

# Relevance of Swami Vivekananda's Social Philosophy in the Present Context

**Dr. Nazia Husain**

Assistant Professor

Shri Jagdishprasad Jhabarmal Tibrewala University, Jhunjhunu Rajasthan, Rajasthan  
drnazz2018@gmail.com

**Abstract:** *Swami Vivekananda was a great soul of India to whom the present generation is indebted and the future generations will always be indebted. He tried to coordinate the best elements of the cultures of East and West. He kept the greatness of Indian culture abroad, the universal form of religion in a clear and logical form. Vivekananda was a great leader of Indian nationalism. And human welfare was supposed to inspire a person's self-confidence and pride. Swami Vivekananda ji participated in the World Parliament and convinced the Indian culture and mesmerized all the audience present there. In the presented research paper, the relevance of Swami Vivekananda's social philosophy has been studied in the present context.*

**Keywords:** Western Culture, Indian Culture, Nationality, Humanity Welfare, Parliament of Religions

## I. INTRODUCTION

In fact, Swami Vivekananda, whose first name was Narendra Nath Dutt, was a disciple of Swami Ramakrishna Paramhansa. After his death, he propagated his teachings of selfless devotion to God etc. In 1893, he participated in the Parliament of Religions held in Chicago and described the greatness of Indian Vedic Hindu culture. In which healthy balance between materialism and spiritualism was emphasized, Vedanta society was established, Ramakrishna Mission was established in India, whose main objective was public service and social reform, whose centers are currently working for education, health and public service.

Social philosophy of Vivekananda - Swami Vivekananda became such a humanist thinker who took the responsibility of serving the nation through the recognition of God in human form and human love and worship. In fact, his concept of unity continued to encourage his entire socialism and humanism and he told the beginning of human life in the philosophy of equality, which was to be fully accepted in the attainment of universal unity. He was against all kinds of privileges and social exploitation. He believed that every kind of exploitation in the society arises only because of inequality.

In fact, his ideology of equality is the basis of his entire spiritual philosophy which encourages the gradual development of the individual. Swamiji did not mean social, economic, political or any other kind of special inequality by equality. Rather it was from his process. Swami ji believed that equality and inequality go together in the world and like equality, inequality is also natural, beneficial and creative, but inequality in society is neither eternal nor infinite. He justified the necessity and desire of the individual to fight against inequality. His belief in human plurality was based on the principle of Samkhya philosophy. While his faith in Vedanta inspired the declaration of human unity. He says that in the social sphere the liberty of the individual is based on equality. From the spiritual point of view, he has described the freedom of the individual as the most valuable. He described freedom as an essential condition of human development. This is the highest goal of man. The society and the state have no right to obstruct it. Supporting spiritual freedom, he has said that there are three means to achieve it, worship of work and knowledge. In the social sphere the liberty of the individual is based on equality. Which leads a person to freedom and inequality leads to bondage. He has written that no man and no nation can try to achieve physical freedom without physical equality, nor can it try to achieve mental freedom without mental equality.

Swami ji has considered inequality as the main cause of sorrow and suffering of human being like ignorance and lust. He has written that inequality is the sin of human nature, a curse on all mankind and the root of all sorrows. But equality cannot be applied in absolute terms. Because it is against the law of nature. All human beings come into this

world with different intelligence, skills and abilities. So, as long as this world exists, there will be differences among humans and complete equality can never be achieved. Swamiji believed that the struggle for equality must be done. Because it is a driving force of human development. Similarly, liberty and equality are incomplete values in the absence of fraternity. True democracy can be achieved only through fraternity and fraternity can be achieved only at the spiritual level. That's why Swamiji was against casteism, untouchability, and communalism. Looking for the reasons for the downfall of the Indian society, he said that the reasons for the downfall of the Indian society are untouchability, lack of faith, influence of western culture, dishonesty, self-inferiority, lack of originality and courage, laziness, narrow outlook, neglect of religion, weakness and backwardness. Swami ji strongly attacked untouchability and conservatism and criticized them by calling conservatism kitchen religion and untouchability. He asked Indians to see the world with open eyes and emphasized on adopting a progressive outlook. He had immense sympathy for the poor and downtrodden. He was the biggest socialist who wanted to embrace the Dalits by erasing the distinction between rich and poor. His call was that the poor and the needy, the afflicted and the downtrodden, come all of us, we are all united in the shelter of Ramakrishna. He said that leaving aside the frills of worship, we should go to every village and take up the task of serving the poor. He strongly opposed child marriage and supported women's education for the upliftment of women. Attacking Brahminism, he said that it is very important to destroy the form in which caste discrimination has taken root in India.

For this, he took the initiative to run the social reform movement. He believed that all human beings are equal and all have the right to spiritual realization and ultimate knowledge. He worked to speed up the program of social reform through Ramakrishna Mission. Which gradually had become a famous social organization all over India.

### 1.1 Objectives of Ramakrishna Mission

The objectives of establishing this institution were:

1. Re-awakening the faith of Hindus in 'Hinduism'.
2. To make aware of the ancientness of our culture and the greatness of history.
3. Human service based on Satyam Shivam, Sundaram.
4. Education, health, helping the poor.
5. Consciousness of patriotism, self-confidence, faith in youth power, awakening the spirit of self-confidence among the youth.

### 1.2 Relevance of Swami Vivekananda's social philosophy in the present context

1. Development of universal version on the basis of Vedanta:- The basis of Swami Vivekananda's thinking was the teachings of Vanta, but he also studied western philosophy and emphasized on the coordination of East and West culture. Propagation of India's spiritualism was done in foreign countries as well. At present also justice, equality, freedom, secularism are the basic elements of the constitution of India. His teachings remain important even today in the fight against inequality, violence, corruption spread in the nation. Human values are rapidly degrading in the country today due to materialism. Tension, violence, atrocities on women, corruption are increasing in the society. We are turning away from our ancient culture. The influence of western culture is increasing. That's why the need is being felt today to coordinate Swami Vivekananda's original thinking, materialism and spiritualism.
2. Describing religion as the inner feeling of man- Swamiji used to consider religion as a personal feeling. Emphasized the use of religion for secular purposes. Hence his ultimate motivation was humanitarian. This education of his has also become necessary today. Due to communal tensions among many sects today a simple explanation of religion is necessary. That's why his teachings are relevant even today According to Haswami Vivekananda, who cares about your devotion and salvation, who cares what your scriptures say? I am ready to go to hell a thousand times with great pleasure. If I can elevate my countrymen by this. One God, justice, non-violence, kindness, respect, brotherhood, equality, recognition, truth etc. are considered essential for human welfare.
3. Human welfare- Vivekananda emphasized on human service. Did many works for education-health and human welfare. According to him, God can be worshiped only by serving humanity. That's why his thoughts are

relevant even today. Even today many problems like illiteracy, lack of health facilities, hunger, nutrition, corruption etc. remain in the country. Giving education to all people and mobilizing health services should be the priority for which government institutions are working.

4. Patriotism- Swami Vivekananda was a great patriot. Through his writings and speeches, he instilled a sense of new self-pride in the people and new faith in Indian culture and worked for the bright future of India. Even at present, the spirit of patriotism is essential for national unity and all-round development of the country. The country can progress only with self-confidence and hard work. That's why Swami Vivekananda's thoughts are relevant even today.
5. Belief in the power of youth:- Swami Vivekananda through his speeches and writings called upon the young generation of India to work for the prosperity, development and welfare of the country. In this way, he inspired hard work, confidence and self-confidence in the young generation. In today's context, youth power is considered to be an important contribution in the development of the nation. The progress of the nation is possible only through their education and skills. Therefore, the above thoughts of Swami Vivekananda are relevant even today.
6. Emphasis on globalization and liberalism:- He emphasized the people of India to adopt the knowledge-science and good things of other countries of the world. He has criticized Indians that they have become inert and dead by being cut off from the rest of the world. His teachings are also relevant in today's context. Today's era is the era of globalization. Today, Indians are proving their skills in other countries and are also getting the benefit of international knowledge and science within the country.
7. Pain towards poverty:- Swami Vivekananda not only had sympathy for poor people but also considered poverty as a sin against humanity. That's why he said that as long as millions of people lead a life of hunger and ignorance, I consider every person a traitor who has acquired education and knowledge at their expense and now even their night doesn't flow. Today's Context His thoughts are relevant in me too. Even today people are dying of hunger in the country. Children are victims of malnutrition. Despite many programs and schemes to eradicate poverty in the country, poverty still persists. Therefore, first of all it becomes the first duty of every person to eradicate hunger and poverty in the country. That's why Swami Vivekananda's thoughts are relevant today.

## II. SUMMARY

Swami Vivekananda inspired self-respect, peace, fearlessness and honorary pride to the countrymen. Propagation of Vedanta, emphasis on love, universal brotherhood. Considered social service as the first task. Due to his teachings and works, India is continuously moving forward on the path of progress. His thinking constantly inspires me to overcome the problems and obstacles that are there at present. Today, in this era of youth power, knowledge power, Swami Vivekananda has remained among us because of his wonderful thoughts.

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