

## Education As A Foundation Of Character Building: Swami Vivekanand's Perspective

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### ABSTRACT

Renowned Indian philosopher and spiritual guide Swami Vivekananda advocated for an educational philosophy that placed equal emphasis on the development of moral principles and character as well as the acquisition of information. He thought that teaching should involve more than just memorizing the facts. According to Vivekananda, education should be centered on the complete development of the individual rather than only the intellectual advancement of pupils. He gave a lot of emphasis to the idea that education is vital for imparting virtues like integrity, honesty, compassion, and selflessness—all of which are essential for building strong character. According to Swami Vivekananda, the purpose of education is to bring individuals who would make significant contributions to society and have meaningful lives. Developing one's moral character was considered to be the most significant component of education in Vivekananda's educational theory. He believed that in order to live a life that was morally upright and had meaning, a person needed to develop moral ideals. Vivekananda believed that education should help individuals understand who they are, acquire self-discipline, and foster characteristics like bravery, persistence, and confidence. He believed that education offered the chance to develop people who would not only succeed in their careers but also positively influence the society in which they lived. It was Vivekananda's opinion that spirituality and education ought to go hand in hand. He stressed the value of obtaining a moral and spiritual education in addition to intellectual knowledge. He believed that the development of the mind and the spirit were essential elements of a true education. Vivekananda had a vision for education that would enable individuals to discover their inner potential, establish a meaningful and fulfilled existence, and establish a connection with their inner selves. The main goals of this

study were to draw attention to how Vivekananda's educational system emphasizes moral principles and character development.

**Keywords:** Education, Spirituality, Character Building.

### **Aim & Objective:**

To study the importance of Swamiji's education system and character building and its impacts on today's education system. Our educational system should be designed to assist individuals progress from animal to divine states via self-actualization, rational thinking, and adequate training

- To Investigate Vivekananda's educational philosophy's character-building and moral roots.
- To Investigate the rationale for Vivekananda's emphasis on character development and moral principles in education.
- To Investigate Vivekananda's ideas for incorporating moral and ethical instruction into school curricula.
- To Apply Vivekananda's ideas on character development and moral values in contemporary educational settings.

### **Review & Literature**

Several studies have been published regarding Swami Vivekananda's Education System, Character building, spirituality, Teaching methods and role of education and many more different aspects.

Swami Vivekananda, an Indian philosopher, educator, and Yogic saint, believed in the importance of education in human development. He advocated for self-development, capacity building, and universal development, emphasizing women, peace, and moral education. (Dr. Mohammad Sayid Bhat, 2016).

Swami Vivekananda, an Indian spiritual leader and philosopher, believed in an educational philosophy that emphasized character development and moral ideals, beyond just knowledge acquisition. He believed education should focus on overall growth, instilling values like honesty, integrity, compassion, and selflessness. Vivekananda emphasized the

connection between education and spirituality, aiming to foster individuals who contribute to society and lead purposeful lives. (Dr. SATYEN KUMAR 2023).

Swami Vivekananda, an influential Indian philosopher and reformer, believed in the philosophy of Vedanta, which focuses on oneness with the Creator. He advocated for a quality education system that promotes a man-making lifestyle, job opportunities, and progressive progress. Vivekananda emphasized the importance of building strong character in youth for nation building and emphasized the need for a complete education system in the 21st century Indian education system. (Dr. Rubi, 2023)

### **Introduction**

According to Swami Vivekananda, moral principles and character development are critical components of education. Indian philosopher and spiritual leader Vivekananda was well-known. Vivekananda believed that man is a combination of animality, humanity, and divine nature. He believed that receiving an education should involve more than merely memorizing facts and developing mental toughness. He believed that the goal of education was to produce individuals who were not only intelligent but also morally upright, possessing qualities such as self-control, compassion, ethics, honesty, and selflessness. These qualities served as the cornerstone for developing moral character and moral behaviour. Vivekananda believed that in order to have meaningful and productive lives, people had to put effort into strengthening their personal qualities. He believed that education should provide people with the moral and ethical instruction they require in order to be able to handle the challenges that life presents. According to Vivekananda, a person's actual success in life can be determined not just by their financial achievements but also by their personal development and interpersonal interactions. This, in his opinion, was the most crucial factor in determining a person's level of happiness. One of the most crucial components of Vivekananda's curricula and a central tenet of his educational approach was the teaching of morals. He asserted that moral and ethical standards ought to be explicitly taught to pupils in the classroom. They would pick up knowledge about moral principles, how to live moral lives, and how to cultivate virtues there. According to Vivekananda, moral and ethical principles

ought to be taught in a variety of classroom settings, allowing students to get a deeper understanding of moral objectives and their application in the actual world. In addition, Vivekananda discussed the significance of personal development and spiritual advancement in the educational process. He believed that the purpose of education was to assist learners in discovering who they really were, recognizing their innate abilities, and developing a strong feeling of self-worth. If people have a strong connection to their inner selves, they can lead moral lives and contribute positively to society. The importance of helping others was also underlined in Vivekananda's educational theory. According to him, the goal of education should be to inspire individuals to work toward improving the lives of others and society at large. Individuals might demonstrate the values they had been taught in school by helping others and performing deeds of unselfish service. A key component of Vivekananda's educational philosophy was character development and moral values. His comprehensive approach aimed to produce individuals possessing not just exceptional academic ability but also moral beliefs and a strong character. According to Vivekananda, education should inspire people to serve mankind, instil moral principles, encourage moral behaviour, and help people realize their own potential. Through the integration of moral concepts and character development into education, Vivekananda hoped to cultivate individuals who would make positive contributions to society and have meaningful lives.

### **Discussion**

Swami Vivekananda, a renowned Indian monk and philosopher, had a particular vision for education in India. His principles, articulated almost a century ago, are consistent with the objectives indicated in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Let's examine the main points of convergence and divergence between these two educational ideologies.

#### **Shared Ideals:**

**Holistic Development:** Vivekananda advocated "man-making education" that promotes individuals' physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Similarly, the NEP seeks to foster "holistic development of every student" by emphasizing cognitive talents, social-emotional learning, and life skills.

**Character Building:** Vivekananda thought that education should instill strong character traits like self-discipline and service. The NEP reflects this, attempting to instill "moral values, empathy, tolerance, and compassion".

**Indian Heritage:** Vivekananda pushed for education based on India's rich past. The NEP incorporates Indian languages and yoga into the curriculum, helping pupils reconnect with their cultural heritage.

**Education for All:** Vivekananda promoted universal education, including women's education. The NEP encourages inclusive education for all students, regardless of gender or socioeconomic status.

### **Differences:**

**Emphasis on Spiritual Awakening:** Vivekananda's vision was deeply spiritual, based on Vedanta philosophy. While the NEP is secular, it does not address this issue.

**Teaching Methods:** Vivekananda pushed for hands-on, activity-based learning that sparks curiosity. The NEP describes a transition toward more participatory and student-centered education, although the precise approaches are still being developed.

**Vocational Training:** Vivekananda emphasized the need of practical education in addition to academic studies. The NEP includes vocational training into the school curriculum with the goal of preparing pupils for employment.

Overall, the NEP 2020 is inspired by Swami Vivekananda's vision of an ideal educational system. The NEP's effectiveness in implementing these ideas needs to be seen, but the connection between the two agendas gives hope for a more comprehensive and powerful educational experience in India.

### **Conclusion**

Swami Vivekananda's vision of an ideal Indian education system serves as a source of inspiration for the NEP 2020. Both ideologies emphasize holistic development, character growth, respect for Indian history, and inclusion. However, the NEP adopts a secular approach, emphasizing the acquisition of job-ready abilities that Vivekananda did not expressly address. The NEP's successful implementation will decide how effectively Vivekananda's principles are put into reality. If completed, this

might result in a more powerful and comprehensive educational experience for India's young.

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