vivekanand was greatly pained at the miserable condition of women in India. He was conscious that a nation could rise only by paying proper respect to women.

Major Findings of the Study--

- Vivekanand is the staunch supporter of physical, moral and spiritual development of the child.
- He has a broad international understanding and believes in the brotherhood of man.
- He emphasizes an all round development of personality and nation can propose only when its citizens get proper education.
- Men and women should be treated equally in all respects in order to attain social harmony.
- Education should be vocationalised in order to provide opportunity to employ majority of the population in different fields according to their caliber and capacity.

Suggestions

The investigator has made the following suggestions after this study

- Education should enable the child to stand on his own legs. He should be self dependent for his needs.
- Education should achieve fullness of perfection already existing in man. It should unveil the curtain of ignorance that has covered the material and spiritual knowledge.
- Education should provide physical and mental development of the child in order to enable him to promote national growth and advancement.
- Education should be given through lectures, discussions, self experience and creative activities.
- Education should assist in the formation of character. There should be a sense of fellow/feeling and a proper understanding of an individual.

- Physical education should be encouraged. This will enable the child to undertake venture some activities.
- In the materialistic age of today, man has forgotten sympathy and sense of ownness. This is the crying need of the hour to encourage sympathy, her manitarian sentiments and brotherhood.
- Man should be of cosmopolitan outlook crossing the boundaries of caste, creed, race, religion and sex. This will broaden his understanding in the international arena.
- Women folk must be regarded by their counterparts. They should not be considered an object of pity to man. Education should equally be imparted to them, vocational education should be encouraged so that they become self dependent.
- We should have true feeling and sympathy for the down trodden and weaker sections of the society. They should be given all possible help to come up in the society. Government should show interest and take initiative in this regard. A top priority about the education of the masses should be given to the scheme which aims at national regeneration.
- Politics should not be vulgarized. Raw and incapable persons should not be given a way to hold any important place of Political honor because of their affiliation with or belongings to certain caste or groups. The reign of the country should be handed over to the honest, selfless and armature. Politics is not the refuge of the failed, incapable, frustrated and dejected but is the dynamic instrument to serve = the nation. The desire to serve should be the natural outcome of the true philosophic vision suggestions for further study.

V. CONCLUSION

Swami Vivekanand developed the soul centered theory of education. He suggested physical training in order to develop sound health in the child. He emphasized the practical application of teaching. The educational philosophy of Swami Vivekanand is a harmonious synthesis between The Ancient Indian ideals and modern western beliefs. The essential characteristics of educational philosophy are Idealism, Naturalism & pragmatism. In Naturalistic view point, he emphasized that real education is possible only through nature and natural propensities. In the form of Idealistic point of view he says that the aim of education to develop the child with moral qualities. In the pragmatists view point, the emphasized on the western education of industry, technology & science to achieve material prosperity. According to Swami Vivekanand getting degree is not an education, the proper education must be viewed on the basis of character intelligence, self confidence & self reliance in the individuals.

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