

Man Making Education envisaged by Swami Vivekananda

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Abstract: *The fact that all good education is, in essence a process of developing the human personality in all its dimensions; intellectual, physical, social ethical and moral is undisputed and universally accepted. Good education is inconceivable if it fails to inculcate values essential to good life and social well being. Great thinkers in every period of recorded history of mankind have devoted much attention to understand the significance of character and values in life and the role of various agencies of education in promoting these values in young people. This type of values based education is known as man making education according to Swami Vivekananda. Man making means a harmonious development of a child in respect to their morality, humanity, honesty, character health etc. therefore, a supporting environment to fulfill this aims of education should be created in all type of schools.*

Key Words: *Man making, Manifestation of perfection, Harmonious development.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

The focus of man's practical and philosophical interests, from the Stone Age to the present, has shifted drastically from the other world, God, matter and the world to MAN. All developments are now evaluated in humanistic terms. Hence this age is known as the age of Humanism. Man and his values have become primary, and man's noblest study is considered to be 'Man' himself. Education, which is as old as man himself, has also undergone considerable changes to meet changing needs; physical, emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual. The essence of all these is the concept of 'Man making Education' propounded by Swami Vivekananda. In his own words, 'the ideal of all education, all training should be Man Making. Man making means 'manhood-making' or the development of all potentialities which every human being is naturally endowed with, and which distinguish men from animals.

There is a story related to Socrates who once asked his students, "What is your aim in life?" One student responded that he wanted to become a lawyer and the other that he wanted to become a doctor and so on and so forth. But one boy got up and declared that he wanted to become a "Man!" The answer obviously pleases Socrates beyond measure. We must become men first in a real sense, and becoming lawyers etc. will have a positive effect on the individual as well as the society. That is why Swamiji wanted man-making education.

2. Man-Making Process:

Man-making that is the development of full man hood, includes three processes:

- Development of all the faculties and capacities of the mind.
- Moral perfection.
- Development of the potential divinity.

The first process is now a day called self actualization, the third one is known as Self realization or *Atma saksatkara*: the second process, the moral perfection may be regarded as a connecting link between the first and the third.

Two fundamental concepts of Swamiji's Educational Philosophy:

- Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man
- Concentration is the essence of education, not the collecting of facts.

Here two key words to be deliberated upon: PERFECTION & CONCENTRATION

Perfection must be the end goal and the concentration according to Swamiji is the instrument or means. The key to Swamiji's doctrine of education lies in his famous definition of education. "Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man". Here manifestation of perfection refers to the total development of the empirical human personality. Through this definition Swamiji identified education with life itself long before Dewey propounded a similar theory. Besides, Swamiji's theory goes far deeper than that of Froebel, Dewey and other modern educationists.

3. Education for whom?

- Whom we are educating? - Man

- Who is man?- Body, Mind and Intellect
- Integral education caters all the above
- The aim is – Strong body, Strong mind, Sharp intellect

4. Definitions of Swami Vivekananda on Education:

- 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.
- What we want is western science coupled with Vedanta *Brahmacharya* as the guided motto, and also *Shraddha* and faith in one's own self
- My idea of education is personal contact with the teachers – *Gurugriha Vasa*. Without the personal life of a teacher, there would no education. Take your own universities. What have they done during the fifty years of their existence? They have not produced one original man!
- What is education? Is it book learning? No, is it diverse Knowledge? Not even that. The training by which the current and expression of will are brought under control and become fruitful is called education.

It is in this context that we can really understand the significance and supremacy of Swamiji's ideas on education. Swamiji takes a long leap from here and bases his educational philosophy on the higher spiritual dimension of man, which affirms that man is essentially divine and is hence the prepository of perfection, infinite knowledge and power. An educational system must provide opportunities and create conditions for the gradual manifestation of this divinity, perfection, knowledge and power which are dormant in man. The key to Swamiji's doctrine of education lies in his famous definition of education. 'Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man'. Here manifestation of perfection refers to the total development of empirical human personality.

5. Metaphysical dimension of Swami Vivekananda's Educational Philosophy:

- Definition of Religion & Education according to Swamiji: Religion is the manifestation of DIVINITY already in man and Education is the manifestation of PERFECTION already in man
- The complete evolution of perfection is what is termed as manifestation of divinity
- Religion should be basis of education, not secular ambition.

6. Swamiji's ideas on Educational Movement and Teacher' role:

- Importance of spreading Education among the masses
- Educational movement should have twin goals: 1. Physical personality 2. Spiritual Emancipation
- Education – it is a negative process – Teacher is only the facilitator – Child learns by itself
- Important role played by teachers in educational system – the quality of educational system depends upon love their subject and also for the pupils. The future of our nation is being formed in our classrooms.
- Three Main qualities of a good teacher: *Shrotriyah*: Acquisition of through knowledge, *Avrijnah*: Purity of personality, *Akamahatah*: Higher motivation in teaching

7. CONCLUSION:

Now let us try to understand what exactly is the philosophy behind this most significant doctrine of perfection already in man. Swami Vivekananda's educational philosophy is a reflection of his general philosophy of life. His main contention is that education is the manifestation of divinity already existing in man. He believes that knowledge resides within the individual himself. He simply discovers or realizes it. "Perfection is already inherent in man, and education is the manifestation of the same." In fact, his educational philosophy is built upon the bed-rocks of Vedanta. He was revolutionary in the field of education and touched every aspect of it. Swami Vivekananda criticized the existing system of education.

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