

A STUDY ON THE RELEVANCY OF EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA IN THE PRESENT EDUCATIONAL SCENARIO

¹Jharna Gohain, ²Bini Borgohain

¹Designation: Student, Tezpur University, jharnatitu66@gmail.com

²Designation: Student, Tezpur University, biniborgohain123@gmail.com

Abstract

Varied and rich cultural heritage is a prominent characteristic of India as a nation. In the 19th Century several great educationists of the country evolved and came up with their individual ideology and philosophy of education to establish a perfect education system. Among these schools of philosophy Swami Vivekananda's contribution towards Indian education system was highly influential. Spirituality is the versatile characteristic of Swami Vivekananda philosophy. He was well versed with the ideology of Vedas. His philosophy always encourages the spirit of humanity which was reliable in every step of human life. His ideology was the all round development of spiritual, moral, cultural, physical development of man. The philosophy of Swami Vivekananda was the path finder for reconstruction of Indian education system. The influence of Vedas was more prominent in his thoughts, philosophy which characterized as self reliance, self knowledge, fearlessness and concentration. According to Swami Vivekananda "Education means the process by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, and intellect is sharpened, as a result of which an individual can stand on ones own feet". He considered man as a sum total of body mind and soul and said that there are two aspects of human life – physical and spiritual. His attitude towards modernization is that the masses should be educated before anything else is done. True education to him was not for the carrier but for the contribution to the nation. Hence an attempt has been made to study and analyze the relevance of educational philosophy of Swamiji in the present scenario. The researcher has carried out the study with the help of secondary sources and content analysis method was adopted for interpretation of the gathered information.

Keywords: Indian education system, Vedas, Swami Vivekananda.

INTRODUCTION

In view of Vivekananda, education helps to prepare man for both of worldly and spiritual lives. From worldly viewpoint he believes that, "We want the education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, intellect is expanded and by which one can stand on ones own feet." From the spiritual point of view he said, "Education is the manifestation of the perfection already existed in man." The relevancy of Swami Vivekananda in the present scenario is with the ideas and goals he devised for the youth. Vivekananda was a great observer of the human mind and the larger society. He found that the existing system of education is burdened with physical weakness, ignorance,

poverty, political slavery and its high time for the youth to come forward and take the right steps to shape India. He developed the idea of "complete freedom" from worldly desires thereby realizing our inner self, divinity present within self. He was in favour of a more independent society, a believer of naturalistic and spiritual philosophy. In this 21st century when the youth of India are facing new problems, pushing boundaries and aspiring for a better future, thoughts of Swami Vivekananda have become more relevant. Hence upholding Swamiji's philosophical principles in our education process will certainly boost up to build a better nation.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITURATURE:

Abhyankar, S.V. (1987) conducted a study on in-depth and critical analysis of Swami Vivekananda's thought and its philosophical foundation with special focus on value education. the findings of the study were – Vivekananda's educational thought was primarily based on Advaita Vedanta which was conductive to philosophical education. through his speeches and writings concerning education, Vivekananda's emphasis is on the inculcation of specific external value like- love, self-realization, brotherhood, freedom, courage, dignity of labour, truth, fearlessness etc. [1]

Banerjee, A.K. and Meeta, M. (2015) conducted a study on Educational philosophy of Swami Vivekananda. The study is descriptive and analytic in nature. The findings of the study revealed that the tremendous explosion of information without commensurate wisdom, and immense power not tempered with compassion, tolerance, ethics or humility has made today's education a potential source of disaster. Today's education not only neglects training of mind but also negates all spiritual values. Brains are stuffed with indiscriminate information. His sleeping soul is roused to self-conscious activity.” Swamiji's vision of education is life-building, man making and character-building. His vision of an ideal man is where “all the elements of philosophy, mysticism, emotion and work are blended equally.” Values, ethics, morality, compassion, tolerance, secularity are higher in his agenda of education. [2]

Gupta, R.P. (1985) conducted a study on educational thoughts of Swami Vivekananda. The investigation was designed to study the educational thoughts of Swami Vivekananda and to examine their usefulness for the reorganization of the educational system. In this study as a finding mentioned that Vivekananda laid a stress on physical and mental development of students. Swamiji regarded education as a tool to prepare a person towards life. [5]

Gupta, S. (2021) conducted a study on Swami Vivekananda's Educational Thoughts and its Implications in Present Scenario. The research was descriptive in nature, it discussed broadly the philosophies and principles of Vivekananda in leading the Indian nation towards enlightenment through the path of education. The study

concludes that solution of all problems of mankind is through comprehensive education structure. Swami Vivekananda believes education system should have its foundation on character building, morality, spirituality, universal oneness, freedom from fear and it should also fulfill materialistic needs. He defines education is the mean to realize the truth of human life that we all are the incarnation of same God.[6]

Misra and Shiva. S. (1986) made a critical study of educational philosophy and teaching method of Swami Vivekananda. He find in his study that Swamiji regarded education not only collection of various bits of information but was a manifestation of the individual's inner capacities. Along with spiritual education, Swamiji emphasized vocational education also. Method of teaching according to Swamiji included contact, concentration, self-experience, question-answer. These were evaluated in the modern context and were generally found useful.[8]

Sarkar, R. (2015) conducted a study on Swami Vivekananda's Ideas and Philosophy of Education: a way out to promote imperishable development of the nation. The thematic paper attempts to highlight Swamiji's ideas and philosophy of education. It tries to analyze the relevance and need of his educational ideas and philosophy in the light of the twenty first century education system in India. Finally it attempts to explain education as a competent instrument to promote Imperishable development of the nation. The study revealed from the analysis of Vivekananda's scheme of education, it is clear that the uplift of masses is possible only through education. For the upliftment of humanity, irrespective of poverty, religions, caste, and creed education must be given first. It is only through the scheme of education of Swamiji we can instill in our forth coming generation the passion for excel and compassion to service and share, the indomitable will to serve the poor, ignorant and downtrodden based on whose we have become intellect, rich and independent.[10]

Objectives of the study

1. To study educational philosophy of Swami Vivekananda.

2. To analyze the relevance of the educational philosophy of Swami Vivekananda in the present education scenario.

Methodology

Method: The researcher adopted the content analysis method for the present study.

Tools for the study: The researcher has taken help from the secondary sources of data for the study. The sources are articles, books, newspaper, etc.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

According to Vivekananda's philosophy of education, education is a continuous process and it should cover all the aspects of life. The educational philosophy of Vivekananda is based on Vedanta and Upanishads. Education is not all about book learning and gathering information. It is the life making process of man making and to assimilate with ideas for character building. Some of the basic ideas of Swamiji's educational philosophy are as below:

1. **Physical development:** Swami Vivekananda emphasizes on the physical development of the learners. He says that physical education must be an integral part of our education. According to him weak brain is not able to think and do anything, we must train our brain and strengthen it. He says that we learn better through exercises, games and other physical activities rather than memorizing the book. When we become a physically strong person then we can practically apply the knowledge in our daily life which eventually brings joy and development in us.

2. **Moral development:** According to Swami Vivekananda education should foster moral development. Education should develop the inner potentialities of the students to inculcate the feelings of love and compassion for others. Moral development of a student is very much important to sensitize the learners with empathy. So Vivekananda gave emphasize on developing right kind of behavior like- doing good to others, courage, fearlessness and strength etc. among students so that they can build a good character. In his point of view, ethics and religion are one and the same. God is always on the side of goodness.

3. **Intellectual and Mental Development:** Swami Vivekananda stressed on the intellectual and mental development of children. He says that education should enable the students to stand on their own feet economically. He preached the kind of education which developed the learners with problem-solving ability so that they can succeed in every step of their life.

4. **Emotional Development:** Vivekananda talks about the emotional well-being. Emotional development makes students stronger and Education should foster emotional development of student. Proper development of emotions is very essential; learners have to face many emotions during the process of assimilation in the society. Therefore, education should be as such which helps the individual to understand the emotions and act rationally.

5. **Spiritual Development:** According to him Education should foster spiritual development. Education should develop spirituality among students and develop the moral values like- fellow feelings, universal brotherhood and tolerance to people with different cultural backgrounds and ethos. Education should bring the spirit of self-sacrifice to students.

AIMS OF EDUCATION ACCORDING TO VIVEKANANDA:

1. **Moral, spiritual and character development:** Vivekananda says that education should develop good character, increase strength of mind, expand intellect in students. One of the most important aims of education according to Swamiji is character formation which develops the mental ability and moral character of students. Character is the foundation of self-development which leads to moral and spiritual development. Education should present high ideals before students and remove the evil tendencies of our mind. Formation of a high character depends on hard work and struggle. Also purity, thirst for knowledge, faith, humanity are very much needed for building a high character. Teachers are highly responsible in forming a good character and pupil's should be self-motivated for acquiring the right kind of knowledge from everywhere.

2. **Education for self reliance and development:** Vivekananda believes that knowledge is inherent and the self is the source of all knowledge. Thus, self-development is

more important. The aim of education is discovering the knowledge inherent in our mind. Education should enable students to discover the hidden qualities that already exist in the mind of the individual.

3. Education for physical development: Vivekananda believes that a sound mind lies in a sound body. He laid emphasis on the physical development as an important aim of education. For all round development it is important to develop both the body and mind. He believes Yoga is an exact science. According to him Yoga improves our concentration power of our mind and helps to control our emotions.

4. Education for universal brotherhood: Vivekananda says that education should aim at the cultivation of universal brotherhood among all. In his view an individual or a nation can't live by itself apart from the community. A universal brotherhood should foster through education so that the student develop a sense of belongingness. He always wants harmony and good relationship with all the nations. He inspired the youth to remove inequalities prevailed in the society and bring on social change in the society.

5. The Practical side of life: According to Swami Vivekananda the practical aspect of life must not be ignored in education. Swamiji said "it will not do merely to listen to great principles. You must apply them in the practical field, turn into constant practice." Thus he gave importance on agriculture and other practical arts and vocational aim of education.

6. Education for religious development: Swami Vivekananda says that religious development is an important aim of education. To him every person should try to find out his/her absolute reality or truth. To him religion is self-realization. According to him, the best way to imparting religion is to present the high ideals of saints before the students. He also preached religion which is harmonious with science and inculcate patriotism.

7. Vocational aim: According to Swami Vivekananda every person should be self dependent in earning their livelihood. He gave more importance on vocational aim of education. To make a nation prosperous every individual should be self dependent. Swamiji says that education must have the vocational aim thereby developing self-sufficiency, self-

supporting and economical independence and enables us to stand on our own feet.

RELEVANCY OF EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA IN THE PRESENT SCENARIO

According to Vivekananda, "Man is a compound of animality, humanity and divinity." Our education system should be such which helps an individual to grow from animal state to the divine state through self-actualization, rational thinking and proper training. Today's education scenario has implemented Vivekananda's philosophy for the development of the masses. The relevancy of Vivekananda's educational philosophies is discussed as below:

□ Moral and Character Development: Character makes a man a believer and follower of the truth and a responsible person. Vivekananda felt a very long ago that man should hold high moral character while being healthy by body, developed by intellect and stable economically. The present education system emphasizes on moral and character development of the individuals. Value education for moral and character development is now an integral part of every educational curriculum.

□ Mental and Intellectual Development: Swamiji stated that the main cause of backwardness of India is due to the lack of intellectual development, so he emphasized on the mental and intellectual development of the children. The modern world is rapidly developing with the knowledge of science and technology. India too is racing in its development by implementing knowledge of western science and technology in the learners. The present educational curriculum of India is designed to give good knowledge to the learners with the help of professionally trained teachers and from any source from wherever it may be available and made capable of standing in the world confidently.

□ Physical development: According to Vivekananda we should possess a healthy body for protection of our physical self and self-realization. Education must effect the physical development of man. Nowadays, physical education is a fundamental aspect for all-round development of individuals. For self-realization jnana yoga, bhakti yoga, karma yoga and raj-yoga are essential. Through a healthy body we can perform these yogas. The modern

curriculum allows the students to pursue in their interest areas of physical education and continue it till higher education and also they can take part in the various activities representing the nation globally.

□ Mass Education: As far as mass education, women education, vocational education, religious education and national education is concerned Vivekananda has guided us in all these fields. His viewpoint about mass education; he wanted to see all children learn, youths and adults literate; wanted them to live a normal life and wanted to train them to earn their livelihood. These views of him have inspired today's education system to arrange general, compulsory and free education, adult education, women education. Some of the examples are: Universalization of Elementary Education, RTE Act 2009, Distance learning, Correspondence learning etc. which are much relevant in the present scenario.

□ Vocational Education: In order to eradicate poverty from the nation, we must have the provision for vocational education and education of western science and technology. Nowadays different vocational centres viz: Professional Courses on Teaching, Engineering, Fashion designing, Tourism, Hotel management, Photography etc. have come into force to train the people and enable them to earn their living.

□ Education for Universal Brotherhood and National Unity: Vivekananda saw God in all persons and firmly believed in universal brotherhood. Education must develop within us the feeling of universal brotherhood and national unity. The learners respect each other's diversity. India is a secular country, we celebrate each festival, respect every culture, language and ethnicity. It is being taught, right from the primary stage and eventually we inherit ourselves the feeling of love and brotherhood for each other thereby marching towards the wellbeing of our nation and the world.

CONCLUSION

Education is a man-making process, the process of enhancing the knowledge and skills and is a process of providing proper direction to his or her conducts thought and behavior. Swami Vivekananda was a foreseer because he had understood the problems of the country, and he

was the creator because he established the foundation for the creation of New India. He was the one who explained Indian religion and philosophy in modern context, gave the practical form to Vedanta, to social service and social reform. Vivekananda's contribution towards Indian education system is worth praising. His educational philosophies are in practice and much relevant with the present education scenario. His idea of educating the masses and enabling them to stand on their own feet is the need of the hour.

Reference

- [1] Ashrama. A. Vivekananda his call to the Nation, Delhi central road, Calcutta.
- [2] Banerjee. A. K. (2015). Educational philosophy of Swami Vivekananda. International Journal of Educational Research and Development. Vol. 4(3), pp. 30-35
- [3] Bharathi, S.V. (2011). Educational Philosophy of Swami Vivekananda. New Delhi: Discovering Publishing House.
- [4] Goswami. D. (2013), Philosophy of Education. Bhabani Offset Private Limited, Guwahati
- [5] Gupta, R.P. (1985) "A study of Educational Thoughts of Swami Vivekananda" Ph.D in Education, Rohilkhand University.
- [6] Gupta. S. (2021). Swami Vivekananda's Educational Thoughts and its Implications in Present Scenario. Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research. Volume 8, Issue 9
- [7] Math. R. Education Swami Vivekananda. Madras, Published by The president, Sri Ramakrishna Math
- [8] Misra and Shiva Saran. (1986). Critical Study of Educational Philosophy and Teaching Method of Swami Vivekananda. Ph.D in Education, Avadh University.
- [9] Nikhilananda. S. (1975). Vivekananda – A Biography. Advaita Ashrama, Delhi.
- [10] Sarkar. R. (2015). Swami Vivekananda's Ideas and Philosophy of Education: A way out to promote imperishable development of the nation. Scholars Impact-Quarterly Research Journal. Vol 1, Issue-4
- [11] Palod & Lal. (2011). Educational Thought and Practice. pp.366-383. VINAY RAKHEJA. Garh Road, MEERUT-2.

- [12] file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/JETIR2109039.pdf