

Swami Vivekananda's Views on Education.

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Abstract

Swami Vivekanand's teachings stressed on different aspects of religion, education, character building as well as social issues pertaining to India. Vivekananda realized a country's future depends on its people, so he mainly stressed on man, "man making is my mission," that's how he described his teachings. He was against the system of contemporary educational systems; it turned men into slaves, capable of slavery and nothing else. He emphasized that the aim of education being life building, man making and character making and also he said that knowledge without culture was only skin-deep. He said that Real Education is that which prepares a man for struggle of existence. It also prepares man for social services and develops his character. He has emphasized that an education which develops character, mental power and intelligence gives self confidence and self reliance among the individuals. Swami Vivekananda Stressed at Education for democracy and national development. By giving education, he tries to materialize the moral and spiritual welfare and up liftment of humanity, irrespective of caste, creed nationality or time. By the way of this scheme of education we can get to build the strong nation with peace and harmony and without caste and creed. But contrary to following his ideas, we are giving bookish knowledge to our children without giving exposure to another area of education with the result that when they complete the education they get degrees but they fail to develop strong moral and spiritual character.

Introduction:-

According to Vivekananda, the means for education is love. Love and character building are the best means for education. Love in the winds of the education is the real source of his influence upon the educated. The true education, gives the growth and expansion of personality. He wanted that the education for the total human development was the main vision. “ Character, efficiency and humanism should be the aim of all education. Vivekananda strongly pleaded that the development of character through the service of his fellowmen, the utilization of his talents for ensuring the happiness and well fare of the millions of his less fortunate fellow citizens should be the aim of education. The child should be taught through by love, it makes fellow feelings and love for human beings. Education must help the individual to recognize his cultural heritage and to use it in his struggle of life. Education is a life long process towards the fullest development of human personality, self discovery, self perfection, self awareness and self manifestation. So that we can say that, “ Vivekananda wanted all round development of a child through education.

Statement of the Problem:-

Vivekananda’s View on Education in Modern Society.

Objectives of the Study:-

- (i) To relate the Vivekananda’s Educational views to present education.
- (ii) To compare the Vivekananda’s views of Education with modern Educational views.
- (iii) To relate the Education Views of Vivekananda with current social, economical problems.
- (iv) To join and perfectly used the views of Vivekananda’s views on the education with modernization positively.
- (v) To look at the relation between the aims of education in Present and Past education system.

Research Methodology:-

According to John W. Best, “Historical research is the application of the scientific method of inquiry to historical problems” It involves identifying and limitation of the problem,

formalization of hypothesis, collection, organization, verification, validation and analysis of data, testing the hypothesis and writing the historical account. All of these steps had a new understanding of the past and its relevance to the future and the present.

According to F.L. Whitney:-

“Historical research deals with past experience in a similar manner. Its aim is to apply the method of reflective thinking to social problems, still unsolved, by means of discovery of past trends of event, fact and attitude. It traces lines of development in human thought and action in order to reach some basis for social activity.”

Views of Swami Vivekananda on Education:-

Swami Vivekananda believed education is the manifestation of perfection already in men. He puts a lot of emphasis on physical education, moral and religious education, medium of language in education, women's education and education for weaker sections of society. He said that the individual development is not a full development of our nation. So it is necessary to give education to the society or the common people. Vivekananda emphasized on the improvement of the conditions of the masses and for this, he advocated mass education. He looks upon mass education as an instrument to improve the individual as well as society.

“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”

According to Vivekananda, education is a process in which the young minds, will receive strength, energy and vigorous character. By the way of getting this process, the individual will mold themselves of their life. “All knowledge and all powers are within. What we call power; the secrets of nature and force are all within. All knowledge comes from the human soul. Man manifests knowledge, discovers it with himself, which is pre-existing through eternity.” Education is a man-making and nation-making process. It is the process which awakens the sleeping soul to self-conscious activity. It will become a powerful instrument to achieve the full perfection already present in a child. According to Vivekananda, all the materials and spiritual knowledge are already present in the individual's mind, but it is covered by certain ignorance. The second aim of education is the physical and mental development of the child. “ For stressing the mental development of the child, Swami ji, wished education to enable the child to stand on his own legs

economically rather than becoming a parasite on others,” The third aim of education is the character development of the child. He emphasizes the child should practice Brahmacharya which fosters development of mental, moral and spiritual powers leading to purity of thought, words and deeds. In the fourth education, he emphasizes the religious development. Every individual should search out and develop the religious seed and to reach the absolute truth or reality.

Vivekananda’s ideas on education had a democratic angle. He expressed deep concern for the mass, “The education which does not help the common mass of people to equip themselves in the struggle for life, which does not bring out strength of character, a spirit of philanthropy, and the courage of a lion, is it worth the name? Real education is that which enables one to stand on one’s own legs. The education that you are receiving now in schools and colleges is only making you a race of dyspeptics. You are working like machines merely, and living jelly-fish existence.”

Vivekananda’s aim of education has a strong nationalist bias. He was not critical of the Western system of education rather; he questioned the suitability of western Model in India. The system of education in India was based on Indian Foundation that was supported by the broader argument that the every nation should develop a system of education based on his own nature, history and civilization.

Conclusion:-

On the basis of research, analysis we find that the uplift of the masses is possible only through education. Vivekananda’s views of education also give emphasis on all round development of a child. He said that the good quality of education must have the life building, Man making, character building and assimilation of ideas. This would help to the common people to equip themselves for the struggle of life.

By giving education, he tries to materialize the moral and spiritual welfare and uplift-ment of humanity irrespective of caste, creed, nationality or time. He suggested to take courage and work on. Patience and steady work, according to Swami Vivekananda, this is the only way to get success.

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