

Views of Swami Vivekananda on Education and His Method of Teaching

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Article History

Received: 07.05.2019

Accepted: 09.05.2019

Published: 11.06.2019



Abstract: India is a country where numbers of educational reformers were born. Swami Vivekananda was one of the educational reformers whose educational thoughts are unique. Education is a subject which modified the human behaviour. According to Vivekananda education is the manifestation of perfection already in man. He said that education was not only collection of information but something more meaningful. Real education is that which prepare a man for struggle to existence. It prepares man for social service and develops his character, mental power and intelligence, gives self confidence and self-reliance among the individual. Methods of teaching proposed by Vivekananda are based on ancient Indian tradition. In this paper, the researcher takes a look at the Vivekananda's view towards concept and aims of education and methods of teaching.

Keywords: Education, aims, methods of teaching

Introduction:

India is the land of saints. Swami Vivekananda was one of the saints who contributed numbers of philosophical ideals for the development of the individual as well as the nation. He was a great philosopher who placed the philosophy and religion of Vedanta among the highest philosophical, spiritual and religious ideals of the world at the parliament of Religions. He was the first Indian to across the Atlantic in order to deliver the message of the Vedanta from India to the people of American continent. He was not only a saint or philosopher but also a great educationist, spiritualist, social reformer, nationalist and so on. His thought was deeply influenced by ancient Hindu philosophy

especially of the Vedanta. To a great extent Vivekananda was also known as Vedantist. He applied Vedanta to practical life. He believed in the universal brotherhood of man and upliftment of mankind.

Objectives of the study:

1. To find out meaning of education according to Vivekananda.
2. To find out aims of education according to Vivekananda.
3. To find out methods of education according to Vivekananda.

Methodology:

This study was based on descriptive analysis. The study materials were collected through secondary sources like books, journals, articles and the internet.

Analysis of the objectives:

1. Meaning of education according to Vivekananda: According to Vivekananda, education is the manifestation of the perfection already existing in man. Knowledge is inherent in man, no knowledge comes from outside, it is all inside. The individual simply discovers it. An individual can be able to discover that knowledge which is inherent in him with the help of proper education. The end of all education, all training is to make the man grow. The training which the current and expression of will are brought under control and become fruitful is called education.

To him, education is not the amount of information, put into one's brain, which may lie there undigested all one's life. It is rather a life building assimilation of ideas. He did not believe in book learning. To him, book learning was not education. He felt that the existing system of education provided only negative education which took us far away from culture, religion and original thinking. For getting degree is not education. The proper education according to him is to develop mental power, character, and intelligence that inculcate self- confidence and self- reliance of an individual. He wrote, "By education I do not mean the present system but something in the line of positive teaching. Mere book learning will not do. 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."

2. Aims of education according to Vivekananda: Vivekananda's aims of education had a strong nationalist base. He said that every nation should develop a system of education which is based on his own nature, history and civilization. He said that the ultimate aim of all education is making man. The aim of all educational institutions of India should aim at making man to be a man. Some specific aims of education according to Vivekananda are:

Creation of self-confidence and self-realization: In Vivekananda's own words, "Faith in ourselves and faith in God- this is the secret of greatness." The main function of education is to make a person conscious of his talent power. A person who possesses self-confidence can do much individually as well as socially. We fail because we do not strive sufficiently to manifest the infinite power within ourselves. Right type of education should aim at removing the veil ignorance from our mind and make us understand what we are and what we should ultimately be. Through self-reliance and self-realization a man can attain perfection and achieve the glory in life.

Formation of Character: According to Vivekananda, "The character of any man is the aggregate of his tendencies, the sum total of the bent of his mind." We are what our thoughts have made us. Good and evil thoughts have an equal share in moulding character. It is, therefore, education should aim sublimating the evil tendencies of our mind. It should give us life-building and character making assimilation of ideas.

Physical Education: We know that a sound mind can only be developed in a sound body; weak health leads to weak personality. Another aim of education is physical development by which a child is able to take a challenge of a changing society and changing nature. On physical education he said "Even without going through Gita one can realize the God through football".

Moral and spiritual Development: According to Vivekananda, "A nation's greatness is measured by its parliament, institutions and activities, but also by the greatness of its citizens. But greatness of citizens is possible only through their moral and spiritual development, which education should foster."

Vocational Education: One of the important aims of education in India is to aim at self-sufficiency. Education should enable man to meet his own needs. Vivekananda was pained to see the wretched poverty of his countryman. He, therefore, wanted that education must enable everyone to stand on his own feet and satisfy his own primary need at least. He equally favored the study of western technology and engineering. This was essential for the economic prosperity of India.

Service of Mankind: Another important aim of education is serving the God in man. In Swami Vivekananda's own word, "If you want to find God, serve man." Education should teach us to serve humanity-the hungry, the ignorant and the suffering masses. To serve the masses is to serve God. Education should lead us to recognize this and to fulfill this aim.

Promotion of universal Brotherhood: Vivekananda said "Through education we should gradually reach the idea of universal brotherhood by flinging down the walls of separation and inequality in every man and animal, however weak or miserable, great or small." His love for mankind knew no

geographical boundaries. He said that education should lead to a feeling of brotherhood and the unity of mankind.

3. The method of education according to Vivekananda:

Swami Vivekananda was a *Rishi*. He believed in inner knowledge. The methods of education proposed by Vivekananda are based on ancient Indian tradition. These are discussed below:

Concentration: According to Indian tradition, true knowledge can be obtained only through concentration. The more the power of concentration, the greater the knowledge acquired. High achievements in arts, science, literature etc. are the result of concentration. So the teacher must organize teaching in such a way that it may be helpful to each student try to solve the problems through concentration.

Brahmacharya: *Brahmacharya* or abstinence is the first means of achieving concentration. It means transform sexual drive in to spiritual force. It implies purity of thought, deed and action. *Brahmacharya* improves and sharpens various psychological processes such as learning, remembering and thinking. Therefore, Vivekananda strongly emphasized the need for the student to observe *Brahmacharya*. It leads to mental and physical development. Firstly, it controls distraction and secondly, it improves the body and mind so that they may become effective means of knowledge.

Discussion and Contemplation: In addition to concentration, the other methods of education are discussion and contemplation. Contemplation should be practical in a calm and quiet atmosphere. It is only through these a pupil may remove his difficulties.

Love: Love is the best means of education according to Vivekananda. The child should be taught through love, it makes fellow feelings and love for human being. Love is this which makes the educator to take the 'educand' from untruth to truth, darkness to light and death to immortality.

Travel: Travel is an ideal method of learning that urge pupils and teachers to go out, observe and listen in order to learn from the world outside. He urged travel not only within India but also to other country. By this method we should observe how other nation function and we should also be able to share our knowledge and philosophy with the people of other countries.

Conclusion: Swami Vivekananda was a modern *Rishi*, who spoke not only on education but on all the aspects of life. He emphasized man making and nation building education. His educational ideas have touched every aspect of Indian social and economic life. Though he was a Vedantic philosopher but he strongly supported western technology and science in education. He recommended a unique and outward look in education. True education, to him, was not for personal carrier, but for contribution to

the nation. He shows the best of remedies for today's social and spiritual welfare and uplift of humanity, irrespective of caste, creed or nationality. He had given importance on practical aspect of life. Now, we are living in 21st century and look forward for our future. If we want to improve our national educational system then we must follow the educational views of Swami Vivekananda.

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