



Vidhyayana - ISSN 2454-8596

An International Multidisciplinary Peer-Reviewed E-Journal

www.vidhyayanaejournal.org

Indexed in: ROAD & Google Scholar

The Preachings of Swami Vivekananda and its Impact on the Youth of Contemporary Time

Dr. Rahim Dhanani

(B.A., M.A., M. Phil, Ph.D.)

English Language & Soft Skills Trainer

Cell: +91 9512446013

Email: rahimdhanani13@gmail.com



Vidhyayana - ISSN 2454-8596

An International Multidisciplinary Peer-Reviewed E-Journal

www.vidhyayanaejournal.org

Indexed in: ROAD & Google Scholar

ABSTRACT:

In the last century, India has produced many saints, but very few like Swami Vivekananda, not merely a saint of India, but a saint of the whole world. Swami Vivekananda's inspiring message is applicable to all the people of the world without any distinction of caste, color, creed, country, gender, and age. More than what he said, he had a tremendous impact on everyone, especially on Youth who came in touch with him. What makes Vivekananda's call to the youth so compelling, is his infinite trust and reverence that the future of the world depends on the youth. So, he released his message and trust especially to youth. He wanted the youth of India to be strong and not to remain weak. This paper aims at the same values and morals or one may say ethics that Vivekananda used to follow in his life and wanted to be followed by the youth of the time. The paper also aims at the different aspects and incidents including the quotations said by Vivekananda to the youth. This attempt would add hopefully a little contribution to state a thorough guidance to the youth of the time.

Key Words: Distinction, Impact, Youth,

INTRODUCTION:

Rabindranath Tagore had said: "If you want to know India, study Swami Vivekananda- in him everything is positive and nothing is negative." Swami Vivekananda is such a great inspiration for not just the Indians but for the whole youth of this world. 12 January 1863 became a great day in the history of the world, as it was the birth of a great person named Narendra, a loyal son of Vishwanath Dutta and Bhuvaneshwari Devi, parented in Calcutta (now Kolkata). A young man of sublime outlook, an athlete, with a firm voice and a brilliant intellect, even a scholar of philosophy and music, etc. were his ornaments. He was one of few, who could convey his ideas in an effective manner. Convincing people through love and care, polite and pleasant, not only fills one with confidence but leads to the path of success. 11 September 1893, when the Parliament of Religions was marked by the presence of Swami Vivekananda, he was introduced by Professor Wright as "Here is a man, more learned, than all our learned professors", it was the day of the world-seen impact of Swami Vivekananda on the people present there around the world. His preaching remains relevant in contemporary times and in the time to come. His addresses had opened not only the eyes of the people around the world but also their insights. There are a few points that are part of this paper from his preachings which are quite impactful for the present generation.



VIVEKANANDA'S IMPACT ON THE YOUTH TODAY:

The youth today celebrate Rose Day, Valentine's Day, Friendship Day, and many days as a celebration but the National Youth Day is rarely noticed. "Youth life is the most precious life. Youth is the best time. The way in which one utilizes this period will decide the nature of coming years that lie ahead" articulated the great philosopher, Swami Vivekananda. Today's youth must develop tremendous willpower to resist the evils. "My faith is in the younger generation, the modern youth, out of them will come my workers. They all work out with the whole problem like brave lions." Swami Vivekananda wanted the youth of India to be strong. The following is a famous spark-line about strength to be gained by the youth: "Make your nerves strong. What we want are muscles of iron and nerves of steel. We have wept long enough. No more weeping now, just stand on your feet and be men. It is man-making theories we want. It is man-making education all around we want." His words were enough to motivate and to lead the life ahead. No motivational theories could work before his preaching and thoughts. If the youth of the present time truly follow what he had said, there are rare chances that they may face the tribulations they are facing currently in their lives.

HIS PREACHINGS ON PARENTAL RESPECT, THE ROAD SHOWER FOR TODAY'S YOUTH:

Vivekananda believed that the youth should have great respect for their parents and elders. He felt that the position of the mother is the highest in the world as it is the one place in which one can learn to exercise the greatest unselfishness. He said: "Before parents, one must not speak jokes, even one must not reveal restlessness, must not show anger. Before mother or father, a child must bow down, and must not take a seat until they order him to sit." When we observe today's youth, the above advice has been practiced in contrast. Youth of today hold a more powerful position in the home. Sometimes more powerful than the father who is rather weak in strength or in education than the son or the daughter. But these sons and daughters do not observe that they reached up to this level due to the devotion and sacrifice of these same old parents whom they see with narrowed eyes and often address as illiterate. And often one hears the young generation saying to their parents that they cannot understand the time of today. What they are saying is the tell of yesterday but today is different. But youth should note the same thing that tomorrow is also waiting for them. The pointers that were pointed by him are gems to be practiced in order to elevate the respect value of the parental life which has almost faded away these days.



VIVEKANANDA AND NON-VIOLENCE: A PATHWAY FOR TODAY'S YOUTH:

There are many examples when this is observed that youth become violent at times. What they required is toleration and the practice of the principles of Ahinsa or non-injury to others. Vivekananda's message to youth on Ahinsa is: "Never producing pain by thinking, diction, and Karma, in any living being, is that is called Ahimsa. There is no happiness higher than what a man gains by the attitude of non-offensiveness." This concept teaches the youth the lesson of Humanity which is the need of the hour right now. As humans, especially the young generation lack this aspect, they can take the above words seriously and can work on it. His preaching upon this concept could help today manage their emotions and feelings at work and can help balance professional and personal relationships if practiced well.

HIS PREACHINGS ON THE PRINCIPLE OF PURITY: A WAY TO PURIFY THE GENERATION:

It cannot be gainsaid that purity of character is one of the greatest virtues to be imbibed by all in general and the youth in particular. We should not see evil in others. Here is the message of Swamiji: "Nothing is gained except by sacrifice...The purist function of our human consciousness, the noblest, do not make it dirty! Do not degrade it to the level of the brutes ... Make yourselves decent men! Be chaste and pure!" The purity in character leads the youth to the place where they want to reach. Even youth need right now the purity of heart, work, exercises, and virtues as well to sustain in the complexities of life. Purification is not only the detoxification of the body; the broader sense of purifying is to purify the soul from within which may lead anyone to the path of inner satisfaction.

SWAMIJI'S APPEAL FOR PURE FOOD TO THE JUNK-FOOD GENERATION:

It is often found that increasingly more and more youth are turning away from pure and Sattvic (Hygienic) food to impure and non-veg food. It is said in our scriptures that the nature of man is essentially vegetarian and nature has made man essentially vegetarian. We should not kill and harm any animal for the sake of taste or gratification of the senses. Swamiji said: "All exciting food should be avoided, as meat, for example; this must not be taken because it is by its very nature impure. We can get it only by taking the lives of innocents. We get pleasure for a while, and a creature must give up its life to give us that pleasure." This shows the clear means not to have the food which is prohibited in our tradition. Again, it's a milestone for those youth who consider non-veg food as a means to show their bravery and drink wine as a fashion. But



this will take time to be implemented in the youth of today as most of them are covered with the materialistic aspects of life.

HIS STRATEGY OF STRENGTH: A LIFE-LONG MEDICINE TO YOUTH:

The youth must pay attention to health and having strength of physique, mind, and character. In fact, religion stands afterward. Swamiji always observed that the Gita can be understood with our biceps and our muscles, a little stronger. Quoting the *Upanishads*, he said that it was the only literature in the world where we could find the word “Abhay” (fearlessness) used many times. The following message of Swamiji must be absorbed by every young person in the country: “Make your nerves strong. What we want is muscles of iron and nerves of steel.” These are some of the views of Swami Vivekananda. If the modern youth follow the great virtues of self-confidence, renunciation, purity, non-violence, and service to others as preached and exemplified by the glorious life of Swamiji, the life of the youth right now, would be much better for them as well as for the society.

CONCLUSION:

To conclude, one may say that we, in the sense, the youth need the ethics and morals of Vivekananda. By these ethics, one may stabilize the life that is being shattered these days. People today really need the preaching of Vivekananda about life, religion, spirituality, education, and all. But the target is especially Youth. Vivekananda himself was the youth and now preceding as a role model for almost all the youth in the world. The young generation must establish Vivekananda as one of his icons and should follow the guidance he has preached. The controversy we observe these days is, people do not have time to read even what he has said. Life becomes a tireless routine and the materialistic approach of leading the life has set people into restlessness. The sense of inner satisfaction is no longer in existence the way media is imposing the outer cover to be reflected. Vivekananda and his words are soothing remedies for those who want to lead their lives balancing spiritual prosperity and material ambiguity.



Vidhyayana - ISSN 2454-8596

An International Multidisciplinary Peer-Reviewed E-Journal

www.vidhyayanaejournal.org

Indexed in: ROAD & Google Scholar

References:

- [1] Ravi, S.S. (2016) A comprehensive Study of Education (4th ed). PHI Learning Private Limited, Delhi, 110092
- [2] Advaita Ashrama (1983), Reminiscences of Swami Vivekananda (3rd ed.), Calcutta, India: Advaita Ashrama, pp. 430, (Collected articles on Swami Vivekananda, reprinted in 1994)
- [3] Badrinath, Chaturvedi (2006), Swami Vivekananda The Living Vedanta, New York: Penguin.
- [4] Basu, Shamita (2002), Religious Revivalism as Nationalist Discourse: Swami Vivekananda and New Hinduism in nineteenth-century Bengal, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- [5] Burke (1987) [1985], Swami Vivekananda in the West: New Discoveries (in six volumes) (3rd ed.), Calcutta, India: Advaita Ashrama,
- [6] Chetananda, Swami (1997), God lived with them: life stories of sixteen monastic disciples of Sri Ramakrishna, St. Louis, Missouri: Vedanta Society of St. Louis, pp. 655,
- [7] Gambhirananda, Swami (1983) [1957], History of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission (3rd ed.), Calcutta, India: Advaita Ashrama,
- [8] Jones, Kenneth W. (1989), Socio-religious movements in British India, Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press,
- [9] Jyotirmayananda, Swami (2000) [1986], Vivekananda: His Gospel of Man-Making with a garland of tributes and a chronicle of his life and times, with pictures (4th ed.), Chennai, India
- [10] Nikhilananda, Swami (1989) [1953], Vivekananda: A Biography, New York: Ramakrishna-VivekanandaCenter, <http://www.vivekananda.net/PDFBooks/BiographybyNikhilananda.pdf>
- [11] Nivedita, Sister (Margaret E. Noble) (1918), The Master As I Saw Him, London: Longmans, Green & Co., OCLC 364867356, <http://www.openlibrary.org/books/OL7181778M>
- [12] McRae, John R. (1991), "Oriental Verities on the American Frontier: The 1893 World's Parliament of Religions and the Thought of Masao Abe", Buddhist-Christian Studies (University of Hawai'i Press). [13] Nikhilananda, Swami (April 1964), "Swami Vivekananda Centenary", Philosophy East and West (University of Hawai'i Press).