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Swami Vivekananda: As a Pathfinder of Modern India

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ABSTRACT

Swami Vivekananda (1863 -1902) is regarded as one of the greatest influential spiritual philosopher, educationist and thinker of India. Ramakrishna Paramhansa was his spiritual guru, and he is the founder of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission. He is considered as an icon for his fearless courage. His positive thinking to the youth and his broad viewpoint to many social problems, and countless lectures and discourses on Vedanta philosophy he became well-known to all quickly. Vivekananda believed that education is not only a information, it is the support to lead our daily life. It can be said that Swami's mission was to develop our nation by upliftment of poor people. He was lover of mankind; he strove to promote peace and human brotherhood on the spiritual and real through the Vedantic Philosophy. Vivekananda realised that there was a huge number of possibilities in Indian youth, they can change the society. She specially worked for youth consciousness. He respects Indian traditional culture, and similarly he speaks about logical thinking. Here researcher try to find out how Vivekananda contributed himself to make modern, and independent India. That time Vivekananda's thoughts towards Indian value and western value creates a new value concept. Now a days India rediscovering himself in modern times.

Keywords: Swami Vivekananda, Swamiji, *Value system, Modern India, Youth, Modern Science, All human beings.*

1. Introduction

Swami Vivekananda became so popular for his foresight and deep sensitiveness to the socio-economic, moral and spiritual structure of the country. His intellectual vision was highly clear. By the lectures and speeches of Swami Vivekananda, many youths were enlightened to ideas of social-service and character-building. Swami Vivekananda dedicated his life to guiding the youth and to support our nation. His concept of service to the poor inspired to many youths. Swami Vivekananda was a great inspiration and a role model to youth throughout his lifetime, and continues to inspire the youth of today.

2. Objective

- To study Swami Vivekananda philosophy to making of Modern India
- To review Swamiji's contribution to Indian Value System and modern science
- To find out Swamiji's recommendation to all human beings

3. Methodology

The study was conducted based on the method of document review in accordance with the qualitative approach of research. The information presented in this paper was collected from primary and secondary sources like various books, Research Article, Magazines, Research Journal, and from E-journal. The methods utilized for gathering information were document review, archival investigation, Representative themes that were found across materials gathered were coded and analysed for presentation. In this study, Swami Vivekananda's life, character and opinions on various subject matters have been analysed to the perspective of making modern India. For that, some documents which are related to Vivekananda's life used by researchers. Each document contents are examined in detail by researchers.

4. Swami Vivekananda and Making of Modern India

In several ways the historian mark the life and work of swami Vivekananda. This are also emblematic of the ways in which a tradition modernizes or creates alternative forms of modernity. Swamiji's contribution to make modern India can be summed in four ways-

- **First:** Vivekananda who first realised that our everyday lives would become more meaningful only when spiritualized. It was in this spirituality that he rediscovered, as it were, is India's message to himself and to the world. Vivekananda thought that this spiritual self-realization leads to people to more realizing their own possibilities. especially in the context of a colonized society like that of 19th century India, this was tantamount to men and women to create greater self-belief in themselves.
- **Second:** Even though the swami rejected political praxis and West inspired social and religious reforms, he hardly worked for the empowerment of the poor people. Through education he wanted to upliftment of all, realizing he underlying unity of all human existence.
- **Third:** There is the love that Vivekananda consistently exhibited for the socially marginalized and oppressed. He wanted to just uplift the marginalized group with the other group of the society. He was the first person before Gandhi, said that God especially residing in the lowly and the poor people. (daridranarayan).
- **Fourth:** It was Swami's consistent desire to bring back India's pride of place in the assembly of nations, as a civilization which, notwithstanding momentous historical changes, had yet retained subterranean threads of commonness and unity.

5. Swamiji's Contribution to Indian Value System

Swami Vivekananda, a philosopher and a social reformer, dedicated his life at the end day of his life for the upliftment of humanity. In his dynamism of thought he laid emphasis on the body and soul for human excellence. Work and more work to strive for excellence of body, mind and spirit were conspicuous in all his teachings and preaching. Man-making, character building and assimilation of ideas was the main theme of Vivekananda's education. India's ancient value system is the great heritage of mankind. We see that our history, culture, our educational systems, leadership, values and managerial process, designed by Rishis. They were the great source of inspiration and motivation at that time. The present education system is based on Western standards. This education system ignores the polishing and development of the inner instrument of man, his mind and his life, It also ignores the innate divinity, the self within and focuses only on the body, mind and intellect. This lack of focus on developing the powers of concentration of the mind is directly responsible for the lowering the values and character in modern youth. And this modern value system ignores the need for the unfoldment of the innate perfection, peace and happiness of self. During the freedom struggle, some great leaders of modern India challenged the British systems of education. They also developed powerful philosophies of education so as to provide to the students not only the lessons of the Indian heritage but also to prepare them for the future greatness of India. Vivekananda is one of them. He wanted to educate children neither only Indian value, nor only British value. He wanted to mix up those value, and create a new value system. He spoke for man-making and character building education. He accepted Vedantic knowledge as the base, acknowledge the truth of every religion and a synthesis of Yoga. he opened the gates of the future before the youth, filling them with a new spirit of inspiration, and dynamic action.

6. Swamiji's Recommendation About Character Building

Swami Vivekananda realized three things are necessary to make a good character:

- Conviction of the powers of goodness.
- Absence of jealousy and suspicion.
- Helping all who are trying to be and do good.

Swami Vivekananda suggested to try to give up jealousy and conceit and learn to work unitedly for others. He said that purity, patience and perseverance overcome all obstacles. He suggested to take courage and work on. Patience and steady work, according to Swami Vivekananda, this is the only way to get success.

According to Swami Vivekananda "faith in ourselves and faith in God- this is the secret of greatness. Swami Vivekananda observed the history of the world is the history of a few men who had faith in themselves, and it is faith which calls out divinity within. So, he told if people have faith in three hundred and thirty million of Hindu mythological gods, and in all the gods which foreigners have now and still have no faith in themselves, there will be no salvation.

7. Teachings of Swami Vivekananda to all Human beings

Teachings of Swami Vivekananda Swami Vivekananda is a treasure of motivation and inspiration for all of us, whether we are students, teachers, common people or any other professional. He said a lot which can be formatted in very simple quotations for everyone.

Here is a beautiful collection of Swami Vivekananda's ideas-

- "Stand up, be bold, be strong. Take the whole responsibility on your own shoulders, & know that you are the creator of your own destiny."
- "Arise! Awake! And stop not till the goal is reached."
- "To be good and to do good - that is the whole of religion."
- "Strength is life, Weakness is death."
- "All the power is within you; you can do anything and everything. Believe in that; don't believe that you are weak. Stand up and express the divinity within you."
- "Whatever you think, that you will be. If you think yourself weak, weak you will be; if you think yourself strong; strong you will be."
- "Stand and die in your own strength; if there is any sin in the world, it is weakness; avoid all weakness, for weakness is sin, weakness is death."
- "Neither money pays, nor name pays, nor fame, nor learning; it is character that cleave through adamant walls of difference."
- "He is an atheist who does not believe in himself. The old religion said that he was an atheist who does not believe in God. The new religion says that he is an atheist who does not believe in himself."
- "The greatest sin is to think yourself weak."
- "Take up one idea, make that one idea your life, think of it, dream of it, live of it, let the brain, muscle, nerves, every part of your body be full of that idea and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way great spiritual giants are produced, others are mere talking machines."
- "Your country requires heroes; be heroes; your duty is to go on working, and then everything will follow of itself."

8. Vivekananda Contribution to Modern Science

In his book *Raja Yoga*, Vivekananda explores traditional views on the supernatural and the belief that the practice of Raja Yoga can confer psychic powers such as 'reading another's thoughts', 'controlling all the forces of nature', become 'almost all-knowing', 'live without breathing', 'control the bodies of others' and levitation. He also explains traditional eastern spiritual concepts like kundalini and spiritual energy centres (chakras).

Vivekananda advocated testing thoroughly before making your decision of accepting or denying

"It is not the sign of a candid and scientific mind to throw overboard anything without proper investigation. Surface scientists, unable to explain various extraordinary mental phenomena, strive to ignore their very existence."

He further says in the introduction of the book that one should take up the practice and verify these things for oneself, and that there should not be blind belief.

"What little I know I will tell you. So far as I can reason it out, I will do so, but as to what I do not know I will simply tell you what the books say. It is wrong to believe blindly. You must exercise your own reason and judgment; you must practice, and see whether these things happen or not. Just as you would take up any other science, exactly in the same manner you should take up this science for study."

In his paper read at the World Parliament of Religions, Chicago (1893), Vivekananda also hinted about the final goal of Physics:

"Science is nothing but the finding of unity. As soon as science would reach perfect unity, it would stop from further progress, because it would reach the goal. Thus, Chemistry could not progress farther when it would discover one element out of which all other could be made. Physics would stop when it would be able to fulfil its services in discovering one energy of which all others are but manifestations."

"All science is bound to come to this conclusion in the long run. Manifestation, and not creation, is the word of science today, and the Hindu is only glad that what he has been cherishing in his bosom for ages is going to be taught in more forcible language and with further light from the latest conclusions of science."

The electrical engineer, Nikola Tesla, was influenced by the ideas of Vivekananda "on the link between the soul and Godhead, Prana (life force) and Akasha (ether) and its equivalence to the universe, force, and matter", which were included in his treatise on human condition and the role of technology in

shaping world history, in his article in *Century*. Tesla reportedly took the self-imposed vow of chastity, influenced by Vivekananda's teaching of chastity as the path to "self-transformation and enlightenment".

9. Findings

- Swamiji was the first religious leader who speak for large scale mass education, and it was Swamiji's commitment to bring back India's pride of place in the assembly of nations.
- According to him purity, patience and perseverance is the main them of character. That's why he emphasized foe man making and character-building education.
- He is inspiration to all of us, and his beautiful teaching idea is followed in Ramakrishna Mission.
- He believed in testing thoroughly before making your decision of accepting or denying, which indicate the modern science.

10. Conclusion

From the above discussion now, we can securely say that the teachings of Vivekananda had worked as a building blog to create modern India. It can be stated that Swami Vivekananda was foreseen that mankind is passing through a crisis. This unique quality made him a leader of the total human beings. Vivekananda described many laws and methods which is much more relevant today. He was a social reformer, a nationalist, a management specialist. Nation has realised the relevance of his thoughts and teachings in development of this country. And yet Swami Vivekananda stood up to the most difficult challenges of his time and became a beacon light of hope and inspiration for millions of people across the world. His personality has an everlasting charm and appeal for the modern youth of all nationalities. In the year 1984, the government of India declared 12th January, Swami Vivekananda's birthday, as the National Youth Day.

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