

## **THE RELEVANCE OF EDUCATIONAL THOUGHT OF ACHARYA SWAMI PRANABANANDA IN TRANSFORMING PRESENT EDUCATION SYSTEM**

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### **Abstract**

After a long struggle the freedom of our country has been attained but now passing through the most critical hour due to erosion on moral values and the ancient Indian ideology. Forgetting that lofty cultural education, the students, the citizens of future blindly aping the foreign ideals. The most alarming point is that the children today are being adverse and apathetic to Vedic-Indian educational culture. The Indian literature, philosophy, religion, history and great Indian scriptures have become today the matters of contempt and abhorrence to them. Now the civilized Indians are making their children the only source of money making them run in a rat race. Education means to them is nothing but accumulation of some information and to complete a syllabus for getting marks in examination. But it is today of extreme needs that the students of modern era should be warned about the aim of education. In this regard the paper deals here the relevance of educational thought and idea of Acharya Swami Pranabananda in transforming the present education system

**Key Words:** Yoga, Meditation, Vedic education, Transformation.

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**Introduction:**

**Om Asato Maa Sad-Gamaya!  
TamasoMaa Jyotir -Gamaya!  
Mrityor- Maa Amritam Gamay!  
Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih!!**

“Lead us from darkness to light “-The supreme aim aim of education.Is there any Educational institution where these lines are not chanted ? It Is chanted in every places as prayer. Now a days, it is prayed in schools but nothing but a formality. Lifelong effort for self- development and Self- realization was the ultimate aim of education in ancient education system. Total education system was in the hand of Munis and Rishis and the students had to stay and study in Gurugriha , the temple of learning in the ancient period. Guru or Acharya was the only teacher

The future of a nation is determined by its education system based on proper culture and values. The strength of a nation depend upon a strong and illustrations culture and it should be individually and collectively. Collective or group effort is started since the very beginning of the schooling of the children, at the time of building of the nation. Acharya Swami Pranabananda compared a child with a single brick of high building. So a full nation will be totally destroyed like the building, built with half burnt bricks. That is why Swami Pranabananda emphasized the growing up the children with that culture which only can build a strong nation.

Our country is the illustration to the world for its great ideals and lofty ancient cultural heritage and education. It is proved through its history repeatedly. A lot of great visitors like Fa-Hien and HiuenTsang came to visit and to study our country for ancient Indian education and culture.

Why we need education? Actually we all need education as we all want to take part in the society as our civic responsibility and later a significant role in the country to build a strong Nation .But if the education is not full of morality, ethics, value it is totally worthless.

**Objectives of the study:**

- i) To identify the shortcomings of modern education system.
- ii) To study the educational philosophy of Swami Pranabananda.
- iii) To find out the relevancy of his idea in present education system.

**Methodology of the study:**

The present study is a qualitative study. All the data for the study has been collected from different secondary sources like journals, articles internet , website Wikipedia and reference books. Moreover the direct involvement of researcher has also become helpful to collect data for the present study.

**Review of related Literature:**

**Mohanty (1975)** considered Acharya Swami Pranabananda as the galaxy of modern spiritual teachers. Swami Pranabanana wanted the revitalize the society through the practices of strong and higher and spiritual value. The only recognition of Hindu society to him was the strength, sacrifice ,unity, liberalism, spirit of love ,co-operation, and selfless services to mankind irrespective of cast ,creed and religion. Only these can transform the community as a whole and to fulfil this noble idea swami Pranabananda established Bharat Sevashram Sangha.

**Chakravarty (1975)** has considered Acharya Swami Pranabananda as such a dynamic persons who has made such a critical hour a very significant part of national history by his restless services to the humanity. He considered the indifference of the educated persons of that time to their country has led our nation to destruction. Indians are going to forget the lofty culture and started to imitate others. The most pathetic matter is that Swami Vivekananda announced – “the voice of Asia has been the voice of religion but the educated persons of that time showed a severe antipathy to the term Hindu”. He led the nation towards their improvement through moral awareness and advised also to preach Gita.

**Saran’s (1954)** study analyses the Gurukula system of education in ancient India and tries to explore the possibility of reinstating it in India in modernized form. The study observes that the hermitages of ancient India were not only schools of learning but also shelter for the needy. The curriculum and methods of teaching were mainly based on the psychological principles of development. Acharya Swami Pranabananda thus first introduced his Gurukul education and Brahmacharya Vidyalaya for the needy students and from distressed and deprived section of the society.

### **Background of the study**

Different types of research on the great educationist like Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore , has been done but the research on the educational thought has not been still done widely. So here researcher has been encouraged to run a research work on educational thought of Acharya Swami Pranabananda. At present our country has more civilized and modern scientific technology has upgraded the human style a lot but in everywhere we are missing something that was the base of our Indian education and culture where educational institutions were considered as the temple and the teachers were considered as guru. Education was imparted by vedic sages in residential schools or Gurukul in a spiritual atmosphere. But now a totally different approach towards life is going to destroy our society. Crime, corruption, violence, dishonesty in examination jealousy , politics, drug addiction and different types of antisocial activities have stolen the headlines of the newspapers. The world of the young students today is limited Facebook, whats app and many others harmful medias . As a result many accidents like ragging , suicide, etc have become the regular incidents. Not only the modern culture political influence has become also a vital issue now in educational institutions. So the present situation has influenced the researcher to make this research.

### **Educational Philosophy of Swami Pranabananda**

Education is the best weapon of any nation .so without proper education no nation can prosper .but it can never be completing a syllabus and job oriented . The meaning of true education was to Acharya Swami Pranabananda was the adaptation of spirituality ,morality, humanity and the formation of character and personality development that will enable the students to stand as pillars in national problems. Moral awareness in educational institutions and the ideal presence of the parents and the teachers is the only way to bring back the ancient glory of Indian education in present education system. so if the base of that education is not strong morally and ethically how can it possible to acquire the best in this world.

After Swami Vivekananda, Acharya Swami Pranabananda appeared on this earth to complete the incomplete works of Swami Vivekananda. Swami Vivekananda said – “Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached.” (Upanisad) – But what is the actual goal ? The actual goal, is the Self Realization and the Universal Emancipation through practices of Self-sacrifice, Self abnegation,

Self-discipline, Adherence to truth ,Contenance , Self possession, Self remembrance and Self consciousness. Self-confidence, Self-reliance and Procrastination are to be considered as the real assets of life.

Acharya Swami Pranabananda gave a clarion call to the nation through providing proper education. But The main problem is that the most of the parents wants their children`s academic excellence only. The modern teachers and professors, today do not consider it their sacred duty to teach the pupils and assist them in their moral regeneration. Students, on the other hand, have lost sight of the fact that the object of education is character-building and discipline. Most of them are failing miserably in even acquiring book-knowledge, because they cannot accept education as a kind of austerity.”

The great obstacle that stands in the way of progress and achievement. This is identified as Self-oblivion. The tendency to forget. “Who am I” Where have I come from and what is the aim and object of life. Actually he wanted to make the nation aware about their ancient culture and glory and their attitude to life. It is impossible to build up a strong nation without proper education, training, moral and spiritual culture.

Once the disease is diagnosed, a great deal of the problem can easily and undoubtedly be solved. Acharya Swami Pranabananda started warning the nation of the great disaster coming about unless they mend their ways and attitude to life. That is why he embarked on such an all embracing and comprehensive Program. But to begin with he advised everyone to first start reforming himself. This was really cutting at the root of the problem. Actually he wanted to make the nation aware about their ancient culture and glory and their attitude to life . It is impossible to build up a strong nation without proper education, training, moral and spiritual culture.

### **Problems of present education system:**

Educational problems emerge through gaps and and loopholes left by historical development of society and education. India acquired its special recognition in this world at a time for Indian education and culture but recently it is going to face a question mark regarding the lack of emphasis on moral and ethical values in Indian modern education. A long gap has been discovered between the ancient vedic education and the present education. Knowledge for

examination ,competitive knowledge, political –overall a bookish knowledge is the most essential today . The students today have no time to follow the customs to respect teachers , seniors and even parents also. Acharya Swami Pranabananda was highly anxious about this moral and ethical degradation . Now a days, there are some people who are the primary guardian of the pupil ,are found advocating highly the raising of the standard of the life and in the name of standardity they are leading their children to adopt the western culture and life style but they can never realize that it is indirectly inviting evil result to their own life . At this critical juncture of human civilization and Indian educational culture when our society is going to be a pathless jungle Acharya Swami Pranabananda appeared and showed the way of imparting education that will remove the endless darkness and can revive the glory of Indian education.

### **The relevance of his thought**

The **National Education policy 1986** also expressed their deep concern over the lack of the same and emphasized the value based education. The greatest educational philosopher swami Vivekananda tried his best to make the people aware that ' Education is the backbone of our society' and it should consist of moral and spiritual values. Thus Swami Pranabananda showed the guidelines to be followed for present education system. The situation is knocking for the application the guideline of epoch maker Swami Pranabananda. In the Upanishads, it is said : "To forget the existence of the Immortal One within is like committing suicide."

Acharya proclaimed, "Forget not that you are the descendants of the Rishis. Your religion and society, your tradition, culture and civilization are framed by them. The most minute duty of your everyday life, individual and collective, material or transcendental, is directed by them. Renunciation, self-control, Truth and Brahmacharya are your ideals from time immemorial. "

### **1. Service to humanity.**

According to Swami Pranabananda the main aim of education should be –to do something for the nation , for the society. Recently many schools and colleges are found to consider social service as a part of education. If education does not lead the students to feel the senses of service to humanity then it is nothing but to get some degree. Thus Swami Pranabananda encouraged the students and youth to collect alms to serve the needy and distressed since the very beginning of their life. The sense of this services can enhance the love and respect for the

nation among the students. They can be a great contributor being active citizen of their motherland and only then their education will be significant. That is why Swami Pranabananda emphasized the service to the humanity and established Bharat Sevashram Sangha to fulfill his mission.

## **2.favourable atmosphere:**

According to Acharya Swami Pranabananda the student life is like a budding flower .So the moral and spiritual value to be cultivated in an ideal atmosphere was, considered to him as the only possible way for those flowers to be bloomed. Nothing but the practices of good virtues and a moral and ethical cultural education can fulfill the aim of education. So Since their very childhood they should be brought up in that ideal atmosphere in a disciplined way to practice .it can enhance the formation of character and will help the students to understand the right and wrong.

## **3) Ancient system of education**

In the ancient period when we the Indians have not been so technically civilized our education was started in Gurukul and teachers were only Guru .They made us educated with all round development ,morally ,spiritually physically etc. At that time fame and prosperity was considered precious to the students only when it was achieved morally including academic achievement. Acharya SwamiPranabanad highly advocated the Gurukul education system, prospered with ideals and principles like ancient culture. For that reason he realized such system of education in present education system.

## **4) Ideal Curriculum :**

Curriculum plays a vital role in education .According to swami Pranabananda curriculum should be constructed with a view to enhance students social, intellectual ,moral and spiritual development. Like ancient education the ideals of great personalities ,the study of the Ramayan ,Mahabharata , Gita and others scriptural studies should be included in the present curriculum to make the foundation strong and ideal of the pupils today. That is why swami Pranabananda made the scriptural study compulsory in his educational institution and still it is going on.

**5) Brahmacharya:**

Acharya Swami Pranabananda was highly worried about the pathetic condition misled students and youth today .Most of the students are leading their lives without any ideals of brahmacharya which was the base of our ancient education and culture . According to him continence is the oil of life and it will continue burning till there will be oil inside .He presented himself to the students and youths as a burning light of self-control and continence and made them understand the importance of continence inspired them to practice brahmacharya .

**6) Discipline :**

Discipline is the key of success in each and every field . It plays a vital role in education .It is quite impossible to get success to any educational institute or a whole nation. Disciplined life was the best way to acquire knowledge in gurukul and vedic education .But now discipline means totally different. It is only for professional development .Swami Pranabanandaji always encouraged students to live a disciplined life consisted with early rising, prayer, exercise, yoga and meditation and the practices of spiritual culture.

**7) Yoga and meditation:**

Yoga is essentially a spiritual discipline to overcome all types of sufferings and to get a sound health and mind .Now a days most of the students and youths are suffering from different physical and mental diseases .students are becoming mentally weak due to excessive stress for examination and different others problems in adolescent period. Yoga and Meditation was the essential practices of ancient education system and still we are aware of the memory of that time. Acharya Swami Pranabananda emphasized the practices of yoga and meditation for the holistic development of the students. Not only that this practices is extremely helpful for moral and spiritual development of the students. School colleges and every field today badly needs the yoga and meditation when economic and professional success and even the medical treatment is also failed to provide complete cure and peace to human being.

**8) Mass Education**

Acharya Swami Pranabananda never wanted the education to be limited to a few fortunate persons. He wanted mass education and it should never be restricted In educational institutions



only and thus introduced a new education system. Different educational committees and commissions have been formed for the education to reach even up to the most remote areas also. But still the poor and distressed are deprived from the education inspite of having the constitutional right for free and compulsory education for all. Thus Acharya Swami Pranabananda emphasized residential school and brahamacharya vidyalaya with all supports specially for the tribal children so that they can also take a vital part in present education system

#### **Management of the institution established On the ideals of Swami Pranabananda .**

1. Supervised by ideal and dedicated monks to control the institutes to be a vital part of the society and the nation.
2. Regular monitoring by ideal educated monks based on moral and spiritual culture. .
3. Human resource development at a large scale with a good training of academic and service to humanity and youth development as the productivity and utilization at different field to serve the nation.
4. Regular basis evaluation and the controlling is totally under the educated ideal monks
5. An excellent structure with efficient staff management even in remote part of the country with an ideal guideline establish an ideal mission.

#### **Suggestions and Recommendations.**

- 1 .The time has come today the follow the ancient culture to revive the nation through the practices of moral and spiritual training in education specially for the youth.
2. Moral and spiritual development and the character building Program should be emphasized in present curriculum in the educational institutes.
3. An ideal atmosphere both in educational institutes and in homes also should be provided to the students for ideal education.
4. Practices of yoga and meditation should be emphasized for developing concentration .the self-defense program should be compulsory in the educational institutes.
5. Presentation of idealism among both parents and teachers should be emphasized to establish a model to be followed .

6. Proper discipline should be followed in the institutions and home too and the teachers should be the role model to the society.

### **CONCLUSION**

Overall it may be concluded that the concept of education of Acharya Swami Pranabananda is highly significant today at the time of moral and ethical disaster in education. He realized this impending deplorable condition near about hundred years ago and provided a guideline to be practiced in educational institutions. According to him moral character and spiritual development ,sacrifice ,practices of good habits, brahmacharya yoga and mediation, service to humanity etc. should be compulsory part in modern education system to revive the glory of ancient educational culture of our country. Not only the formal theoretical studies is not sufficient for that the awareness about the true education and its aim should be reached in every corner of this world educational structure. This is the fault of Indian universities which are the pillars of our present education system. True education is always expressed through behavior and conduct, growing up a wider angle of vision towards humanity spirituality, patriotism and universal brotherhood.

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