



Pratidhwani the Echo

A Peer-Reviewed International Journal of Humanities & Social Science

ISSN: 2278-5264 (Online) 2321-9319 (Print)

Impact Factor: 6.28 (Index Copernicus International)

Volume-XI, Special Issue, June 2023, Page No.265-267

Published by Dept. of Bengali, Karimganj College, Karimganj, Assam, India

Website: <http://www.thecho.in>

Women education: View of swami Vivekananda

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Abstract:

Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902), the ideal speaker for Hinduism is known globally for his spiritual wisdom of Hindu religion. Among the modern Indian religion reformers, Vivekananda argued for equality of men and women. Swami Vivekananda is the first monk to uphold and do work for freedom and equality of women and realizing the importance of women for the society as well as the nation. There is no chance of the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. "It is not possible for a bird to fly on one wing"- said Swami Vivekananda. He was of the firm opinion that women should be put in the position of power to solve their own problem in their own way and this cannot be possible without education. Women are suffering from many chronic problems such as physical, social, political, cultural, economic etc. This situation may be removed and empowering them through proper education. In this present paper discusses Swami Vivekananda's ideas about women education.

Key word: Education, women education, curriculum.

Introduction: It is known to all that Swami vibekananda is not only a monk, teacher, great leader, mystic, philosopher but also the incessant worker for India who has represented India as unique culture, rituals, and religious country in the world. He also represented India as a country which is potentially divine. According to Swami Vivekananda —education is the manifestation of perfection already in men. He did not think it a pity that the existing system of education did not enable a person to stand on his own feet, nor did it teach him self-confidence and self-respect. To Vivekananda, education was not only collection of information, but something more meaningful; he felt education should be man-making, life giving and character-building. To him education was an assimilation of noble ideas.—Education is not the amount of information that we put into your brain and runs riot there, undigested, all your life. We must have life building, man making, and character making as similation of ideas. Swamiji identified and realized the main hindrance for the development of India is-neglect towards the women. Development and advancement of any country depend on human resource. So if we neglect women as parallelly we neglect the human resource and also curb the development of any society as well as country and world.

So, on this point of view swamiji utmost emphasis on women education. Only education can bring the light in their path of journey.

Swami Vivekananda on education: Vivekananda wanted all-round development of education to heart and mind, to strengthen character and national consciousness, to help in the cultivation of strength and energy, nurture the brain and intellect and stir feelings of kindness and sympathy. According to Vivekananda, education is a process in which the young minds, will receive strength, energy and vigorous character. Through this process, the individual will mould them self into a complete and perfect human being of their life. All knowledge and all powers are within. All knowledge comes from the human soul. Man manifests knowledge, discovers it with himself, which is pre-existing through eternity. Education is a man-making and nation-making process. The prime aim of education is to achieve the full perfection already present in a child. According to Vivekananda, all the materials and spiritual knowledge are already present in the individuals mind, but it is covered by certain ignorance. Education is the character development of the child. He emphasizes the child should practice Brahmacharya which fosters development of mental, moral and spiritual powers leading to purity of thought, words and deeds.

Women's Education: Vivekananda explains the point about how female illiteracy retards the progress of a society: „It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing“. The main objective of female education is to make them strong, fear-less and conscious of their chastity and dignity. Swami Vivekananda felt, the thermometer to progress of a nation is its treatment of its women and it is impossible to get back India, „s lost pride and honor unless Indians try to better the condition of women. He considered men and women as two wings of a bird, and it is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing. So, according to him, there is no chance for welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. Education of women is essential for both all-round development of the nation and also for the improvement of women, „s condition in India.

Swamiiji says mother tongue is the best medium of social and mass education. Thinking the different social status and works of women he arranged a different curriculum which includes-1.moral value 2.literature and Sanskrit 3.grammar 4.craft and cooking 5.home science alongwith Yepa, worship, meditation. The main objectives of education are man making and character building. There is no difference in case of women education. Swamiiji instructed to build schools in rural areas .He formed devoted nuns who were engaged to teach them.Swamiiji instructed that, being educated women should not imitate man. Instead of that through this education they would be modern Sita, Savitree, Maitrayee, Gargy. In this purpose Swamiiji established “Sarda Math”. He wanted women are to be Ma Sarada. Ma Sarada says—example is more important than advice-which she showed throughout her life.

Conclusion: Swami Vivekananda rightly pointed out that unless Indian women secure a respectable place in this country, nation can never march forward. Swami said, the progress

of a nation depends on its treatment of women. So, according to him, there is no chance for welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is one of the foremost concerns of the Government of India as well as of the society at large. Swami Vivekananda's Vision on women education and Today's mission of eradicating gender gap in literacy rate both indicate one goal....progress...progress of women and thereby the progress of entire nation.-----"Many paths, one goal.

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