



Contribution Of Swami Vivekananda's Philosophy To India

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Abstract

This paper presents a review of Vivekananda's Philosophy to India. Swami Vivekananda was such a personality who even today lives in the core of our hearts. His philosophy is still a guiding source of inspiration for India as well as the entire world. His new understanding of religion, new approach towards man, concept of East-West, contribution to India, contribution to Hinduism, are still relevant in giving us knowledge. Swami Vivekananda clearly defined and strengthened the feeling of unity as a nation. Swamiji gave Indians the knowledge of the great spiritual heritage of their country and thus made them proud of their past. That is, he told Indians the shortcomings of Western culture and told them the need for India's contribution to remove these shortcomings. The feeling of unity, pride in the past, the feeling of mission were the factors that gave new strength to the nationalist movement of India.

Keyword :- Vivekananda's , philosophy, knowledge, contribution

Introduction

Swami Vivekananda's birthday was on January 12, 1863. In his short life, he contributed a lot in making the history of India famous in the whole world.

More than his contribution to India, his teachings helped the world understand the unity of humanity. He encouraged them to have faith in themselves to achieve their goals. He believed that Hinduism is divine by nature and a source of knowledge. His speeches created a stir in the world. The western world was forced to change its view towards India. He increased the pride of India. He remains a source of inspiration for young Indians even today. That is why his birth anniversary is celebrated as Youth Day in India every year. His patriotism and faith in Indian independence made Indians believe in self-determination. His writings and life gave a new identity to Hinduism. He regretted that we Indians are ignorant of Hinduism and follow its true spirit. He wanted Hindus to live as Hindus in a more refined form. He is still a part of the world and India can certainly be proud of one of the greatest sons it has ever produced.

Swami Vivekananda was a chief disciple of the 19th-century saint Ramakrishna Paramahansa and founder of the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission. He contributed to the spread of the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the 'Western' world, primarily the US and Europe, and is also credited with raising inter-religious awareness, bringing Hinduism to the status of a major world religion at the end of the 19th century. He is considered a 'key figure' in the revival of Hinduism in modern India. He is perhaps best known for his inspiring speech, beginning: 'Sisters and Brothers of America', through which he introduced Hinduism at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893.

Swami Ji's contribution to India:

Contribution of Swamiji.

- He was the first cultural ambassador to the West.
- He also showed that science and religion are not opposed but are similar to each other.
- He gave an identity to who we are and what Hinduism is. He played a major role in unifying Hinduism.
- Protecting Hinduism was an important task of his life. He strongly opposed the western missionaries and founded the Ramakrishna Mission to propagate the teachings of his guru (teacher) Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and interpreted many ancient Hindu scriptures in the context of the modern world. Preservation of diversity. Hinduism is a diverse religion with different philosophies. Such as: worshipping different gods, different lifestyles, different scriptures, different ideas like monism and dualism. He accepted all the diversity and helped preserve it.. At that time the world knew us as a country of snake charmers She used to watch it. Then she described the morality, art, science and literature of India on the international platform

Swami Vivekananda contributed to awakening the Hindus from their deep slumber. His writings and speeches were so influential that the British rulers of his time put him on their watch list. His special achievements were: Awakening the Hindus to demand their birthright of freedom; He made Hinduism a world religion by harmonizing various Vedantic schools. In fact, some western scholars accuse Vivekananda of inventing Hinduism anew. According to these scholars, there was no Hinduism before Vivekananda. You will find a good discussion of this in Rajiv Malhotra's book 'Indra's Net'.

- He stressed on the wisdom of Gita, the holy book of Hindus. Vivekananda said that Krishna has said in Gita that nishkam karma is not compulsory and social work should be done for the benefit of people in the spirit of service.

He strongly attacked the caste problem and said that by dividing into castes we have lost our pride and Hindus do not follow the Varnashram Dharma of the Gita. Basically, he freed the Hindu doctrine from its social bonds.

Vivekananda's nine-volume complete works have become essential reading material for understanding Hinduism.

He was also an accomplished essayist and poet in Bengali and Sanskrit.

Improvement

Importance of Vedas Vivekananda considered Hinduism to be the mother of all religions. He showed that Vedic religion influenced Buddhism which in turn influenced Christianity. He showed that all the religions of the world have equal value and importance. In the Parliament of Religions he said "...Christian is not to become Hindu or Buddhist, nor Christian to become Hindu or Buddhist. But each must assimilate the spirit of the others and yet retain his individuality and grow according to his own law of growth...on the banner of every religion will soon be written...'Help and not fight', 'Assimilate and not destroy', 'Harmony and peace and not dissension'." Through his universal religion, Vivekananda showed the true meaning of God. He preached unity. He said that even though the paths of different religions are different, the goal is the same.

He preferred to preach Advaita Vedanta by his personal example at any place without any hesitation in his mind. By this he showed his tolerance towards every religion. He gave the message of Vedanta regarding the unity of the world and belief in the formless God.

Socialist thoughts: Swami Vivekananda was the quintessential socialist. He once said- "I am a socialist, not because I think it is an ideal system, but because half a loaf of bread is better than no bread at all." He realized the plight of millions of starving Indians. He thus said "It is a mockery to offer religion to a hungry man". As an iconoclastic crusader, Vivekananda wanted the "upliftment of the masses" as he was of the opinion that "the nation lives in a hut". He preached the message of socialism to stop exploitation of the masses. His socialist idea is best explained in his words

On Women: As a feminist, Vivekananda glorified the role of women. He considered women as a power creating force. They should be given proper education as they are mothers first and mothers last. If they are educated, they will educate the whole nation. They should not bother only as a wife. Proper steps should be taken for the education and training of women. The future largely depends on women.

Nationalism and Patriotism: Swami Vivekananda was a staunch nationalist. He stressed on virtues like manliness and patriotism. He wanted everyone to be free from bondage to others. Calling upon the youth of India, he reiterated the Upanishadic principle "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached."

Internationalism: Vivekananda considered the world as his home and welcomed people from different parts of the world Swami Vivekananda considered all the nations as his brothers and sisters. He put forward this idea in the 'Dharam Sansad'. He played the role of Vishwa Guru and taught unity and integrity to all. He wanted a perfect blend of Indian spiritualism and Western materialism. There should be no distinction between East and West; rather it should be considered as one humanity. He also advocated universal brotherhood. He urged rich countries to help the poor to bring equality in the world society. Thus, he suggested to remove racial and religious prejudices. The gospel of universalism and world community was preached by Swami Vivekananda to build a better world. Attack on superstition Swami Vivekananda was a crusader against superstition. He strongly opposed the superiority of Brahmins, untouchability etc. He warned the Hindus saying "Our religion is limited to the kitchen. The vessel used to cook food is the only source of food." Our God is. Our religion is I am holy, do not touch me." To create a healthy social environment, Vivekananda tried his level best. He believed that a new India will emerge when the differences

among its people are eradicated. He gave a strategic blow to all the existing prejudices and advised the people to unite for a common purpose, the motherland.

Inference: Undoubtedly, Vivekananda was criticised for his views regarding the caste system. His idea of internationalism was considered an ideal utopia. However, criticisms are only for the sake of criticism. Swami Vivekananda's concerted effort to free religion from superstitions really establishes him as a great reformer. His synthesis of materialism and spiritualism is another remarkable feature of his philosophical thought. Thus, he was a great spiritualist, nationalist, internationalist etc. Renaissance and reformation were two aspects of Vivekananda's personality. He really reawakened Indian culture. With his keen intellect and reformative approach he made Hinduism a progressive force in the world. He was a rare gem in the treasure of Indian knowledge. Undoubtedly he shone like a bright star on the cultural horizon of India and attracted the attention of the people.

Caste System: A surprising contradiction is seen in Vivekananda's views regarding the caste system. Surprisingly, he supported the varna system as described in the Vedas. He highlighted the advantages of the caste system and said that division of labour is a great boon of this system. It will lead to excellence in any profession. Undoubtedly, this division will take a caste on the path of progress. However, he also highlighted the evils of this system. Untouchability was the worst part of it. Hence, Vivekananda criticized this type of "don't touch". He wanted to eliminate this type of dogmatism from the society. Conclusion Swami Vivekananda once called himself 'condensed India'. His life and teachings are of invaluable value for the understanding of the West

His life and teachings are invaluable to the West for understanding the psyche of Asia. Harvard philosopher William James called the Swami 'the model of the Vedantists'. Max Muller and Paul Deussen, the famous nineteenth century orientalist, had genuine respect and affection for him. Romain Rolland writes, "His words are great music, phrases in the style of Beethoven, stirring rhythms like the marches of Handel's choruses. I cannot touch these sayings of his, scattered through the pages of books at the age of thirty. Vivekananda appeared on the Indian scene as the messiah of a new age, the symbol of a new spirit and a source of strength for the future. The great man Swami Vivekananda died in 1902 at the age of 39, but his life and works have remained unsung for centuries. His works and deeds inspired millions of Indians. His name remains as a source of national inspiration. The Ramakrishna Mission, the brainchild of Swami Vivekananda, has been doing splendid and monumental humanitarian and social service by opening schools and colleges, libraries and orphanages all over the country.

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