



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY



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Cordially invites you to the

3rd Swami Vivekananda Memorial Lecture

by

Revered Swami Suparnanada Maharaj

Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture
Golpark, Kolkata

On

“সমাজ ও শিক্ষার মাবোল্লয়নে স্বামী বিবেকানন্দের অবদান”



Date : 22nd January 2024, Monday

Time : 1.30 pm

Venue : Subhas Chandra Sabhaghar,
NSOU HQs
DD 26, Sector I, Salt Lake City,
Kolkata - 700064

Professor Indrajit Lahiri

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor,

Netaji Subhas Open University
will preside over the session

Smt. Ananya Mitra

Registrar (Add'l Charge), NSOU

Report of the 3rd Swami Vivekananda Memorial Lecture on

“Contribution of Swami Vivekananda for the Development of
Society and Education”

Date: 22nd January 2024, Time: 2.00 to 3.30 pm
Venue: Subhas Chandra Sabhaghar, HQs, NSOU



**Speaker: Revered Swami Suparnanada Maharj, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission
Institute of Culture, Golpark, Kolkata**

School of Education, on behalf of NSOU, organised 3rd Swami Vivekananda Memorial Lecture on “Contribution of Swami Vivekananda for the Development of Society and Education” on the 22nd January 2024 at 2.00pm at Subhas Chandra Sabhaghar of HQs, NSOU.

Introduction

This report highlights the events and activities of NSOU to celebrate 3rd Swami Vivekananda Memorial Lecture on the 22nd January 2024 at 2.00pm and this day was dedicated to honouring the contributions of Swami Vivekananda for the Development of Society and Education.

Participants

The Vice Chancellor, the Registrar, The Directors of the Schools, other administrative officers, faculties, scholars, alumni and the students were present on the day.

Event Details

Dr. Debi Prosad Nag Chowdhury, Professor, SoE initiated the session with the theme of the program. Dr. Abhedananda Panigrahi, Coordinator, B. Ed. Chanted the Vedic Hymns. At the outset, the faculties and the staff felicitated Revered Swami Suparnananda Maharaj, Secretary, Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, Kolkata, Prof. Indrajit Lahiri, the Vice Chancellor, NSOU, Smt. Ananya Mitra, Registrar (Add'l Charge) and Dr. A. N. Dey, Director, School of Education. Prof. Lahiri presided over the function. Smt. Ananya Mitra, Registrar (Add'l Charge) delivered her welcome address. She cordially welcomed all the dignitaries on the dais and the audience. She conveyed greetings to all.



Speech of Revered Swami Suparnananda Maharaj

Swami Vivekananda was born as Narendranath Datta (name shortened to Narendra or Naren) in a Bengali family in his ancestral home at 3 Gourmohan Mukherjee Street in Calcutta, the capital of British India, on 12 January 1863 during the Makar Sankranti festival. He belonged to a traditional family and was one of nine siblings.



Education

One of the contributions that Swami Vivekananda rendered in education is the very linking of religion with education as he was of the view that religion is the fundamental element in the very education process as without religion, no one can actually improve his character.

'Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man' - this is a famous and most often quoted quote on education by Swami Vivekananda. As per the innovative educational ideas of Vivekananda the true aim of education is to develop insight into the individuals so that they become able to search out and realize unity in diversity. Vivekananda said that physical and spiritual worlds are one; their distinctness is an illusion. Education must be capable of developing this sense which finds unity in diversity. He gave emphasis on the role of Swami Vivekananda on mass education.

Swami Vivekananda, the patriot-saint of India, laid a lot of importance on education. Swami Vivekananda saw that the real cause of India's backwardness was the neglect and exploitation of the masses. In order to improve their economic condition it was necessary to teach them better

methods of agriculture, village industries and hygienic way of life. He understood that ‘the only service to be done for our lower classes is to give them education, to develop their lost individualities...’

Swami Vivekananda found this message in Vedanta. He pointed out that education must give spiritual awareness leading to greater strength and self-confidence. Swami Vivekananda firmly believed that education is something more than merely passing examinations and getting some employments. An education which helps one only to earn one’s livelihood is not a great value. So, education, if it has to be complete and worthwhile, must train the students in values of cultural and spiritual dimensions. It must train the mind and strengthened the willpower of the students. It must transmit the power and infuse inspiration from the lives of innumerable heroes, saints and sages to have ‘life-building, man-making, character-making assimilation of ideas. He wanted that education which enabled one to stand on his own legs.

Development of Society and Culture

Swamiji saw that in order to serve the masses and uplift the society, it was necessary to spread both secular and spiritual education. By spiritual education, he meant expanding the consciousness of the soul, deepening the emotions of the heart that feels for others and unselfishly serves them, and harmonizing the energies and faculties within one’s personality to lead an integrated and meaningful life. In the Indian system of education Learning was a part of Indian culture. Learning was regarded as a process of discipline through which one served God and society.

Educational institutions of the Ramakrishna Mission constantly strive to implement the educational vision of Swami Vivekananda. Therefore, the educational training programmes are, as far as possible, structured to equip the students, not only academically, but also in having the awareness of our great cultural heritage and the necessity of leading a disciplined and value-oriented life. It strives to bring out an all-round development of the students by giving due importance to sports, yoga, personality development camps and service activities.

The main motto of Swami Vivekananda is to arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached. **Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached was a slogan given by Swami Vivekananda.**

As per the concept of ideal society by Vivekananda he emphasized the importance of spirituality, human values, and social welfare in building an ideal society. Some of his key ideas on an ideal society are: Spiritual foundation: Swami Vivekananda believed that spirituality is the foundation of an ideal society

The social thinking of Swami Vivekananda was to passionately plead for the extension of all educational facilities to women. His social reform ideas reflected greatly on his efforts to give India its traditional religions a new orientation of social service. Ideal society is defined as a society that operates under expectable standards ethically, morally, spiritually and socially. Such societies do not experience severe activities that are detrimental to human development and economic growth. The erosion of moral values of truth, co-operation, non-violence, peace, love and respect for parents, elders, authority and hard work is leading to the decay of moral and social fabric of society at a speed never witnessed in the history of civilization.

From the speech of Maharaj, we came to know the concept of purity of mind by Swami Vivekananda. It is the awareness of the symbolic impurity such as sinful thoughts that reside in the individual's mind. One has to consciously empty the mind of these to attain purity. The subconscious mind is far more powerful than the conscious mind and can process huge quantities of information that come via our five senses and translate them back to our brain in the blink of an eye.

Swamiji also stated religion as '**the manifestation of the divinity already in man**'. The aim of education is to manifest in our lives the perfection, which is the very nature of our inner self. Perfection is inherent in everyone. It is the function of education to lead one to perfection. Therefore, education should be made available to all. Swami Vivekananda says that it is wrong to think that we promote the development of a child.

Value Education

In value education according to Swami Vivekananda, Vivekananda realise long ago that education should be liberal and always in the national lines. Education should include both conservative and creative aspects and bring about change in the society by giving us progressive ideas and new values of life.

Educational Inspiration from Swami Vivekananda's quotes

“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.”

“Education should focus on developing all aspects of an individual – physical, mental, and spiritual.”

“Education is the bridge that connects ignorance to knowledge and darkness to light.”

“The educated mind is the most powerful weapon in the world.”

Interaction

Participants had the opportunity to share their thoughts with speaker in discussions about Swami Vivekananda's contribution in society and education.

Presidential Address

Prof. Indrajit Lahiri, Vice Chancellor, NSOU delivered his Presidential Address. He expressed his pleasure during his speech for being present on such an auspicious occasion. He said about the relevance of Swamiji's educational thoughts with the present NEP 2020.

Motivation and Recognition

The Swami Vivekananda Memorial Lecture provides an opportunity to motivate about the wider concept of Society and quality Education, Work culture, Mind, Perfection, Purity of mind etc.

Wishes of the Director, SoE, NSOU

Dr. A. N. Dey, Director, SoE, NSOU conveyed his gratitude to revered Swami Suparnananda Maharaj for kindly delivering this encouraging lecture which would help us in illuminating our mind.

Vote of Thanks

Dr. Sibaprasad De, Professor of Education, SoE, NSOU cordially delivered vote of thanks to one and all and the day of 3rd Swami Vivekananda Memorial Lecture session thus ended.



Report prepared by
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