

**SWAMI VIVEKANAND AND YOUTH IN CONTEMPORARY LIFE AND  
POETIC INFLUENCE**

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**Abstract**

Present India is known as young India. We know that, “History makes us wise”. His wisdom was for the welfare of human beings. Young minds are playing prominent role in making it powerful in science, technology, art, culture, literature, philosophy, history and so on. ‘Rooted in the past and full of pride in India’s heritage, Vivekananda was yet modern in his approach to the problems and was a kind of bridge between the past of India and her present’. Swami has been an iconoclast in India. His servile personality is adored not only in Bangala speaking regions but also universe. He was one of the greatest, philosopher, yogi, educationist, organiser, social reformer and nationalist. He imbibed his thought almost in all peoples. His precepts, borrowed from Ramakrishna have been evaluated in many perspectives by many scholars. His theory has left imprint even on non-native people. Swami is read not only for pleasure but also for education. His writings, exhortations are to inspire and guide students of not only India but also abroad. Most of the institutions, intellectual personalities, educationist, thinkers’ philosophers and teachers whose progressive spirit illuminate self-management values, self-improvement of the members or students as a technique for all round development of the body, mind, spirit is commendable. It is believed that even in contemporary life the exhortations of swami Vivekananda are soul string, self-controlling, self- sufficient and self- evaluation oriented to inspire the readers for betterment of the individual and subsequently their society. His teachings are wonderful teaching which uplifts the mind and the man and at the same time draws him towards a peaceful outlook of life. His all teachings vibrate with life and dynamism. When I was workings for KVS, I came across many desperate, disappointed, dejected, broken spirit students then his books at interval in different times, places and action proved to be panacea for their health. Their psychology was changed and his biography, exhortations and excerpts enabled them to come out from the well of solitude and dejection and they proved to be the above average students. The teachers who take help of swami Vivekananda in their teaching-learning processes to develop latent talent of students may lead mankind towards greater peace and bliss of life. Therefore, teachers can never dent the relevance for national and global concerns. The present paper shall

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attempt to reveal some aspects of great son of Mother India. This paper also aims at highlighting the influence of Milton, Wordsworth and other poets on Swami Vivekananda and his influence on young minds, like ‘awake, arise or be ever fallen’.

The great, sacred, powerful expression oriented son of Mother India was born on 12th January 1863. In short span life of thirty- nine years (1863-1902) the eternal bliss oriented great son of India succeeded to spread his wisdom for the welfare of humanity. Like Emerson he was a great transcendentalist He is a great image of the young minds and the nationalists even today. He placed Hinduism on its peak among other religious front of the rest of the world. He set Hinduism as an ancient and yet philosophy of life through the Parliament of Religions at Chicago of America. It was this great man who had famously said “brothers and sisters of the world.” Swami’s teaching and experience was able to bring closer two different cultural regions of the world i.e. East and West. Establishment of Ram Krishna Mission for education and health is serving the humanity. His messages inspired and influenced people all around the world. He was of strong trust that India will regain its position. He tried to awake the people of India. Moreover, his encouragement set up strong example for the leaders, students, teachers and others were also inspired with his philosophy and teachings of country and abroad.

We know the birth of a man is a mystery as well as a muse. It is a mystery because it is born in the womb of beyond. It is a muse because it sings the glory of all beautiful aspects of universe. As a mysterious being, man haunts within and outside himself. As a man of muse, he plays on, with lyre of his mind the muse of the great master who is also the eternal singer of the goodness of mankind. Man is not aware of the mystery, the many-fold dimensions of his thought and feeling and appreciation, consequential to his experiences right from the moment of birth until death. When a man enters in teenage and crosses the limits of family perception and starts thinking of his existence in world, then he feels why he came on earth? What is the aim of life? What should he choose and what not? Sitting on balance of right and wrong, playing with such questions, one is filled with a great desire of unfolding nature law, which is not possible by a simple man. An average host of such askance brings forth-unending dimensions to human evolution. Instead of reaching at the height of nature, man starts preparing destructive atomic bombs. Perhaps he is unaware of the phoenix fire and skyward peek’s result.

Swami Vivekananda had done a lot for this universe. His work for youth, love, religion, politics, education, national spirit, universal brotherhood spirit, sports and all other activities shall remain indelible. His life’s relevance is permanent. It is beyond caste, creed, colour, race, region, religion and even seas. Swami Vivekananda has been an iconoclast in India. His servile personality is adored in Bengal and Bengali speaking regions. He was one of the greatest, philosopher, yogi, educationist, organiser, social reformer and nationalist. He has inculcated, imbibed and instilled his thoughts almost in all Bengali peoples. His precepts borrowed from Ramakrishna. His life style has been evaluated in many perspectives by many scholars. A lot of researches have been done on this theory. His theory has left imprint even on non-native people. Now, world has recognised his worth and been interpreted in many ways. National and international concerns have emerged his lifetime.

Swamiji is read not only for pleasure but education too. His writings exhortations are to inspire and to guide students of not only India but also abroad. Most of the institutions, intellectual personalities educationist, thinkers, philosophers, and teachers whose progressive spirit illuminate self-management values, self-improvement of the members or students as a technique for all-round-development of the body, mind and spirit is commendable. It is believed that even in present scenario the exhortations of Swami Vivekananda are soul stirring, self-controlling, and self-reliance oriented to inspire the readers toward the betterment of the individual and subsequently the society which they influence. He writes about education with certain aim-

**“The education which does not help the common mass of people to equip themselves for the struggle of life, which does not bring out strength of character, a spirit of philanthropy and courage of a lion- is it worth the name?”**

Swami Vivekananda teachings work like wonderful music which uplifts the mind and the man and at the same time draws him towards a peaceful outlook of life. His all teachings vibrate with life and dynamism when I was working for Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan I come across many desperate, disappointed, dejected, broken spirit students then his books at interval in different times, places and action proved to be panacea for their health. Their psychology was changed and three students for the pressure of studies were ready to commit suicide then Swami Vivekananda biography and exhortations and excerpts enabled them to come out from the well of solitude and dejection and they proved to be the above average students. The teachers take help of Swami Vivekananda in their teaching to develop the latent talent of the students who may lead mankind to a greater peace and bliss of life. Therefore, teaching members can never be able to deny the relevance for national and global concerns. He wanted to make young minds powerful. He asks to youth to come forward and stand like John Milton to bring out change in the society. He was a great orator and many young people attracted by his speeches, and enrolled as members of the Brahma Samaj. He reiterated the power of the young boys and girls.

He said, **“Stand up, be bold, be strong and take the whole responsibility on your own shoulders and know that you are the creator of your own destiny, all the strength and succour you want is within yourself.”** He also said, what makes a man stand up and work? **“Strength, strength is goodness, weakness is sin. Do not teach them Christianity, do not teach them other religion; teach them only religion of fearlessness”**. He also stated that, **“stand up, and fight it out, whatever the outcome. Let the whole world stand against us death means only change of garment. What of it? You are infinite, deathless, birth less. It does not befit you to be a slave arise, awake, stand up and fight”<sup>1</sup>**.

For such contribution, all the desiring students who want to develop and looking forward for the name, fame and power, will definitely read Swami Vivekananda and his relevance shall remain till the sun and moon in universe. His brief life of less than forty years however left a blazing trail. He was inspired by Christopher Marlowe and John Milton very much. He must read “Dr. Faustus” and Paradise Lost”. He wrote about good and evil which shall remain forever and same way for balancing these good and evil like referred dramatist and poet Swami Vivekananda shall remain forever. He said-

**“Good and evil thoughts are each a potent power, and they fill the universe. As vibrations continue, so thoughts remain in form of thoughts until translated into**

action. For example, force is latent in the man's arms until he strikes a blow, when he translates it into an activity. We are the heirs of good and evil thoughts. If we make ourselves pure and the instruments of good thoughts, they will enter us. The soul will not be receptive to evil thoughts". He further says, "Whatever you think, that you will be. If you think yourself weak, weak you will be; if you think yourself strong, strong you will be."

As a student of philosophy, the question of God very much attracted his mind. In his self-askance manner, he asks... Was there a god? If there was a god what was he like? What were men's relations with him? Did he create this world which was so full of anomalies? He looked to persons those who could say they have seen God but found none. He will be adored by the philosopher for his concern in philosophy. As he writes-

**"All men were so constituted that in their minds all these elements of philosophy, mysticism, emotion, and of work were equally present in full! That is my ideals of a perfect man. Everyone who has only one or two of these elements of character, I consider one sided and this world is almost full of such one-sided persons, with knowledge of that one rode only in which they move; and anything else is dangerous and horrible to them. To become harmoniously balance in all these four direction is my ideal of religion."**<sup>ii</sup>

Sir, Valentile Chirol said that, "Vivekananda was the first Hindu whose personality won demonstrative recognition abroad for India's ancient civilisation and for her new born claim to nation hood." In Hinduism Bhagwad Geeta emphasise on the point "Work is worship." Same way following Hinduism he reiterated on duty that-

**"By doing well the duty which is nearest to us, the duty which is in our hands now, we make ourselves stronger; and improving our strength in this manner step by step, we may even reach a state in which it shall be our privilege to the most coveted and honoured duties in life and society."** He had deep love for all religion. He believed in Hinduism and Buddhism. He said about religion that-

**"Religion is realisation; not talk, not doctrine, nor theories, however beautiful they may be it are being and becoming, not hearing or acknowledging; it is the whole soul becoming changed into what it believes."**

He did not believe in levelling down but rather in levelling up. His conception of golden age was an age in which privilege would be totally unknown. This required a root and branch reform: but that reform could not come through a revolution based on cultural and mutual esteem. His motto seems to have been: from cast to socialism through peaceful and cultural evolution. Social slant that he gave to spirituality, too, is of remarkable importance. What make Vivekananda belief great that was it sought man before seeking? He strongly advocated the worship of God as service to mankind. In the language of SC Dasgupta, "Swami Vivekananda did not believe in a religion which could not give a morsel of food to the mouth of the hungry."

He diagnosed all the ills and evils of life are due to weakness and ignorance. Strength was life and weakness death. He advocated mussels of iron and nerves of steel; and if necessary to throw away the Bhagvat Geeta and acquire strength in the field of games by playing football swami Vivekananda said "I want a man whose mussels are of iron and nerves made of steel and who possesses mind's wrought from thunder" he said, "stand-up" he further stated that, "do not afraid. Stamp upon fear and it dies. Be free."

True to his spirit he was a great champion of women too. Basing his thoughts on the ideals set by Sita, Savitri, Damyanti etc. He stated an Indian woman was the living embodiment of universal motherhood. He also enjoined that a few of them must come out of their homes and hearts and become Sanyasini in order to give lead to others in spiritual and difficult methods.

He was a great nationalist. He loved his country very much. He was a true patriot. He sang the glories of mother India in his writings, one of his exhortation for his country is “the soul of India is my highest heaven, the good of India is my good, repeat and pray day and night: first mother India, take away my weakness, take away my unmanliness and make me a man, a true son, unfailing patriot”<sup>iii</sup>.

Let new India arise from these masses. Let India arise out of peasant cottage, grasping the plough, out of the huts of the fisherman, cobbler and the sweeper. I must mention that in spite of the phenomenal zeal and strength that he showed, he was a remarkably humble man. Like Aurobindo Ghosh, he remarked after me hundreds of Vivekananda will be born and each of them hundred times greater than I if this man is not a god man who else.

Idealism means, the attempt to reawaken the nation, to idealise it, to treat it as sacred and special but idealism also means a certain attitude to the world. It means that the ideal, the spiritual is considered more important than the material. Idealists, like Plato, are people, who believe that all that we see around is made up of stuff, of ideas, or thought or spirit. He was idealist he believed that the whole cosmos is pervaded by one spirit. He saw the harmony and interconnectedness of all life. The whole universe was a unity, though it expresses itself in diverse ways. He derived this basic philosophical outlook largely out of the ancient wisdom tradition of India. Swami Vivekananda emphasises on ideals he writes,

**“My ideal indeed can be put into a few words and that is: to preach unto mankind their divinity, and how to make it manifest in every movement of life.”**

PD Sharma in his book immortal quotations and proverbs wrote, that swami Vivekananda said, **“Education is not the amount of information that is put into your brain and remains there undigested all your life. We must have life building, man making, character building, assimilating fine ideas and making them your life and character, you have more education than any man who has got by heart a while library”<sup>iv</sup>**

Swami Vivekananda will be remembered for the deeds he had done for this universe. His sense control and memory power is appreciated by one and all. He will be remembered for the development of positive values in all societies. Man is toyed with automation, super computerisation, and mega machines and to the modern science era streams. A computerised society sacked within the limits of computerised imagination. Modern society celebrates macabre moratorium of humanism. Perhaps, the fading flowers of this generation herald the glory of the dazzling dawn of tomorrow.

Values are the beauty of holder. These make one lovely and extraordinary. These are the colour, form and shape of one’s personality. One may have no money but values. Values fill what is empty, heal what is sick and settle what is troubled. Underneath virtues is silence, for silence is the gold that sets off the jewels and protects them from scattering. In silence, a person can see how the wealth be spent, where to invest it and make its value grow. When silence and virtues characterise the relationship between two persons, there is harmony. When silence and virtues live together in one person, there is perfection. It would be proper to know some of the propounded social, moral, human and spiritual values. They are:-

“(1) Abstinence (2) Appreciation of Cultural Values of Others (3) Anti- touchability (4) Citizenship (5) Consideration for Others (6) Concern for Others. (7) Co-operation. (8) Cleanliness. (9) Compassion (10) Common Cause. (11) Common goodness. (12) Courage. (13) Courtesy. (14) Curiosity (15) Democratic decision-making. (16) Devotion (17) Dignity of the individual (18) Dignity of the manual work (19) Duty (20) Discipline (21) Endurance (22) Equality (23) Friendship (24) Faithfulness. (25) Fellow feeling. (26) Freedom. (27) Forward look. (28) Good manner (29) Manliness. (30) Gratitude. (31) Honesty. (32) Helpfulness. (33) Humanism. (34) Hygienic living. (35) Initiative. (36) Integrity (37) Justice (38) Kindness (39) Kindness to animals (40) Loyalty to duty (41) Leadership (42) National unity (43) National consciousness (44) Non-violence (45) National Integration (46) Obedience (47) Peace (48) Proper Utilisation (49) Punctuality (50) Patriotism (51) Purity (52) Quest for knowledge (53) Regularity (54) Respect for others (55) Reverence for old age (56) Sincerity (57) Simple living (58) Social-Justice (59) Self- help (60) Self-respect (61) Self-discipline (62) Self-confidence (63) Self-support (64) Self-study (65) Self-reliance (66) Self-control (67) Self-restraint (68) Social-service (69) Solidarity of mankind (70) Sense of social responsibility (71) Sense of discrimination between good and evil (72) Socialism (73) Sympathy (74) Secularism and respect for all religions (75) Simple living (76) Spirit of enquiry (77) Team- work (78) Team- spirit (79) Truthfulness (80) Tolerance (81) Universal truth (82) Universal love (83) Value for national and civic property.(84) Resourcefulness”.<sup>v</sup>

Besides above-mentioned, there are other values like accuracy, benevolence, cheerfulness, contentment, detachment, flexibility, gentleness, humanity, introversion, lightness, mercy, patience, serenity, simplicity, stability, surrender, sweetness, tirelessness and wisdom. Man provided with the essential tools, which enable one to discover and release what, is eternally present within consciousness. It is a very natural process, which best describes as a living spirituality, one that is appropriate to all ages, cultures and ethical backgrounds.

Values are essentially global beliefs that guide people’s behaviour regarding specific objects and situations. Value system determine the relationship of a man in his family, his political and religious activity and the choice among alternatives in selecting goals, in choosing means for reaching them, in resolving conflicts, an individual is influenced by his value system. Values change due to change of information, ideology socio-political change or changes in the economy or technological advancement in general.

Some of the important factors influencing values in individual are: (1) Birth (2) Parents and home environment (3) Socio-economic and religious factors (4) Education (5) Society (6) Media (7) Science, technology and innovations (8) Personal experiences (9) Aims of life.

Values are nurtured in a particular society and hence governed by its outlook. A conservative society will develop parochial values while a liberal society will evolve magnanimous value system. Therefore, the values, which evolved, are also encompassing diverse outlooks of various communities. Man is the best creation of the Nature. He requires inculcating certain values discussed earlier. ‘He has to use the power of thought to remove inner negativity and tension and at the same time increase confidence and alertness. It is totally natural process which can be best described as a living spirituality, one which is appropriate to all ages, cultures and ethnic backgrounds’.<sup>vi</sup>

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**Aim-** It aims to contribute a few historical and literary drops in the urn of nectar knowledge in stopping the erosion of human values with the help of Swami Vivekanand's sayings. This is an attempt with historian of the present era for the noble cause for educator, student, and society are conscious. It aims to encourage, motivate, inspire and influence young minds to read and develop social, moral, cultural and ethical values.

**Methodology:** The methodology used for this research paper is descriptive and participation method. The main aim of research is to find out the truth which is hidden and which must have been discovered but not well expressed. To find out the facts about the culture I interacted with teachers, librarian's friends and local people.

**Findings:** Swami Vivekanand's life reveals the spirit of endurance and courage that inspired youth to dare, to dream in circumstances that hardly let them survive. His love for nation and devotion for motherland must be for the betterment of humanity. The common objects of nature and human life are glorified and coloured in the radiance of romantic imagination endowed with boundless love for liberty, fraternity and equality. Humanists find out spiritual significance in the commonplace activities of life.

**Suggestions:** One should not be judged on the bases of one's region, religion, caste, creed, colour ethnic love and performance but in the spirit of universalism. one should not be termed typically for the region and cultural inclination that becomes a threat for lack of alteration, dynamism, language, innovative ideas, thought provoking ideas, education and spirit to compete and spirit to change. They must seek change in life style and judge before following.

**Conclusion:** The poor need courage to survive to endure, to fight for survival and the assertion of the ethnic consciousness through literature. One fights to make the society aware of its hidden, dark truths that need to be confronted in order to transform into a better future. We are social animal and interacts with persons of socio-economical-moral-cultural-ethical-religious and behavioural values. Man, the best of all-beautiful creatures, proves his excellence by being humane in his approach to God. The appropriate avenue for human perfection is human religion. It is an ardent duty of every man to harbour his good sense and sensibilities in this island of all-beautiful within himself then it will be stepping-stone in realization of God in man. Man's ultimate goal is the realisation of God. His activities, social, political, and religious, have to be guided by the ultimate aim of the vision of God. The immediate service of all human beings becomes a necessary part of the endeavour, simply because the only way to find God is to see Him in his creation and be one with it. One must consider his countrymen, poor people and downtrodden his own men and to consider own is the essence of humanism. These values will enable men to be very near to human beings and God loves those who love His creation. If the ideals of Ram and Krishna will be inculcated within some of the persons and the objective of the values fulfilled to some extent, then men will live a happy life. It was said in Geeta:-

*'Sarve bhavantu sukhinah, sarve santu niramayah;*

*Sarve bhadrani pashyantu maa kasrhit dukh bhagbhaavet*<sup>vii</sup>

Swami Vivekananda will be indelible. The impact of his teachings and relevance shall be permanent in India and abroad. Generation to generation young minds will keep on taking inspiration from his preaching throughout the ages. I would conclude with the lines which I wrote in the honour of Swami Vivekanand.

O Philanthropist! You should be living in this century,  
Not only India but also World needs you.

India is full of corruption, bribe, hatred and fury,  
And is full of anger, impurity, shrewdness and untrue.  
Have spread Dishonesty, lust, disloyalty, false and treachery,  
These are the values where do we glue.  
We are selfish, insincere, and in Wastelanders jury,  
Have forfeited our culture, tradition and human values.  
Of inward happiness, we are corrupt leaders in policy,  
Oh! Awake us up, return to India again for positive values.  
Teach us manners, virtue, freedom, power and purity,  
Your voice was heard by Americans too in Chicago.  
Your soul was like sun to adieu drowsy  
Your sound was adored more than the sea.  
Pure as the naked heaven like small babies,  
In God's heart for love, faith and sincerity.  
You travelled on life's common way from east to south to sea bay,  
In cheerful and yet your heart the lowliest duties on its did lay.

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