

Views of Swami Vivekananda on human values in modern education

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Abstract

The article deals about the needed soft skill for the learning community. As the erosion of family values very much seen in the urban families due to nuclear family, the role of parents to ingrain such value in the offspring is very often wanted. In this background it is a great challenge for the institutions and teachers to build the culture and value for the future educations. In this light, the teachings of swami Vivekananda holds good.

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Introduction

As a human being everybody is bounded up with some sort of humanness. Every one of us in the world is interested in taking birth, marrying, bring up offspring and as an end meeting the death, leaving certain services to the society. A human being will be spoken of even after death only when he or she might have performed some services without selfishness. That type of service will be the basis for the creation of human value. In our dynamic world everyday, every month and every year some new inventions are coming up in many forms especially in computer science, which may be the means for human progress. Even in computer science one wants to progress in terms of money matters. This type of thinking will make human being attached to material value rather than spiritual value. If everybody becomes self centered then, there could be no progress in the civilization, that is human values will not be humanely but barbaric. We have to avoid this type of situation arising. What shall we do? What Swami Vivekananda says? That will be the nucleus of my paper. According to Swami Vivekananda, "Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man"¹. The clouds were ready to shower. Birds were rushing to shelter, Swamiji was very anxious about women's education. In the modern days, there is a greater impetus towards higher education in the European lines. Every American woman has better education that can be conceived of by the majority of the Hindu women. Why can't we have the same education? We must says Swamiji.

Swamiji illustrated about primary education that it should reach the poorest at a level of plough, in the factor and everywhere, for which He further says that if mountain does not come to Mohammed, Mohammed must go to the mountain. Like wise, the education should reach his brethren.

Swamiji states, "...our religion does not prevent a women being educated at all, but in some other foreign universities it is closed for women education."² By knowing that he was very much worried about it. He further stresses that, "...the girls should be educated; even thus she should be trained..."³

Technical or vocational education is the training given to men or women in order to enable them to perform skill with a utilitarian task. Such is, for instance training in weaving, iron melting, pruning of trees etc., it applies to industrial and as well as to agricultural pursuits. The two important things about this type of training are that it is necessary for modern society and that, properly imparted; it has also an educational value.

Everybody knows that teacher is the soul or vital principle of the education system and no scheme of education can succeed without a competent body of the teachers well-trained for the task. This co-operation tending towards the welfare of society is

a paramount importance. The achievement of higher education Dr. Radhakrishnan says in his writings in the following way,

1. Transmission of the intellectual and ethical heritage of humanity to the young.

2. Enrichment of this heritage and extension of the boundaries of knowledge.

3. Development of personality

Swamiji stated that the teacher's work must be simply out of love, one of the pure loves for mankind at large. The only medium through which spiritual force can be transmitted is love. The student who wants to know the truth must give up all desires for gain. Love, truth and unselfishness are not merely moral figures of speech, but they form our highest ideal, because in them lies such manifestation of power. "The training by which the current and expression of will brought under control and become fruitful is called education."

4 He further stresses that, "It is man-making religion that we want".

5 The end of all education, all training, should be man- making. The aim of all training is to make the man grow.

Getting by heart the thoughts of others in a foreign language and stuffing our brain with them and taking some university degrees, we consider ourselves educated. Is this education? What is the goal of our education? Swami remembers from one of the books which he read, "For the good of a village, a man ought to give up his family; For the good of a country, he ought to give up his village; For the good of humanity, he may give up his country; for the good of the world, everything"

6. Swamiji also states that, "...strength must come to the nation through education,"

7. Selfish work is slave's work; such work does not bring peace and bliss, it brings only material values rather than spiritual values, whereas unselfish work or self sacrificed service will bring the real value in human beings which are considered as away from attachment. For example, just as water cannot wet the lotus leaf, so, work cannot bind the unselfish man, by giving rise to attachment to result. I conclude that modern in education; human values are going on increasing. These values are not static. So, the spiritual value is only permanent. For this, Swamiji insisted to start from man- making education, imparting education for both the sexes, cultural development after having proper education and the co-operation between the student and teacher. He says that the teacher should come down to the level of student's mind to have an effective interaction. Finally, we can say in the voice of Swamiji that unselfish service rendered by detached service alone could lead to human values in modern education.