



Swami Vivekananda’s Concept on Mass Education and its Relevance in Present Day of Context

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ABSTRACT

Swami Vivekananda who was known to the world as the patriot saint of India, as a social reformer, as a religious leader, as a philosopher and an educationist. So an educationist Vivekananda developed his idea of education after seeing the condition of Indians, in both urban and rural areas, it is based on his first hand knowledge and deep sympathy for people. One striking idea which comes out of his exhortation about education is that he wanted to educate and raise the masses, because he believed that progress of the country totally depends upon the hands of masses. So education among the masses is a must, as Swami Vivekananda wanted to see people 'stand on their own legs' which in modern language is called participation. So Vivekananda really gave great importance in spreading education among the masses, so that they will get equal opportunity to play an active role in social and cultural change.

KEYWORDS

Mass Education, Man-Making Education

INTRODUCTION: There was time when society was almost static in its vision. Children followed the occupation of their parents and transmitted their knowledge and skill to their own children. There was little change from one generation to another civilization and empires grew, bloomed and decayed, without affecting the ways of living and the outlook of the masses, nothing was done to improve the state of things.

On the moment Swami Vivekananda who was known to the world as the patriot saint of India, as a social reformer, as a religious leader, as a philosopher and an educationist. So an educationist Vivekananda developed his idea of education after seeing the condition of Indians, in both urban and rural areas, it is based on his first hand knowledge and deep sympathy for people. One striking idea which comes out of his exhortation about education is that he wanted to educate and raise the masses, because he believed that progress of the country totally depends upon the hands of masses. So education among the masses is a must, as Swami Vivekananda wanted to see people 'stand on their own legs' which in modern language is called participation.

Vivekananda said –All the wealth of the world cannot help one little Indian village if the people are not taught to help themselves. Our work should be mainly educational, both moral and intellectual. So Vivekananda really gave great importance in spreading education among the masses, so that they will get equal opportunity to play an active role in social and cultural change.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY: The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out the concept and different aspects of mass education according to Vivekananda.
2. To find out the Swami Vivekananda's concept on mass education and its importance on Present education system.
3. To study the significance of mass education in Indian respect according to Swami Vivekananda.
4. To find out the aims of mass education and its relevance in present day concept.

REVIEW OF RELATED STUDIES ON HIS EDUCATIONAL THEORY:

(1) A study on the "Educational Ideas of Swami Vivekananda" was taken up by Nair, volume 3 (1980). The objective of the study were-To find out the philosophical bases of education and to find out the significance of Vivekananda's idea in

modern times. The major findings of his study were:

i) The main aim of education was self realization. According to Vivekananda no teacher could educate a child because it grew according to its own nature. He was against class distinction and he anticipated the need for adult education to provide functional literacy to ploughmen and fishermen etc.

ii) By his correct interpretation of the Hindu religion Vivekananda tried to remove superstitions from the masses.

(2) "The Educational Philosophy of Swami Vivekananda" was studied by Pithiyath J.D (1978) of the Bombay University. The objectives of the study were-The reconstruction of Indian education on the basis of Vivekananda's philosophy. In this study the major findings that were respected were-

i) Education was defined as physical health, the training for the youth and religion was established as related to other interest, source and morality.

ii) Progress was dependent on mass education.

(3) Poverty and Un-British Rule in India, by Dadabhai Naoroji. Publication Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Delhi, 1962.

METHODOLOGY: The present study is historical in nature. No attempt has been made to include any statistical data in this investigation.

A general survey of Swami Vivekananda ideas and thought on education, mainly education among masses in order to uplift them and its relevance in present education system has been made as far as possible.

The method of study, therefore include

1. Discussion on the importance of spreading mass education according to Vivekananda.
2. Discussion on relevance of mass education in present day context.

CONCEPT OF MASS EDUCATION: It is the people- men, women and children who are the workers, peasants, student and the working classes of the world. This is the opinion according to Swami Vivekananda regarding the definition of mass. The combination of the above groups are the population of each country and they are the backbone of each na-

tion, and to make a nation move, so first we have to educate the nation. A nation is advanced in proportion as education and intelligence spread among the masses.

The chief cause of India's ruin has been the monopolizing of the whole education and intelligence of the land, by dint of pride and royal authority, among a handful of men. If we are to make our nation more advanced and rise to a highest level we shall do it in the same way that is by spreading education among the masses.

The education which does not help the common masses of people to equip themselves for the life, which does not bring out strength of character, a spirit of philanthropy (love of all humankind) 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 above lines were spoken by Swami Vivekananda who considered education as a part of human life.

OBJECTIVES OF MASS EDUCATION:

1. To provide opportunities to acquire basic literacy for all non-literate of 9-35 age group.
2. To provide continuing education facilities to literate and non-literate.
3. To create a learning society and facilitate life long education.
5. Important skill and information to perform his work effectively.

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA'S CONCEPT ON MASS EDUCATION: Swami Vivekananda arose and pointed out that the neglect of the masses was the main cause of India's downfall. 'Our great national sin is the neglect of the masses and that is the cause of our downfall' said Swamiji.

He laid great emphasis on the spread of universal mass education. Without it desirable socio-economic changes in our country are not possible.

According to Swami Vivekananda he covered following sectors of the education under the mass education:

1. Man-making—His mission.
2. Uplifting the masses.
3. Education from door to door.
4. Preaching and teaching.
5. Caste system and untouchability.
6. Secular Education.
7. National Integration.
8. Physical and health Education.

MASS EDUCATION AND ITS RELEVANCE IN PRESENT DAY

CONTEXT: Mass education is a broad concept involving literacy and social education. It is the responsibility of the state to increase the education level of every citizen. It is in the interest of the society itself that proper education be provided not only to the children of a particular age group so that they become functionally literate and stop all further additions to the ranks of adult non-literates, but it is the moral obligations of the state to provide education to the mass, because education never ends with schooling.

COMMITTEE ON ADULT EDUCATION:

In 1939 a committee on adult education was appointed by the central advisory board of education to survey the condition of illiteracy among the masses. The committee defined the objectives of adult education follows:

1. Teaching of 3R's to the illiterates.
2. Imparting knowledge pertaining to the adults working life.

The importance of adult education to a developing country like India was much greater. The significance of adult education before 1947 was of adult education became as wide life itself.

THE RADHA KRISHNAN COMMISSION(1948-49):

The first sector of education that received the attention of national leadership was university up were many and varied and

demanding and appointed to enquire into the problems

and difficulties of higher education under the chairmanship of Dr.S.Radhakrishnan. The

important suggestion were related to:

1. Introduction of a three year degree course.
2. Formation of aims of higher education.
3. Establishment of aims of higher education.
4. Introduction of religions & moral education.

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION(1964-65):

The need for appointing a fresh education commission in 1964 arose out of a grave concern for the improvement of quality of education. The government wanted an expert advice on the evolution of much desired national system of education and on the formation of general principles and policies for the development of education at all stages and in all aspects.

OPERATION BLACKBOARD(1986):

The national policy on education on 1986 envisage centrally financed programme to ensure provision of essential facilities in primary school. It is proposed to cover 20% of community development blocks and municipal areas in 1987-88, 30% in 1988-90 and 50% in 1990-99.

RELEVANCE TO NATIONAL NEEDS:

1. It goes without saying that education is to be linked with socio-economic needs of the society. The purpose of education is not to create human robot or to supply skilled manpower to the global market.
2. Present system of India education, which largely focuses on the individual material gains, mostly confines itself to the corporeal aspects. The non-material individual benefits accorded in the intercourse between the teacher and taught should ultimately reach the community in an integrated fashion. This aspect should be properly addressed at all levels of education.

FINDINGS:

1. It is the conception of Swami Vivekananda that mass education be possible through the humanistic outlook of ours that in the humanisms of Vivekananda is the source of mass education.
2. He stressed that our education is for the masses, the destitute, the peasants and laboring classes.
3. He was the first Indian nationalist who inspired the youth of India to come forward and work for the upliftment of the masses.
4. 'Man-making is my mission', Swamiji used to say. Indeed a country's future depends upon its people—how good, intelligent and capable they are.

CONCLUSION: Swami Vivekananda stressed that our education is for the masses, the destitute, the peasants and laboring classes. He was the first Indian nationalist who inspired the youth of India. He gave the clarion call..... "Arise awake and stop not till the goal is reached". He has emphasized universalism and spiritual brotherhood. He was revolutionary in the field of education and touched every aspects of it. He tried to unite Indian spirituality and western Materialism.

So Swami Vivekananda's life was brief but his vision were for sighted and which come into reality. In conclusion, the thought of Swami Vivekananda has left a deep mark upon us. Thus he shows the path of progress in this way-

"It may be that I shall find it good to

Get outside of my body-to cast it off

Like a disused garment, But I shall not

Cease to work! I shall inspire men

Everywhere, until the world shall

Know that it is are with god." (Swami Vivekananda)

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