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WOMEN EDUCATION: SWAMI VIVEKANANDA'S THOUGHTS



Sushanta Kr. Barman

INTRODUCTION

Now we are passing through in many critical problems in our everyday life, especially for the women. They could not face in society for their frustration, confusion, afraid in their mind, because society did not allow women are educated and they are dependent to others. Swamiji realized with the first differentiation between man and woman. Vivekananda's position on women based on the Vivekananda's philosophy.

The Vedic period is said to be one of complete equality for women According to vedantic philosophy one and the same conscious self is present in all beings as such men and women are fundamentally the manifestation of the Atmman which is the sexless

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, economical etc. This situation may be removed and empowering them through proper education. Recent study mentioned the condition of women education and executes the women consciousness for education which improved their quality and quantity level of life. The total thesis covered by documentary analysis and it was based on the thoughts and ideas of Swami Vivekananda's Philosophy of women education.

KEYWORDS : Women literacy, knowledge, divine mother, women empowerment.

Short Profile

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'self'. Swami Vivekananda argued that men and women are equally good in her or his way and that they should be judge according to their respective greatness. He further believed that if women are given the same opportunity as men, it is possible for women to attain the same level of development. He argued people not to think of themselves as men and women, but to see each other as human beings.

According to him, women's problems can be many but none cannot be solved by that magic word education. Swami Vivekananda discovered education is the best and only device to solve all problems of women and thereby emancipate and if the women are raised, their children

will be reached at better position by their noble actions, glorify the name of the country; then will culture, knowledge, power and devotion awaken in the country. He insisted that daughters should be supported and educated with as much care and attention as the sons. Vivekananda opined that parents should educate their daughters and enable them to observe.

According to him, child marriage was the reason for so many widows in India. He felt that if the number of early marriage decline, the number of widows would also decline. Women must be put in a position to solve their own problems in their own way. No one can or ought to do this for them. And our Indian women are as capable of doing it as any in the world.

'All nations have attained greatness by paying proper respect to women. That country and that nation which do not respect women have never become great, nor will ever be in future, where women are respected, there the Gods delights and efforts came to naught'- there is no hope of rise for that family or country where they live in sadness. What was the way out to save and elevate Indian women? Education was the answer. Women is statesmanship, managing territories, governing countries, even making war, have proved themselves equal to men if not superior.

Vivekananda's Propaganda on Women Education:

- Every nation has reached to their greatness by giving proper respect to their women.
- With five hundred men, the conquest of India might take fifty years, with as many women not more than a few weeks.
- Every nation, every man and every woman must work out their own salvation.
- The idea of perfect womanhood is perfect independence.
- There is no change for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved.
- Women should receive an education based on quite exhaustive and psychologically devised

curricula.

Emergence of the Problems:

According to Swami Vivekananda a nation could rise only by paying proper respect to women. He says that there is no hope of rise for that family or country where there is no education of women, where they live in sadness. The women educational system usually reflected the ideas of the nation and these enabled us to understand the spirit of the philosophy of life in women. Vivekananda idea of women education includes ideal daughters, ideal wives and ideal mothers. So, it was very essential to know, how Swami Vivekananda established women empowerment on that time and also decided his great contribution for women education in modern perspective.

Objectives of the Study:

- Every investigation is being investigated in the purpose to fulfill same objectives. Thus, this study also has some objectives to achieve-
1. To understand the background which inspired Swamiji's thought to develop women life.
 2. To understand the role of Vivekananda in uplifting the women in the Indian society.
 3. To identify the role of Vivekananda in to the area of women education.
 4. To verify the thoughts, ideas, aims and philosophy which related for women education?
 5. To discuss about the quality level of women which was revived by Swamiji?

Research Questions:

- What was the Swamiji's thoughts and opinion on women?
- What were the different problems faced by women during the period of Swamiji?
- What was the women educational philosophy of Swamiji?
- Why women education is needed on the light of his philosophy?
- What was the changed position after gaining

education?

- Why Swamiji advised special curriculum for women?
- What was the contribution of women in the society?
- By which quality and contribution of women can be raised by education?

Methods & Procedures of the Study:

- ▲ The study was based on historical research.
- ▲ The data was analyzed in documentary format.
- ▲ Research questions were formed for the study.
- ▲ Sources of data were identified of the study.
- ▲ Data was collected from different books and articles.
- ▲ This was covered the area from ancient to modern condition of women education.
- ▲ The study was envisaged about the improvement of women by education.

Sources Used in the Study:

1.Primary sources-

- ▲ Compositions of Swami Vivekananda.
- ▲ Letters of Swami Vivekananda.

2.Secondary sources-

- ✦ Educational philosophies and profiles of Swami Vivekananda written by several authors.
- ✦ News paper reports and articles published by different authors in books, journals, websites.

Analysis & Interpretation of Data:

1. Swamiji remarked, "Women have many and grave problems but none that cannot be solved by magic word: education?" Education was one of the word by which character was formed, strength of mind was increased, intellect was expanded, and by which one can stand a supreme. He prescribed an education that would create "great fearless women-women worthy."

Most of the women in the rural areas were illiterate and trapped in a vicious circle of poverty and deprivation. Therefore it was realized and proved that women have to provided with a vital educational inputs.

2. He observed, "To the women of this country I would say exactly what I say to the man. Believe in India and Indian faith. Be strong and hopeful and unashamed." Vivekananda studied about the history of the Indian women of other places and compared those with that of the Vedic concept. Woman was considered dangerous to devotion, and they may not perform any religious function. Then he was shown how the position of woman degenerated by the society .But modern time, society acknowledged female's capacity & gave higher educational opportunity.

3. Swami Vivekananda said, "It is very difficult to understand why in this country so much difference is made between men and women , whereas the Vedanta declares that one and the same conscious self is present in all beings. You always criticize the women, but what have you done for their enlistment?" There was no chance for the welfare of the world, unless condition of women was improved .It was the value learnt at home, that affected through the subtle messages of parents often indicated that the girl will be going to another household, while the boy will earn and would inherit the family's wealth. But they did not believed the truth, which was men and women have equal access to education.

4. Swamiji says, "Oh, India, do not forget the ideal of womanhood- Sita, Sabitri and Damayanti". Here, seen the fact of ancient women they were all unique, every type of the true indian woman. They were always suffering in our society and proved that they were representative of ever pure wife, the ideal of the people. But, any attempt to modernize women, if, it tried to take our women away from that ideal of them, was immediately failure as we seen in every day, because they learned to fight

for self-defense by education.

5. He proudly states that "women in statesmanship, managing territories, governing courtiers, even making war, have proved themselves equal to men, if not superior. In India I have no doubt of that. Whenever they have had the opportunity, they have proved that they have as much ability as men. "Therefore, there need reformed to solve the problems of women, so that to its benefit to all women belonging to various sections in the society.

6. He said, 'It is good to avoid in this country any association of men with women's schools. Same gender became comfortable to expose their emotion from other. In this purpose, he also said, "The duty of the teaching in school ought to develop in every respect on educated widows and "Brahmacharinis" the formation of character, religious training observance of the vows of celibacy these should be attended to Brahmacharinis of education and character should take up the task of teaching. In villages and towns they must open centers and strive for the spread of female education. Here, all of matter considered for women education because, a female could explained other female's mind affection and encouraged them for connected of education.

7. Swamiji was presented a comprehensive curriculum for women so that they may develop high character ; courage & confidence in that purport he said, 'sewing, culinary art, rules of domestic work and upbringing of children will also be taught while 'japa' worship and meditation , etc., shall from an indispensable part of teaching".

8. According to him, the regeneration of Indian women was depending upon proper education & it should be in the hands of women. In this purpose he clarified his opinion, "After five or six years' training in this 'Math', the guardians of the girls may marry them. If deemed fit for 'yoga' and religious life, with the permission of their guardians they will be allowed to stay in this math, taking the vow of celibacy. These celibate

nuns will in time be the teacher and preachers of the math".

9. Vivekananda understand the causes of the degeneration of women in the modern age & he evolved his ideal teaching method of women solving in many problems such as to take out the cause of female subordination feminists seek women's identity, women's language as a means by which to secure political social & economical equality for women.

10. He also says, "The end of education is character building". In his view, educated women would inculcate virtues and values amongst the children and thus prepare the new generation of people who could distinguish themselves in virtues and values. The development agenda of the 21st century also acknowledged education as the key to women's empowerment for the same reasons as swamiji foresaw in the 19th century. The millennium developmental goals envisaged that education of women increased their productivity, raising output and reducing poverty. It promoted gender equality within households and removes constraints on women's decision making-thus reducing fertility rates and improving maternal health. It increased children's chances of surviving to become healthier and better education because educated women do a better job caring for children.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

1. Swami Vivekananda presented a positive system of women education in 19th century. He believed that education should spread to every household in the country. We know that, at present ICDS, SSK, MSK schools have set up to the students brought in schools.

2. Swamiji said 'brahmacharinis' of education. That means lady teacher were appointed for women education & they told like a devout preacher. In modern time, it was truth that maximum women were chosen in teaching profession & they were very efficiently doing

this work.

3. Curriculum always made in a particular purpose. Vivekananda framed some curriculum for women education such as-house-keeping, sewing & meditation, domestic arts, history etc. The modern period just revised this curriculum & subject became modified such as- home-science, work-education, physical-education, fine art, vocational work etc.

4. Education increased the quality of women which influenced quantity level also, if, female were educated naturally their quality were improved. They became higher educated and attend in many jobs. In that case, govt. And non-govt. sectors are creating posts of women in many educational sectors. So, the quality and quantity of women are related to women education.

5. Swamiji always encourage the child and women to motive their mind, body and sence organs within the teacher activities and teacher will inspired the students. At present, this mechanism of teaching-learning process is a very effective way in education.

CONCLUSION:

Swami Vivekananda spread of his thoughts in mass education as well as women education which is most valuable in the present Indian society. Women education in modern India has achieved a new height, currently entrance of women in engineering, medical and other professional college. The development agenda of the 21st century as the key to women's empowerment for the same reason as Swami Vivekananda foresaw in the 19th century. We are optimistic in nature. One day we will be able to attain the ideas and thoughts of Swami Vivekananda in near future and we must prove the slogan- 'If you educate a man, you can educate only a person, if you educate a woman, you are able to educate a whole family'. So, we must think of Swamiji's philosophy on women education and keep the valuable words of swamiji in mind- Arise! Awake! And stop not still

goal is reached'.

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