

## THE ROLE OF SPIRITUAL EDUCATION IN MODERN SOCIETY BASED ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

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### ABSTRACT

*The present article is based on the importance of spiritual education for the young generation. The educational philosophy of Swami Vivekananda and his views regarding spiritual education have been given importance in this article.*

### INTRODUCTION

Present day society is caught between need and greed. This new trend is due to the fact that advent of computer era and globalization have made many people rich, particularly the younger generation. Those who are employed in certain MNCs get even two lakh rupees per month. This one side of the flashy and prosperous part of the economy makes the other people long for luxury and rich life. Unfortunately the main part of our Indian agrarian sector has not shown significant progress. In fact, it is dwindling. Gradually lakhs of acres have gone out of the plough in recent times.

We are able to see tall and widespread concrete jungles only in the areas that were once green and fertile fields. The sudden sociological metamorphosis has even caused cultural erosion resulting in cross-culture consequences. This change, apart from causing a big divide between 'haves' and 'have nots'. Ironically, both these groups are equally stressed. No group obviously seems to be better than the other. Sadly, suicide deaths are becoming common among young professionals who have lucrative jobs and lead luxurious life. Where do things go wrong? the answer is simple. They don't have the spiritual strength to face their life. It is crystal clear, that life has become so mechanical. But the tragedy is that the mechanical life has lost its mechanism also. That missing mechanism is the spiritualism. It is really an insult that we see a number of divorce cases and mushrooming of old Age Homes. This where the great sage and Yogi, Swami Vivekananda steps in. He is not a sanyasi who expects all the people to shun their worldly life and take to sainthood. Swamiji places

spiritual ideas above politics and even so-called socialism. Let us recall his words of wisdom, "Before flooding India with socialistic or political ideas, first deluge the land with the spiritual ideas". Whole of his philosophy prescribes an emotively healthy and happy life.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To know the educational thoughts of Swami Vivekananda.
2. To understand the fundamental ideology of spiritual education.
3. To find out whether spiritualism can be blended with regular stream of studies.
4. To evaluate the need and importance of the Educational philosophy of Vivekananda.
5. To justify the relevance of spiritualism in modern society.

### METHOD

Philosophical research method is used in this study.

In order to evaluate the benefits of spiritualism in education sample interaction of 150 students at senior secondary level (class 12) was conducted.

### FINDINGS

The ultimate goal of life is the attainment of lasting peace through the development of the human personality into a state of ideal perfection. This implies positive attunement to the world and rapport with all living beings. The only agency that can bring about such harmony is spiritualism. All the scriptures invariably define education as the enlightened instrument that leads to liberation liberation from ignorance,

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superstition, evil and sin and vouchsafes wisdom. Therefore, any education without this basic tenet is like a beautiful face without a pair of eyes!

It was found on interaction with 12th standard boys and girls that they get peace of mind when they have meditation classes on Mondays and Bhajan Class on Friday Mornings. Some of them expressed their feelings that when they start their classes on a rainy day without prayer in the open ground, they feel insecure and depressed. This point is worth in millions dollars. Religious training and spiritual kindlement in the minds of youngsters give them a secure feeling and balanced mind.

Most of the divorce cases in India are in the age group of 25 to 30 years. This is mainly due to the fact that non-spiritual education blended with modern technology makes them insecure and anxiety ridden, despite the fact that they are economically well off. The great moralist Bhartruhari remarked that a man devoid of education is a quadruped. By education he did not mean the mechanical mastery of the three R's but the discovery of the highest truth which is synonymous with God; for education as conceived by ancestors was Aksharabhayasa, the practice of immortality or the apprenticeship in godliness.

The cardinal privileges of all great religions are the same. They deliver in the existence of God who is the soul of perfection, beauty and wisdom the creator and the sustainer of the universe, whose mercy encompasses the whole world and who is the common Faith of all, though he may be called by different names and worshipped in different ways. All great religions expect their followers to avoid sin to be in harmony with all living creatures and lead an emotionally balanced life.

As envisioned by Swami Vivekananda, spiritual education or training along with latest curriculum infuses value of life. A thing is of value, if it is of use, Value is in proportion to utility. The greater the utility, the higher the value. Utility is sought by mankind at various levels, physical, emotional intellectual and spiritual senses.

### CONCLUSION

According to Swamiji, ever his guru Shri. Ramakrishna Paramhansa used to express that

education is no education, if it fails to provide wisdom as a resultant peace.

The Present computer based employment sector faces so much of stress and tension. Unfortunately suicide deaths are becoming common. Some of the high tech syllabus also paves way for unnatural deaths, mainly because the system has no spiritual training.

For all these maladies, what this study found is that spiritualism based education gives emotional strength and mind power to face challenges. The mindscape faces no barriers if it is spiritually trained. The modern employment sector and economy will not lose precious man power if the education system is based upon training of the mind on spiritual unslippery grounds.

### RECOMMENDATION

Apart from daily routine practice of morning assembly, weekly prayer, meditation, religion or moral discourse must be a periodical arrangement in the academic stream. As this training of the mind is imparted, unwanted stress and anxiety can be avoided. Yogasana and meditation also must find a place in the regular scheme of studies. Due to this arrangement, since mind is focused students can easily concentrate on studies which can improve their grades. Spiritual training at least an hour per week for IT professionals must be introduced. These concepts will create a peaceful atmosphere for the disturbed minds. If these things become regular practice, mind will never be troubled by our own thoughts and deeds. Let peace and happiness reign the world.

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