

Introspection of Swami Vivekananda's Philosophy in the Curriculum of Family and Community Resource Management

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Abstract: *The Family and Community Resource Management is one of the discipline under Family and Community Sciences. The Family and Community Resource Management is a dynamic and ever growing field of education. It is an applied field built upon both the discipline of science and humanities for the purpose of achieving the welfare and wellbeing of the family in an ever changing society. The department offers two specializations. One is Hospitality Management and the second is Interior Design. The courses offered under these two specializations very well matches with the thoughts of Swami Vivekanada focusing on development of leadership, self development, self empowerment, self confidence, man-making, women education, training of mind, freedom in education, personality development in context to physical, mental and spiritual, upliftment of underprivileged and vocationalisation. Though most of the thoughts of Swami ji have been incorporated in the curriculum of Family and Community Resource Management but still more need to be incorporated with the changing demands and needs of the community.*

Key words: *Swami Vivekananda, Curriculum, Family and Community Resource Management*

I. INTRODUCTION

The Family and Community Resource Management is one of the discipline under Family and Community Sciences. The Family and Community Resource Management is a dynamic and ever growing field of education. It is an applied field built upon both the discipline of science and humanities for the purpose of achieving the welfare and wellbeing of the family in an ever changing society. It is also the science of a home and community that includes wise resource utilization for the person, home, family members and community. It is the discipline that gives education for "better living"[11]. The core of the education in the discipline is the family ecosystem which deals with reciprocal relationship between the family and its natural and man-made environments. The course curriculum of the discipline aims at getting maximum satisfaction for the person and their family members through the efficient and scientific use of the resources [3]. It disseminates the knowledge of the scientific procedures involved in the development of home and community. Family and Community Resource Management as a field of study is application oriented and prepares one for many professions which integrates the application of various sciences and humanities to improve human environment, management of human and non human resources and improves the quality of life of individuals [15].

Since families form a community, the discipline provides opportunities for families to manage their resources efficiently. The department has made its mark by its participation in the community outreach programme too [5]. Over the years, the department has built up great credibility for education, research and extension work. The students under the subject "Extension and Communication" are given opportunities to assess the physical hygienic environment,

nutritional and housing status of the selected communities and accordingly provide solutions which can either be incorporated with the help of local leaders or with the Non - Governmental Organizations. As per the sayings of Swami Vivekananda, "As the underprivileged are often victims of malnutrition, poor hygienic conditions and overcrowded housing, they can hardly take advantage of any half-hearted opportunity that is offered" [16, 11]. The Department in their extension work is working in the same direction for the betterment of the families and communities

In anticipation of the changing environment and also the changing skill requirement of professionals, the curricula has been revised to make it more relevant, holistic, contextual and specialized. The department offers facilities for academic excellence as well as cultural enrichment of the students to build a multifaceted personality and prepares them to face the challenges that lie ahead (16). This is in consonance of the saying of Swamiji, "The end of all education, all training should be man-making. Vivekananda advocated education of self-development, mere book learning will not do. The education is such by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded and by one can stand on one feet [19]. Although Swami Vivekananda's vision of education lays extreme emphasis on the training of the mind. It should not undermine the importance of an all-round development of the human personality. The aim of the education should be untrammelled development of the personality in all sphere – physical, mental and spiritual [1].

Specialization in Curriculum

The Department offers two specializations 1) Hospitality Management and 2) Interior Design. The profession of

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Interior Design has lot of scope since it is relatively new in India and is developing fast. It has gained enormous popularity. The students study courses related to Interior Space Planning, Design & Development and Model Making, Interior Decoration, Furnishings & Furniture Designing, Household Equipment & Ergonomics. Students gain practical experience by preparing drawings of both residential & commercial interiors. They also study Computer Aided Design (CAD) in detail [10].

These course has numerous job opportunities in residential and commercial areas of private and public sector. The students can work as free lancers or can also be employed with the firms of architects, contractors, interior decorators and real estate companies. Teaching in schools, colleges, polytechnic institutes can be another attraction after completing this course [9]. They can also be employed as designers in the industries that manufactures interior products like tiles, furniture's, doors, windows, grills etc. Hence it is not only a creative, innovative & interesting field to study but has enormous job opportunities as well.

As according to the philosophy of Swami Vivekananda, "The child educates itself". "Education is not the amount of information that is put into the students' brain and runs right there, undigested all their life [13]. We must have life building, man making, character making and assimilation of ideas. Swami Vivekananda criticizes the educational system which overemphasizes on the cultivation of the intellect at the cost of the general well being of humanity. Swami ji believed in the three concepts. They are capacity, propensity and capability. He also emphasized three aspects of education, respectively: (a) that which makes learning possible; (b) the development of learning; and (c) self-development or self-empowerment" [12].

The department offers residence course at undergraduate level. The students are trained in a laboratory to put into practice the leadership theory like planning, decision making, implementing, time management, energy management, value, goals, money management and housekeeping. The students are also given opportunities for developing skills on Event management, Menu planning, Food preparation and Hosting [5]. The department has club which holds various activities like competitions, workshops, exhibitions, group discussions, seminars, extension lectures, theme decorations etc. throughout the session, to upgrade the knowledge of the students and to make teaching- learning more effective and stimulating [16].

The hospitality management offered at the Undergraduate level helps and aids the students to become self reliant as the students are given opportunities for training under professionals of three star and four star hotels.

Resource management is an evolving field, which spans family finance and consumer studies, housing and space design, ergonomics in design development, interior design and decoration, entrepreneurship and institutional management (18). The job prospects available to students are related to teaching, research, community development projects, extension, Interior designing, Event management, Hospitality and Human resource management [9]. By providing placement opportunities in the Department the students are self empowered, specially the female students.

Family and Community Resource management is a scientific course of study which moulds a student with a variety of life skills. This is a unique discipline with a blend of science and art. The Family and Community Resource Management Department is now out of the shell of misconceptions and has opened its doors for new avenues in all possible fields of life. "Vivekananda was the staunch champion of freedom in education. It is because, self development is not possible without freedom [14]. He said that, "a teacher cannot teach a child any more than one can grow a plant". The teacher can take away the obstacles but the student develops out of its own nature. The teacher should not inert any type of pressure on the child. Such sayings are practiced in the assignments and projects given to the students with curriculum". There is entire freedom given to the students in the curriculum of the Department to portray their creativity in completing the projects assigned to them under various subjects [4].

Importance of Family and Community Resource Management Education

"Family and Community Resource Management education is worth life education". From time immemorial down the ages of civilization, "Home and Family" has been the core of all human development and the society at large. By catering to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the members, the home gives meaning to life and refines the life of citizen leading to better living and thus building a healthy and developed country [8]. Family and Community Resource Management can be defined as "Education for better living". It explores the plausibility of the establishment of the perfections in the social orders starting from the resource management at home to the community.

On the whole, the goals of Family and Community Resource Management can be spelled out as "for prosperous living and achieving the highest happiness". According to the Swami Vivekanada, "moral and religious education develops self-confidence among men and women. Self-confidence is the real religion. It leads to world brotherhood and love for humanity [14]. Nowadays, the curriculum does not possess a balance between the self development and vocationalization. The ideal curriculum should have a balance between the self- development and vocationalization". Leadership qualities are developed in the students by providing a platform of becoming class representatives and members of the executive body which helps them to attain confidence, responsibility and maturity [1].

The development of Family and Community Resource Management reflects the globalization. It is a need-based, professionally oriented education to assist family and community towards improved living. In the context of growing pressures in the work environment and external world, the family assumes a significant role in shaping the citizens of tomorrow. The family is the main factor which protects the individuals from all external forces and provides the right type of atmosphere for children to grow into strong and independent personalities [10]. The Family and Community Resource Management then becomes the key subject in shaping the future course of life of the students, as it equips the future citizens with relevant knowledge, competencies and prepares them to become an efficient custodian of the nation's future.

According to Swami Vivekananda “education should be based upon love. That is why Vivekananda’s Philosophy of Education is known as education for man making [2]. The teacher’s aim should be neither money making nor attainment of fame but only bestowing human love”. This is very well achieved by the caring attitude and mentoring practices provided by the able staff of the Department.

Swami ji supported women education. “He realized that if the women of our country get the right type of education, then they will be able to solve their own problems in their own way. The main objective of his scheme for female education was, to make them strong, fear-less and conscious of their chastity and dignity [13]. He observed that although men and women are equally competent in academic matters, yet women have a special aptitude and competence for studies relating to home and family. Hence he recommended the introduction of subjects like sewing, nursing, domestic science, culinary art, and upbringing of children” [6]. This is very well achieved as majority of the students in the department are females.

More and more women are working outside the home due to basically economic necessities. In this context, managing and balancing both household and professional life is essential. The curriculum in the Department of Family and Community Resource Management impart training and educate the students to make a perfect interface between these two spheres of women's life. The laboratory known as “Home Management Residence” trains the students to manage their home and career together while managing human and non human resources like time, energy, money etc [7]. At the same time they also develop and refine their capabilities in decision making and applying management process to the varied task undertaken by them during their stay in the laboratory. The curriculum of the Department of Family and Community Resource Management also offers internship training for students in hospitality and interior industry. They undertake training in room decoration, flower arrangement, bed making, table setting and table antiques, menu making, making salad carving and self grooming. Tasks like these are not only helpful for the students in implementing it in the work environment outside the home but also in implementing them in day to day household tasks within the home [18].

Human relations are undergoing sea- change during the last few decades. Family values, ethos are severely affected. People are becoming more and more individualistic in nature, contrary to our Indian collectivism [12]. Thus, children are growing up in a very complex psychological environment leading to problems among children in general and the working women and elderly people in particular. Today family problems are on rise, due to which various types of domestic violence, abuse, crimes occurs. The curriculum of Family and Community Resource Management equip the students to acquire the ability to manage these crisis at right time with proper emphasis by utilizing appropriate human and non human resources [19].

Preparing for a healthier and purposeful life

Happiness and Peace in the family are the goals of purposeful family life. The curriculum of Family and Community Resource Management create an environment and outlook,

which will enable people to live richer and more purposeful lives [10]. It tries to provide a wholesome knowledge and attitudes towards family health (both physical and psychological), nutrition, home decoration, use of clothing's, and management during risk and eventualities. It tries further to enrich the lives of each and every members of the family through better understanding of the human relationships.

Family Life Education

Family and Community Resource Management education helps in preparing for home making, in the development of right values, appreciation, and understanding for better family life. It enables the pupils to understand the functions of parenthood, responsibilities of family membership and management of one's resources. It helps them to develop a sound philosophy of personal and family living. Understanding oneself (in terms of strengths and weaknesses) and others is the basic essence of family life. Moreover, it fulfills the sayings of Swami ji of “self development and building a complete personality with focus on physical, mental and spiritual development” [14].

II. CONCLUSION

The exposition and analysis of Vivekananda’s philosophy of education brings light its constructive, practical and comprehensive character. Swami ji realizes that it is only through education that the uplift of masses is possible. It is high time that we give serious thought to his philosophy of education and remembers his call to everybody – ‘Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached’.

There have been many changes in the field of education since Swami Vivekananda passed away one hundred years ago, but not as many changes as in other areas of society. One such noticeable change in education is that it is now engaged in preparing human beings for a new type of society, and it is trying to create a new type of human being for it. Interestingly, Swami Vivekananda had envisioned a society with a new type of human being in whom knowledge, action, work and concentration were harmoniously blended, and he proposed a new type of education for achieving this [2].

The right to education for everyone, guaranteed by the Constitution of India, was Vivekananda’s dream, but it is still a far cry from its goal. His idea of continual, or lifelong, education, however, has been adopted in many countries already. Vivekananda’s cry for the uplift of the downtrodden masses, particularly of the long-neglected women, but societies tailor education to meet their own needs. Unless radical changes are made in all societies at all the levels of education specially the higher education, the community will never be able to rise. This was a major concern of the Swamiji. Most of the thoughts of Swami ji have been incorporated in the curriculum of Family and Community Resource Management but still a lot need to be incorporated with the changing demands and needs of the community.

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