

WHAT IS EDUCATION?

Swami Vivekananda: "A child teaches itself. But you can help it to go forward in its own way. What you can do, is not of the positive nature, but of the negative. You can take away the obstacles, but knowledge comes out of its own nature. Loosen the soil a little, so that it may come out easily. Put a hedge round it; see that it is not killed by anything, and there your work stops. You cannot do anything else. The rest is manifestation from within its own nature.

No one can teach anybody. The teacher spoils everything by thinking that he is teaching. Thus Vedanta says that within man is all knowledge -- even in a boy it is so -- and it requires only an awakening, and that much is the work of a teacher.

No one was ever really taught by another; each of us has to teach himself. The external teacher offers only the suggestion which rouses the internal teacher to work to understand things.

Negative thoughts weaken men. Do you not find that where parents are constantly taxing their sons to read and write, telling them they will never learn anything, and calling them fools and so forth, the latter do actually turn out to be so in many cases? If you speak kind words to boys and encourage them, they are bound to improve in time.

If you can give them positive ideas, people will grow up to be men and learn to stand on their own legs.

In language and literature, in poetry and in arts, in everything we must point out not the mistakes that people are making in their thoughts and actions, but the way in which they will gradually be able to do these things better. Pointing out mistakes wounds a man's feelings.

Each work has to pass through these stages – ridicule, opposition, and then acceptance. Those who think ahead of their time are sure to be misunderstood."

Sri Aurobindo: "The first principle of teaching is that nothing can be taught"

Swami Ranganathananda: "Are you growing spiritually? Can you love others? Can you feel oneness with others? Have you peace within yourself? And do you radiate it around you? That is called spiritual growth, which is stimulated by meditation inwardly, and by work done in a spirit of service outwardly."

"I am not alone in the world. . .We belong to a world. . .The vast world is around us. We cannot do without it. We cannot become human without a human world around us. How much we owe to the world of other human beings around us!"

"Efficiency and energy comes from emotion, not from intellectual knowledge, which can only direct that emotional energy. But the real impulse comes from emotion. It makes you work at your best."

"So, work hard; perform all duties; develop yourself; then come and surrender to the highest. Do a whole day's honest work, then sit and meditate; then resign yourself to God. Otherwise, that meditation has no meaning or value. Meditation at the end of a lazy day has no meaning; but the same at the end of an active day, filled with good deeds, has meaning, and is rewarding."

"How can we find joy in work? By working for oneself? No; it is not possible to find that continuous joy in work through selfish motivations. Frustration and ennui are the end of all selfish motivations. Frustrations and nervous breakdowns are the end of a self-centred life. The first advice of modern psychiatry to such people is to get out of this prison of self-centredness, and to find a genuine interest in other people. Everyone has to learn the lesson some day that, the best way to be happy is to strive to make others happy. So wherever you find frustration, you will always discover that the person concerned had been too self-centred, and the only hope for him is through learning to take interest in other people, to find joy in the joy of other people. This is the royal path that makes for health, for strength, for efficiency. This great truth---universal and human---we should apply to the world and to our life in it."

The great new mantra today is "Work" and 'Hard Work'; along with Hard Work, intelligent work co-operative team work. All great undertakings are product of team work. We can meet the challenge of freedom only when we have learnt this character-efficiency involved in team work, and intelligent hard work. This is the philosophy which we have to learn consciously, not unconsciously, somehow stumbling into it.

Work from ego point of view is all tension. But behind ego, there is an infinite spiritual dimension. When that is realized even a little, then extra work won't make one feel that it is heavy. Even ordinary experiences will tell you: Whenever there is love in the heart, the worker doesn't feel heavy. When there is no love in the heart, even a little work makes one feel very heavy. As soon as you have love for a particular cause, you can do anything; do hard work, but have a spirit of detachment based on a larger love.

Work is no work at all. It is a question of agency and attachment. When these two are not there, work ceases to be work, it becomes a play, it becomes spontaneous, and it becomes natural. When you become thoroughly detached, then all that tension goes away. You are working, but you don't feel that you are working. What a beautiful idea!"

Work is drudgery; Sri Krishna will not allow that attitude. There is joy in work also. Do not abandon work; go on doing work; but, mentally renouncing all actions. It is a wonderful state of mind-working, and yet not working. Those who work; work with a zest and with joy and in work, learn calmness and the serenity of the human mind and heart; what a wonderful joy it is to work in such a way!

When science insists on studying things from the point of view of the objects themselves by eliminating the personal equation, it is in effect, emphasizing the *sakshi-bhava* or *sakshi* point of view (witness attitude); for, the limited and circumscribed vision of the ego gives place to the unlimited and universal vision of the *sakshi*, by the practice of scientific or intellectual detachment.

The endeavors and conclusions of the sense-bound intellect cannot be the last word in man's search for truth. An intellectual approach to truth will end only in agnosticism; and often in cynicism. But the whole being of man seeks to experience truth, to realize it. ... This rising above rationalism to direct experience and realization, this growth of man from the sensate to the super-sensual dimension, is the special message of Indian spiritual tradition.

Mysticism, studied seriously, challenges basic tenets of Western Cultures: a) the primacy of reason and intellect; b) the separate, individual nature of man; c) the linear organization of time. Great mystics, like our own great scientists, envision the world as being larger than those tenets, as transcending our traditional views.

WHO IS EDUCATED?

Socrates (470-399BC):

“EDUCATION is not the FILLING OF A VESSEL, but the lighting of a FLAME.”

“First, those who manage well the circumstances which they encounter day by day; and those who can judge situations appropriately as they arise and rarely miss the suitable course of action.

Next, those who are honorable in their dealings with all men, bearing easily what is unpleasant or offensive in others, and being reasonable with their associates as humanly as possible.

Furthermore, those who hold their pleasures always under control and are not unduly overcome by their misfortunes bearing up under them bravely and in a manner worthy of our common nature.

Most important of all, those who are not spoiled by their successes, who do not desert their true selves, but hold their ground steadfastly as wise and sober-minded men, rejoicing no more in the good things that have come to them through chance than in those which through their own nature and intelligence are theirs since birth.

Those who have a character which is in accord, not with one of these things, but with all of them, these are educated – possessed of all the virtues.”

Gandhiji:

“To educate a man intellectually and not morally is to create a menace for the society.”

Winston Churchill:

“The first duty of a university is to teach wisdom, not trade; character, not technicalities.”

John F. Kennedy:

“Our task now is not to fix the blame for the past, but to fix the course for the future.”

LIFE LONG LEARNING IS A KEY TO SUCCESS...

Parents to Children

Parents are the most responsible citizen on earth

- Love
- Care
- Faith
- Honesty
- Obedience
- Self-Esteem
- Leadership



Teachers to Students

- Discipline
- Character
- Integrity
- Persistence
- Patriotism



Professor to Youths

- Attitude
- Direction
- Determination
- Goal Setting
- Nation Building



Employer to Employees

- Trust
- Loyalty
- Devotion
- Dedication
- Team Work
- Work Culture



Guru/Mentor/Coach to Individuals and Organizations

- Humility
- Success
- Happiness
- Peace
- Prosperity
- Wisdom
- Excellence



TEACHER

A MEDITOCRE TEACHER TELLS,
A GOOD TEACHER EXPLAINS,
A SUPERIOR TEACHER
DEMONSTRATES AND
A GREAT TEACHER INSPIRES!

A TEACHER AFFECTS ETERNITY.
WE NEVER KNOW WHERE HIS
INFLUENCE STOPS.

THE BIGGEST QUESTION?

Why is it that so many human beings function below par in life; often for whole lifetimes or part thereof; being neither sick nor truly well; and why is it that so many people endure states of diminished wellbeing, unhappiness and underachieving their potential?

A Few More Relevant Questions!

- ❖ Does the present system of education prepare the students for the life?
- ❖ Does it teach them to know themselves?
- ❖ Does it teach them to serve nation?
- ❖ Does it teach them to be good human beings?
- ❖ Does it bring out the **UNIQUE ABILITY** of the students?

Thinking is the ULTIMATE HUMAN RESOURCE. Thinking is the most fundamental skill on which our happiness and success depend upon. Thinking is the software of the brain. In today's world it is not enough to be intelligent and articulate. Many highly intelligent and articulate people are poor thinkers. Yet today's world demands clear and constructive thinking, the ability to take decisions and to plan initiative.

It is our keen desire that the life skill mantras covering the above questions are adequately taught to the youths who will uphold future of the nations and the world.

The topics we emphasize are:

- How our thoughts work? How our minds work?**
- How to be a good human being?**
- How to create good relationship?**
- How to be a good parent? How to nurture a winning child?**
- How to handle finances?**
- Who am I? Why am I? What is my purpose in this life?**
- How to serve nation/humanity/world?**
- How money works? How to handle finances?**
- How to create & maintain self-esteem & self-worth?**
- What are the universal laws of life?**
- How to achieve success, happiness, peace and prosperity in all spheres of life?**

WHAT IS SUCCESS?

“To laugh often and to love much; to win the respect of intelligent persons and the affection of children; to earn the approbation of honest critics; to appreciate beauty; to give of one’s self, to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived – that is to have succeeded.”

“Be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind. Always talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet. Make all your close & known persons that you appreciate their good qualities and strengths. Look at the sunny sides of everything. Think only of the best, work only for the best, and expect only the best. Be as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own. Forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievement of the future. Give everyone a smile. Spend so much time improving yourself that you have no time left to criticize others. Be too big for worry and too noble for anger.”

WHAT IS EXCELLENCE?

Excellence is lot more than success.

Do more than exist,	LIVE
Do more than touch,	FEEL
Do more than look,	OBSERVE
Do more than read,	ABSORB
Do more than hear,	LISTEN
Do more than listen,	UNDERSTAND
Do more than work,	SERVE
Do more than serve,	LOVE

“If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day, but if you teach him how to fish, you help him feed for life.”

“When you give a man a dole, you deny him his dignity and when you deny him his dignity, you rob his destiny. He becomes averse to work and becomes a liability and at times threat to the country. Sooner or later you and I, as well as those who receive them, will pay heavy price with interest.”

“In this world always take the position of the giver. Give love, give help, give service, give any little thing you can, but keep out of barter.”

THERE ARE NO BIG THINGS

Life consists of small things. A single act may be very insignificant either as bad or as good, but that small act builds our future. A single flower is not the garland, but there will be no garland if there are no single flowers to put together.

Do not belittle your small failures (FORCE OF FEAR), do not belittle your small good acts (FORCE OF LOVE). Each and every act is significant: if it is bad, you are going to suffer; if it is good, you are going to prosper. Each and every good step taken for your Health, Happiness (relationship), Prosperity (work) and Peace will be returned as Success and Blissfulness (JOY). Similarly, each and every bad step taken for your Health, Happiness, Prosperity and Peace will be returned as Failures and Restlessness (STRESS).

Wise men say: there is no direct proof of God, but when you are overflowed with joy, when you can dance with joy, in that state of mind a deep feeling of GRATITUDE arises on its own, a sincere thankfulness is born within, in that state you are not only reborn, God is also born in you.

Remember, life consists of small things, and you have to transform each small thing through your Awareness, Watchfulness, and Alertness into a beautiful act. Then ordinary things can become extraordinary. A single smile may not look very significant, but a single smile is a part of a long process of Happiness.

A Zen monk was asked, **“What did you do before you became enlightened?”**

He said, **“I used to chop wood and carry water from the well.”**

And then he was asked, **“What do you do now you have become enlightened?”**

He said, **“I chop wood and carry water from the well.”**

The questioner was puzzled. He said, **“There seems to be no difference then.”**

The Master said, **“The difference is in me.** The difference is not in the act, the difference is in me--- but because I have changed, all my acts have changed. Their significance has changed. The prose has become poetry, the stones have become sermons, and matter has completely disappeared. Now there is only one state, BLISSFULNESS, we call it God, nothing else. Life is now Liberation to me, it is Nirvana.

COMPASSION has become the main stay of life, life is full of compassion, i.e., respect, acceptance, being at present, duty, forgiveness, gratitude, give, serve, love, awareness, consciousness and oneness with all; at all levels; physical, mental and spiritual ... life is so beautiful!

A total absence of STRESS, i.e., irritation, anger, quarrel, fight, war, revenge, criticism, complaint, comparison, competition, envy, hatred, jealousy, depression, anxiety, EGO, pain, guilt, reaction, retaliation, possession, needs, desires; at all levels; physical, mental and spiritual ... life is so beautiful!

THERE ARE NO BIG THINGS.

SMALL THINGS, GOOD OR BAD, WHEN ACCUMULATED BECOME BIG THINGS.”