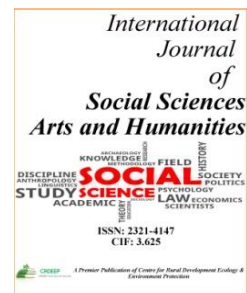


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Short Communication Paper

Relevance of Swami Vivekananda's Educational Philosophy in Modern Education: A Review

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ABSTRACT

The path of modern education is thorny and a complete bed of materialism and leads to the grave. Plants are shaped by cultivation and men by education. Does the modern education do justice with the definition of education? Does it honour the educational philosophy of Vivekananda? This paper is an attempt to find relevance of Vivekananda's educational philosophy in modern education and also leads way for further research.

The path of modern education is thorny and a complete bed of materialism .It is macadamized with the stones and pitch of materialism. The path of modern education leads to the grave. It listens to the call of senses and ignores the call of soul. The destination is consequently frustration. Rousseau proclaims:

Plants are shaped by cultivation and men by education. We are born weak, we need strength, and we are born totally unprovided. We need judgment. Everything we do not have at birth and which we need judgment. Everything we do not have at birth and which we need when we grow up, is given us by education.

Does the modern education do justice with the definition of education? Does it honour the educational philosophy of Vivekananda? The answer is candidly 'NO' in capital letters.

"Swami Vivekananda" The mouth is bloated while pronouncing this name and a positive current travels in the body. The philosophy of Vivekananda was deeply rooted in ancient Indian Wisdom where education is acquired from spiritual life. For him, education was enlightenment, illumination and awakening .He defines education as "*The manifestation of perfection already in man*".

He was a social reformer with a global vision and firmly believed that true education nurtures the ideals of harmony compassion tolerance and peace. It revolves around the objectives of man making and character building. He also believed that education must take care of complete physical and mental health, social and spiritual well being with the soothing breeze of ethics and morality. His educational philosophy was manure to the dying crop of humanity in the tornado of materialism. His philosophy ploughed the grass-laden fields of humanity and made them ready for rich crop and finally mind-blowing harvest. His philosophy is food for emotional and spiritual thought and shows green pastures to the dying general inform of modern lust. The concept of his education opened even rusted locks. He upheld the view that the study and simple touch of a complete character provides more education than the whole library.

Swami ji had a reason to believe that only true education can transform a cabbage into a cauliflower. Emphatically he remarked that education is artillery which provides weapons to humanity, to fight the battle of their life. It provides strong legs and sweet tongue to

avoid staggering and stammering. Education sows the seeds of social justice, compassion, humanity, tolerance and universal brotherhood. It empowers the frail humanity to develop the spirit of renunciation, giving up of worldly pursuits and a life of vanity, pride and arrogance. Honestly; he believed that right educations muzzles and bottlenecks the whims and fancies of modern man who enjoys floating his boat in the desert with the oars of materialism.

While speaking spiritual education and religion, the needle of Vivekananda revolved around Vedanta philosophy. In straight stroke, he harps that character is a gigantic tree with branches like physical, vital, mental, intellectual and the spiritual. All these five sheaths flourish and bloom with the strength in roots which is spiritualism. Evidently, the inner self is vital. If the tattered shoes are polished; the holes will allow the socks to come out. Thus, in order to improve the density of humankind and to promote humanity, education must be wedded to the science of spirituality. Vivekananda tried to lift the lid of social injustice with education. During his travels to all over India, he was terribly upset and deeply moved to see the appalling poverty and backwardness of masses. The obvious reason was inadequate knowledge of education and loss of faith in them. As a solution, he emphatically stated that the fire of their problems can be extinguished with the rain of right education. Swami ji was firm in his conviction that only right kind of education can supply a panacea to the suffering humanity. The sizzling fire of uncertainties can be subsided with the downpour of right education.

Like The Ramayana cannot be capsuled in a couplet; likewise Swami ji's philosophy on education cannot be enumerated in five miserable pages, Nevertheless; I have tried some bullets. Hones question to the readers. Why did the relevance of Vivekananda's educational philosophy come on the platform? His philosophy spoke of character-building and modern education is bent on character - assassination. His enlightenment, illumination and awakening are converted into darkness, confusion and ignorance. The books of wisdom, compassion, tolerance, ethics and humility have been destroyed by the termites of lust. The character building of Swami ji is now career-building. Modern man is swimming in the river but dying of thirst. His desires change their names hundred times in a day. Modern education has provided boats; but not paddles, Brains are stuffed with indiscriminate information. Modern man has the luxury to travel on various roads; but no destination. He is far from his home and surrounded by gloom. All texts of Swami ji are replete with life-giving vibrations but the modern texts teach the lessons of division. The sacred text of Vivekananda are feeling suffocated in the book shelves of libraries Modern education has sent them to deep slumber, Vivekananda created characters and modern education is creating caricatures.

Dear friends, rainbow is always colored but modern education has made it black and white. Vivekananda's educational philosophy is still waiting for the completion of its hibernation. Wait & watch. Autumn does not change the name of flowers; it is an invitation to new leaves and flowers.