

A Study on Acharya Swami Pranabanandaji's View on Moral Character Building in Education

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Abstract: Education is a life-long process to shape human personality to make a good citizen and overall to make a strong nation. To a certain number of people Education still means a number of pages and acquiring degree from school and colleges. Real education can never be fulfilled without moral education and the formation of moral character. Acharya Swami Pranabananda was such a spiritual preceptor and guide to preach and propagate the ideals of morality, self-discipline, truth and continence. He realized the crisis of real education, lacking the moral and spiritual growth, honesty, humanity and truthfulness. Now a day's education has become a rat race and students have become the Machine due to the advancement of Modern Technology, Modernization and excessive influence of modern politics

Keywords: Moral Character, Education.

1. Introduction

Since the very beginning of our civilization the moral education and character building is considered to be the essential point of education. Since the period we are aware of the Gurukul system of Education & Vedic education. After Sri Ramakrishna & Swami Vivekananda the advent of such a national prophet like Swami Pranabananda was of the urgent need of the hour. According to him no nation can exist without real education. He considered that the modern era though has been technologically advanced but facing the most critical hour due to forgetting the great heritage and lofty Indian culture and ideology of Gandhiji and Swami Vivekananda. The virtual world of today and the abuses of modern technology has become a threat to young generation. It is leading our society to destruction. Due to lacking the moral character now a days the anti-social activities, corruption has reached in an alarming stage. At a time the teachers were considered as Guru but now there is no respect for teachers and they are to face many disregarding situation. According to Acharya Swami Pranabananda the students determines the future of the nation. That is why he propagated and practiced the great Indian ideology and provided moral and spiritual guidance besides the academic excellence.

2. Objectives of the Study

- i. To study the view point of Swami Pranabananda on moral education.
- ii. To find out the importance of character building.
- iii. To know his idea about the true education.

3. Review of Literature

According to KumudBandhu Sen (1975 from Acharya Pranabananda in the eyes of learned.pp41) Acharyadev did not stop at this stage. He was aware of the fact that the university education is limited to a few fortunate persons only. Unless and until every individual is educated, the entire endeavour is bound to be a failure. So he engaged himself to spread education among the mass and said: "If a nation wants to be great, the first thing that is required, is a structure for proper education. Only then the latent spirit of the nation can be roused. Man thus attains real prosperity and nobility. Only for that reason, the Sangha has engaged itself, first of all, in the spread of education among the backward Hindu mass".

According to Prof. Tripura Sankar Sen Sastri (1975 from Acharya Pranabananda in the eyes of learned.pp120) the three aspects of sacrifice, service and continence has been regarded as the only path and internal ideals to our wellbeing to all great souls of India in all ages. Frantic race for continence as the only path to our wellbeing. Frantic race for earning money stands in the way of social peace and personal tranquillity. We have heard the same truth resounded in the voice of Acharya Swami Pranabananda. He said, "Sacrifice, self-control, truthfulness and continence should be your eternal ideal, the very core of national life. You may slip but by perseverance, you resurrection is inevitable... India is not the country which has taken material comforts as the highest goal of life. She values morality, justice and spiritual consciousness".

4. Methodology

The present study is a qualitative study, different types of secondary sources like books, journals, articles, Wikipedia have been used to collect data for the study. In this study the method

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content analysis has been adopted to analyse the collected data from different journals books, articles etc. In this study the researcher himself has been actively involved with the educational institutions, set up on the ideals of Acharya Swami Pranabanandaji Maharaj. Thus the active participation and experiences of the researcher has also been used as the source of collected data.

5. Area of the Study

Though the area of the study is worldwide, especially the west Bengal has been selected as the area of the study on the basis of philosophical and materialistic point of view of Acharya Swami Pranabanandaji Maharaj.

6. Findings and Analysis

1) Findings from the study

Character building is the first and foremost duty education. Moral education should be a compulsory part of curriculum. The great ancient Indian lofty culture should be followed to acquire true knowledge. Moral education and spiritual culture and the character building is now of urgent needs of our nation at this critical hour. It is very urgent to save our society.

2) Character building – the heart of Education

Acharya Swami Pranabananda believed strongly the education system of Vedic era. According to time the strength of character is the unequalled element of one's personality, it is attained by the practices of sacrifice, self-control, truthfulness and brahmacharya. All these practises grow the inner ability to build a strong moral character. In this context Lord Buddha Preached – “Oh Man, you do such deeds where by you can build up your character. You will be of service to humanity to attain divinity.”

3) Moral Education

Moral education is the education that makes one a perfect human being with are essential social skills and virtues like respect, sympathy, honesty kindness etc. Moral education helps to understand the difference between good and evil, Right and wrong and enhance the proper decision making still. Acharya Swami Pranabananda advocates such education and character building. Thus he set up different educational institutes to practice moral culture and spiritual culture. According to him student should be trained to learn the dignity of labour and fundamental principles of human life. To achieve this he introduced the scriptural studies on The Gita, Ramayan, Mahabharat among the students.

4) Ideals and Principles

According to Swami Pranabananda our nation is existing still based on lofty ancient Indian culture and ideals? He said that great ideals and Principles are the heart best of a real man. It is impossible to develop a nation without ideals and principles. It should be trained from the very childhood by the parents and school days.

He himself was a magnetic personality. He introduced different principles among the students. The idleness, slumber and inertia is considered as enemies in student life. On the other hand, self-confidence self-reliance and self-respect is

considered as the real assets to a student. According to him Mental Strength is more important than physical strength. Thus he emphasized the practices of Yoga & Meditation besides exercise.

5) Brahmacharya

According to Acharya Swami Pranabananda Brahmacharya is the most essential aspects of moral character building.

According to him –

“Self-control is the backbone of human beings.

If the backbone is broken, a man cannot live.

Likewise, a man bereft of self-control cannot exist.”

6) Good habits

Character building depends on the continuous practices of good habits since childhood. Acharya Swamy Pranavanandaji always emphasized the Practice of good habits like Prayer, Meditation, Yoga, Speech on great ideals, according to his without moral character one is nothing but a beast and good habits only can enhance the moral development of a student. Not only the teachers but also the parents should have the responsibility to bring up their children with good habits.

7) Service to humanity

The main objectives of his education was the holistic development of the students that will teach them that – ‘to serve the man is to serve to God’. He always provided the youth as guideline of service to humanity and shaping the moral character and personality development that is fit for a community and nation.

7. Conclusion

Therefore, it may be concluded education itself should be imparted to each and every one with its own acceptability. He thinks this is duty, this a duty of all the nations to make education free from any bias. His preaching of education thus it attempts to perceive the value of education with its acceptability amongst all. As per the view of Swami Pranavananda, education should be adjudged and exercised on the prevalent social conditions or it will fail to tie up the harmony in total. His beliefs tell that education gives one a sense of one's identity as a total man hence a self-realization is its bi-product. And when self-education is based on self-realization, the result will provide a natural sense of contentment which is lying under the soul every individual. Overall the moral education and character building is of urgently need at such a critical hour of modernization.

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