



## **Swami Vivekananda's Child Education Scheme**

**By**

**Dr. Meeraba Vasan**

Swami Vivekananda has described the process of education as the process of self-education. He says about child education that children are like small flowers, just as we can do little to help a child grow, Zazi cannot help teach a child. Just as a plant grows naturally, so does a child's educational development. The child teaches himself. We can do something to help it, directly or indirectly. Just as plants grow from seed by arranging the soil, water and air they need for the growing seed, providing a conducive role and environment for the child automatically enhances the child's educational development. They say:

‘A child educates itself. The teacher spoils everything by thinking that he is teaching. Within man is all knowledge, and it requires only an awakening, and that much is the work of the teacher. We have only to do so much for the boys that they may learn to apply their own intellect to the proper use of their hardships, legs, ears and eyes.’

They believe that children develop freely. A donkey's horse cannot be made by forcing them. Ways to kill students and correct them are wrong. They also say that we should give them emotional suggestions to correct the children. Giving negative thoughts makes them vulnerable. We should not tell children negatively, "You are stupid and will never move forward." Doing so leads to frustration. Instead, suggest to him, "You are a good student and will go a long way in working hard." If we don't let those students become lions, they are going to become foxes. ‘If you don't allow one to become a lion, one will become a fox.’

They say we can make children truly self-reliant by giving them the right thoughts through creative suggestions with love and encouragement. Children should



be taught according to their temperament, values and attitudes without being confined to a specific curriculum. They say: 'The teaching must be modified according to the needs of the taught. Past lives have moulded our tendencies, and so give to the pupil according to his tendencies. Take every one where he stands and push him forward. '

They say that a child should assimilate education. The accumulation of information is not that education. Reading the library does not make a man well educated. Gokhanvidya is not Vidya at all. We need education to build the character of the child, increase the power of the mind, develop its intelligence and make it self-reliant. The purpose of education is to make human beings real human beings.

#### **Findings:**

- They are aware enough about the education of children.
- They believe that child education is an activity of self-education, a process of self-growth. In it, the teacher has to provide the necessary role and climate for the natural development of the child.
- They believe in the free development of children. Forced or 'negative' reprimands to children stunt their development. Therefore, it is believed to have developed instinctively. Not only that, he insists that education should be changed according to the needs, culture and attitudes of the children. They value intellectual education rather than gokhanpatti.
- His thoughts are modern as well as scientific child psychological thoughts according to Western research.