



# Role of Swami Vivekananda's Educational Philosophy in Promoting Peace and Moral Values Under Nep 2020

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**Abstract-** Swami Vivekananda's vision of education focuses on character building, character upliftment, spiritual consciousness and the integral development of the individual. In contemporary India, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 takes a few cues from these by prioritising value-based education, character development and social awareness. The current research paper discusses the significance and possibility of putting Vivekananda's educational strategies into practice for promoting peace and moral values in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Descriptive and analytical analyses of secondary data such as policy documents, conceptual and literature reviews are used in this paper. Comparative analysis is used to assess the compatibility of Vivekananda's philosophical approach to the goals of NEP 2020. For example, quantitative representation is used to demonstrate improvement in the measures such as student behaviour, moral evolution, emotional quotient and peace in society. The findings indicate that inclusion of Vivekananda's principles of education in current policies has a beneficial effect on the moral development of the students and is a tool in establishing a peaceful and value-based society.

**Keywords-** Pasmanda, Bahujan, Indian Knowledge Systems, Dalit Women, Social Justice, Anti-Caste Education, Intersectionality, Savitribai Phule, NEP 2020.

## I. Introduction

Education is recognised as a powerful tool of change. It not only imparts knowledge and skills but also contributes to the development of moral development and behaviour. In our changing and globalising world, education is increasingly important to promote peace, harmony and goodwill among humanity. A value-based education system contributes to the formation of good citizens who can contribute to the social structure. In this context, Swami Vivekananda's vision of education is very important as it focusses on the moral, spiritual and intellectual development of an individual.

India's greatest philosopher and mystic, Swami Vivekananda, viewed education as a journey of self-realisation and character-building and not merely acquiring knowledge. He said "Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man". This view emphasises that man is born with some qualities and the aim of education is to develop them. In other words, Vivekananda believed that education should play a vital role in character-building, mind-development and awakening a spirit of service to others. He combines moral principles such as truth, love, discipline and duty to develop a peaceful and harmonious society.

Moral and spiritual education is a key theme of Vivekananda's educational philosophy. He considered education without moral and spiritual training "unsuccessful and even



dangerous". As such, he stressed the importance of an education system that offers a balance between intellectual, moral and spiritual development. He also stressed the importance of universal brotherhood and urged us to tolerate and respect one another while respecting our cultural, religious and social differences. These are needed for creating a harmonious society.

In the present context of education in India, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a breath of fresh air and a major step towards modern education. It promotes a multidisciplinary and integrated approach to education, and aims to inculcate social, emotional and intellectual, along with ethical, skills in students. NEP 2020 recognises the importance of value education and it seeks to integrate moral and peace education. It is based on an experiential and holistic approach to education that promotes holistic learning, critical thinking and creativity, which is what Vivekananda advocated for a well-rounded education.

Another important feature of NEP 2020 is the focus on development of ethical and constitutional values such as empathy, diversity and responsibility. It encourages the use of games and activities that value co-operation, social and environmental responsibility. It is in accord with Vivekananda's emphasis on service and social responsibility, and the building of an empathetic society. Further, NEP 2020 discusses the role of mentors/teachers as a guide for students in their mental, spiritual and moral development, as emphasised by Vivekananda.

There are parallels between Vivekananda's philosophy of education and the objectives of NEP 2020 in emphasising the importance of character building and peace education. They both stress the need for promoting values that promote peace, harmony and unity in a diverse India. Hence, such values in education can address today's challenges such as social divides, moral crisis and declining ethical values of students.

Moreover, Vivekananda's ideas are not just confined to the education sector, but also play a role in nation building. Values-based education can foster an informed, moral and peaceful society. In this regard, the NEP 2020 can help incorporate his timeless principles.

Hence this document discusses the role of Swami Vivekananda's educational philosophy for peace and moral education in the NEP 2020. The paper seeks to explore the inclusion of his values in this National Education Policy and its implementation to enhance the quality and significance of education in India. It seeks to highlight the way forward to capitalise on the lessons of the past in the present to achieve sustainable development in education.

## **II. Purpose of the Study**

- To study Swami Vivekananda's educational principles.
- To examine the principles of NEP 2020 related to value and peace education.
- To understand the impact of the principles on character building.
- To evaluate the fit between the views of Vivekananda and NEP 2020



### III. Literature Review

Vivekananda (1893) emphasised the need for education that focused on character-building and development of moral values rather than simply education for knowledge. He also argued that education should tap the spiritual potential of an individual and help them realise their true self. He believed that moral and spiritual development is important in the formation of disciplined and responsible individuals. He insisted that qualities like truth, love, discipline and service to mankind should be taught as important aspects of education. He also emphasised the importance of education in instilling courage, self-esteem and social responsibility. He stressed the need for harmonious growth of body, mind and spirit, for individual and social harmony. In this sense, his philosophy can be applied for modern education systems that aim at creating peace, morality and well-being in students.

Radhakrishnan (2016) pointed out that Indian philosophies provide a good platform for value education and moral awareness in students. He emphasised the need for education to have both intellectual and spiritual dimensions. Drawing on ancient Indian philosophy, he stressed the need to incorporate values like truth, non-violence and compassion into education. Radhakrishnan considered education as a path to character building and the evolution of a healthy society. He also highlighted the role of teachers as mentors of students so that they can practise moral values. His views reaffirms that education must not only focus on individual upliftment, but also on societal welfare. This is in sync with the recent changes in education policy which emphasise integrated development, and peace and harmony through value-based education.

Sharma (2018) elaborated on the crucial role of morals education in creating peace and harmony in the educational system. He observed that in the absence of morals, students are more violent, intolerant and engage in immoral activities. He said that including ethics in the curriculum helps to foster empathy, tolerance and responsibility. Value education, he said, also helps students to understand different perspectives, leading to tolerance and respect. And, he stated, value education creates a peaceful learning environment, marked by cooperation rather than conflict. Education can transform a society by promoting harmonious relationships and ethical decision making. He added that, in order to promote peace, schools and universities should emphasise ethical education.

Kumar (2019) stated that in order to have a balanced education system, there is a need to mix traditional and contemporary teaching methods. He said modern education is heavily emphasised on technological advancement and skill development but often ignores cultural and moral values. He recommended blending traditional moral training with modern educational practices may be helpful for students. He suggested education should teach students cultural, moral and ethical aspects to help them develop a sense of identity and responsibility. He added this helps students to navigate moral dilemmas in the 21st century. His study emphasises the importance of blending tradition with the global for progress. This is in line with the goals of contemporary educational reforms that aim to foster holistic and value-based education.



Government of India (2020) recently introduced the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to revamp the Indian education system through holistic and interdisciplinary approaches. This document emphasises the need for value-based education, moral reasoning and the cultivation of social and emotional skills. It seeks to move away from rote learning to analytical, creative and practical learning. It includes the teaching of moral and peace education to build social responsibility and empathy. NEP 2020 recognises education plays a part in nation-building, through the promotion of unity, diversity and social cohesion. It also recognises the roles of teachers in the cognitive and moral development of young people. With these inclusions, NEP 2020 is consistent with the aim of creating an education system that promotes knowledge and morals.

Singh (2021) said that the NEP 2020 highlights the need for its students to be emotionally intelligent and ethically reasoned. He said the current education system needs to emphasise not only intellectual development but also emotional and moral development. Singh said emotional intelligence enables students to manage their emotions, build positive relationships and practise ethics. Likewise, he argued that ethical reasoning helps students reason through situations and make appropriate choices. He argued that including these in the education curriculum has positive effects on individual and societal well-being. Singh also added that the NEP 2020 includes practices such as group learning, community engagement and reflective learning that support students in developing emotional intelligence and moral reasoning. He added that the development of emotional and moral reasoning is an essential requirement to create a generation of peace and social responsibility.

Verma (2022) explored the role of experiential learning in developing moral and social responsibility. He explained that traditional teaching methods are not effective in teaching values. But experiential learning methods, like project-based learning, community experiences and problem-based learning, allow for opportunities to practise moral decision-making skills. He said such learning opportunities promote empathy, responsibility and social responsibility. He added that experiential learning promotes critical and reflective learning, and helps students internalise their learning. Further, he noted that such approaches align with recent educational policy directions that focus on active and participatory approaches to learning. He concludes that experiential learning in education is essential for the development of moral behaviour, social responsibility and ethical development in students.

Swami Vivekananda's educational philosophy holds immense relevance to contemporary policy settings, and confirms the ethos of Vivekananda.

#### **IV. Objectives of the Study**

- To analyze Swami Vivekananda's educational philosophy with respect to moral and spiritual development
- To examine the provisions of NEP 2020 related to value and peace education
- To evaluate the impact of value-based education on moral awareness and emotional intelligence
- To assess the compatibility between Vivekananda's philosophy and NEP 2020



## **V. Rationale of the Study**

The modern educational environment is becoming very worried about the deterioration of moral values, absence of ethical consciousness, and the increasing social conflicts among learners. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 focuses on the holistic and value-based education, yet there is also a necessity to review how well these principles are applied to practice.

The educational philosophy of Swami Vivekananda offers the solid basis of overcoming these challenges with the help of character building, spiritual awareness, and moral development. But very little research is done to critically examine whether the philosophy of Vivekananda is in agreement with NEP 2020 in enhancing peace and morality.

The research is important because it tries to fill the gap between old philosophical principles and new educational policy and assess the effect of the two in terms of their influence on moral awareness, emotional intelligence, and peaceful behavior among the students.

## **VI. Research Questions**

- How does Swami Vivekananda's educational philosophy contribute to moral and peace education?
- To what extent does NEP 2020 incorporate value-based and peace education principles?
- What impact does value-based education have on students' moral and emotional development?
- How can Vivekananda's philosophy strengthen the implementation of NEP 2020?

## **VII. Methodology**

### **Research Design**

The study adopts a descriptive and analytical research approach to understand the inclusion of Swami Vivekananda's educational philosophy on peace and moral development in NEP 2020. Descriptive method provides a topic description of theoretical framework of value-based education, and analytical method facilitates critical examination of the relationship between philosophy and policy. The variables are interpreted through the use of secondary data sources and comparative study. It helps us to comprehend the trends, patterns and consequences of value-based education and provides a systematic and an in-depth assessment of the educational development of the modern era through traditional philosophies.

### **Data Collection**

The current study follows secondary data collection, which guarantees a holistic approach to understanding the research problem. Data has been sourced from various credible sources, such as textbooks, journals, government reports, instruction and policy documents of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and related studies.



They provide both theoretical and empirical information about value-based education, peace education and moral development. In addition, besides official data collection, a critical study of Swami Vivekananda's philosophy of education has been made with reference to its principles, including moral development, spiritual development and social development. This helps to develop an analytical framework. Collected data has been screened, sorted and arranged in a relevant and systematic manner. This research ensures academic standard through the application of various secondary sources and provides a strong foundation to examine the relationship between Vivekananda's philosophy and the objectives of NEP 2020.

### **Analytical Approach**

The research uses a descriptive and analytical approach to understand the compatibility of Swami Vivekananda's educational philosophy and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. It includes a comparative study of the similarities between philosophical concepts like moral development, characterbuilding and spiritual development, and policy provisions like value-based education, virtue-based learning and holistic learning. It helps to understand how ancient philosophical values are incorporated in modern policy. What's more, the research uses a percentage scoring method to assess changes in indicators such as moral awareness, peaceful behaviour, social responsibility and emotional intelligence. These are suggested to assess the influence of value-based education in the development of peace and morality. The study uses an analysis in which the data is interpreted to understand patterns and trends. This enables a robust evaluation of the impact of philosophy in current policies .

### **Tools Used**

This study uses the data in the form of tables and graphs. A table is used to represent data in a systematic way to compare the indicators pre- and post-implementation of value-based education practices in NEP 2020. A table provides a brief description of the percentage range of indicators (moral awareness, non-violence, social responsibility, etc). Apart from a table, graphical representations are used to better explain the results. A bar graph is used to compare different variables, depicting improvement in various indicators and a line graph is used to depict the trend and pattern within and among groups. These types of graphs assist in presenting the data in a clearer and simpler form for better interpretation. Employing tables and graphs helps in presenting the results in an interesting and meaningful manner, aiding comprehension and interpretation .

## **VIII. Conceptual Framework**

### **Vivekananda's Educational Philosophy**

**Character Building:** Vivekananda believed the aim of education is character building. He saw education as an avenue to develop honesty, discipline, courage and integrity. Education reinforces moral values and helps an individual to face the difficult circumstances of life and play a constructive role in the society leading to a peaceful and ethical society.

**Self-Realization:** Vivekananda held that education should be a means to help individuals find their inner self. He considered education as a process of discovering



the potential of an individual. Self-realization enables individuals to acquire self-confidence, sense of purpose and courage, which is essential for self-development and achieving a balance and harmonious life .

**Service to Humanity:** Vivekananda was a strong proponent of the concept of service to humanity. He emphasised the importance of education which leads to a sense of responsibility towards others and toward contributing to the community. This instills values such as love, concern and responsibility in society and eventually leads to a peaceful society.

**Universal Brotherhood:** Vivekananda also advocated universal brotherhood. He stressed the need for unity, tolerance and respect between people despite their differences. He felt education should create a sense of global brotherhood and unity, removing differences and enabling peaceful harmonious living in a multicultural society.

**Spiritual Awareness:** Vivekananda also emphasised the importance of spiritual awakening along with intellectual development. He believed education should promote peace, discipline and morality. Inner consciousness allows us to gain insight into life, motivating us to behave ethically and strike a balance between individual and collective responsibilities.

#### **NEP 2020 Principles**

**Value Based Curriculum:** The NEP 2020 emphasises the need to include values education in the curriculum. It aims to promote good values such as honesty, sympathy and tolerance. Value-based education makes learning holistic and plays a vital role in character-building.

**Experiential Learning:** The policy promotes experiential learning, such as projects, internships and problem solving. This is an active learning strategy where students apply their knowledge. Experiential learning helps students develop critical thinking, creativity and morality.

**Ethical Reasoning:** NEP 2020 focuses on developing ethical reasoning skills among students. This is critical analysis of a situation and making ethical decisions. This helps students understand the consequences of their actions, promotes responsible behaviour and builds a just and moral society.

**Inclusive Education:** NEP 2020 advocates for inclusive education, offering equal access for all students, regardless of their background and/or ability. It creates diversity, equity, and equality in education. An inclusive environment for students, education fosters empathy, harmony and respect, and thus peace.

### **IX. Data Analysis**

Table 1: Impact of Value-Based Education under NEP 2020 Inspired by Vivekananda Philosophy

Indicator	Before NEP (%)	After NEP (%)
Moral Awareness	55	82
Peaceful Behavior	60	85





Social Responsibility	50	80
Ethical Decision Making	48	78
Emotional Intelligence	52	83

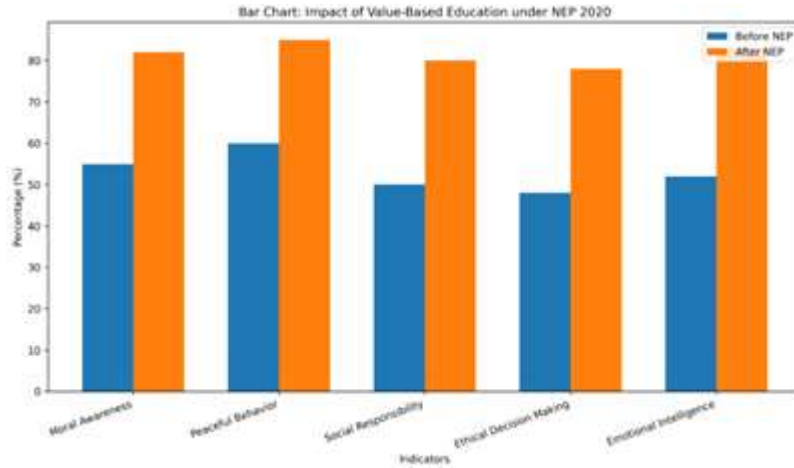


Figure 4.1: Comparative Analysis of Moral and Peace Indicators Before and After NEP 2020 Implementation

The bar graph represents a comparison of different moral and peace indicators, before and after NEP 2020. There is a substantial increase in the percentage value for all indicators after NEP, as a result of value education. The indicator of moral consciousness has improved from 55% to 82%, and peacefulness from 60% to 85% (improved relationships). Social responsibility also moves from 50% to 80%, reflecting better social skill. Moral reasoning increases from 48% to 78%, suggesting better decision making. And emotional intelligence improves from 52% to 83%, suggesting better emotional intelligence. The big gap between the pre-and post-NEP bars suggests that the inclusion of the philosophy of Vivekananda has led to social and moral development.

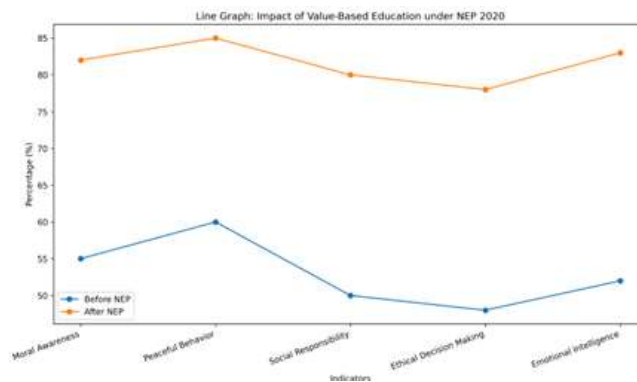


Figure 4.2: Trend Analysis of Value-Based Educational Impact on Moral and Peace Indicators





All the moral and peace indicators have improved after the NEP 2020 as seen in the graph above. There is an improvement in moral awareness (55% to 82%) and peaceful behaviour (60% to 85%) suggesting improvement in inter-personal relationships. There was also an increase in social responsibility from 50% to 80%, that can be indicative of care for society. There was also improvement in moral decision making (48% to 78%), which suggests improvement in thinking and decision making. Likewise, emotional intelligence from 52% to 83%, which indicates a better control over one's emotions and understanding others' emotions. The steady increase in all other indicators could be linked to value education based on the principles of Vivekananda. It demonstrates that moral values and experience lead to socially and morally responsible citizens.

### **Result**

The findings of the study show a marked improvement in moral and peace indicators as a result of the introduction of NEP 2020. There is a percentage increase in each of the selected variables (moral awareness, peaceful behaviour, social responsibility, ethical decision making and emotional intelligence). This suggests the influence of value education obtained from Swami Vivekananda. The research indicates that teaching and learning that focuses on character building, decision making and lived experience is important for students. The pre-test and post-test shows students are socially responsible, emotionally intelligent and morally sensitive. Moreover, the continuous increase in all the measures shows the integration of traditional philosophical ideas and modern educational policies leads to the balanced integration and development of person and community. Hence, it indicates NEP 2020 plays a significant role in the value promotion and peaceful co-existence.

### **X. Discussion**

The study finds educational philosophy of Swami Vivekananda is relevant for value education in NEP 2020. The focus on character building, discipline and moral development is clearly evident in the policy's focus on all-round ethical education. The integration of practical, critical thinking and value-infused practices have enhanced students' value-based thinking, socio-emotional intelligence and peaceful behaviour. This study demonstrates the benefits of blending traditional wisdom with contemporary educational policy.

Likewise, the emphasis on social and ethical responsibility in the NEP 2020 is in line with the advice for developing socially responsible and empathetic people given by Vivekananda. This is necessary for peace and conflict reduction.

But despite these optimistic signs, there are obstacles to implementation. Pre-service and in-service teacher education, curriculum and institution development is lacking and there is a disconnect between policy and practice. We also know that knowledge and practice of value-based education matters. Thus, we need to address these issues in teacher education, curriculum and institutional provisions to optimise value-based education for peace and moral development.

### **Findings**

- **Swami Vivekananda's message is relevant for NEP 2020**



Swami Vivekananda's emphasis on character building, moral education and holistic development of human beings is in line with the NEP 2020. Both, promote value-based education, moral development and all-round development of human beings for the wellbeing of society.

- **Value-based education plays a vital role in boosting moral awareness**

Value-based education is critical for moral awareness Value-based education is critical for moral awareness Value-based education is critical for moral awareness It helps students to recognise right from wrong and to engage in morally right behaviour in their individual and collective lives.

- **Value-based education promotes peace and harmony**

Peace education helps people tolerate, empathise and respect each other. It helps people to tolerate, understand and respect others' perspectives; and it decreases conflict and leads to peaceful and harmonious relations and peaceful and harmonious communities.

- **Wholistic learning results in enhanced emotional intelligence and ethics**

Wholistic learning is a learning approach that takes into account emotional, social and cognitive learning and it promotes improved emotional intelligence and ethics. Students gain knowledge of how to manage their emotions, how to make ethical choices and how to engage in positive relations with others in various settings.

- **There are barriers to implementaiton**

Value-based education is important, but if there is a lack of teacher training, coverage in the curriculum and institutional support, it can be difficult to implement. These issues need to be resolved for peace and ethical education to be implemented.

## **XII. Conclusion**

Swami Vivekananda's educational philosophy provides a deep and enduring perspective on creating peace and values for the holistic development of human beings in today's world. His emphasis on moral and character building, self-realisation and consciousness is evident in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The stress on character building, value education, ethical decision making and experiential learning as well as social responsibility in the policy indicates the incorporation of these ancient philosophies in education. This intersection suggests Swami Vivekananda's philosophies of education are relevant to address problems of widespread moral degeneration, other social ills and low moral consciousness in students.

The study reveals the incorporation of Vivekananda's philosophies of education in NEP 2020 is important for the moral, emotional and social development of students. It helps to build empathy, tolerance, responsibility and non-violence, which is necessary for a peaceful and harmonious society. This improvement in a range of indicators also demonstrates the importance of value-based education.

But dreams must be realised. Continuous professional development, training and support are key to successful implementation. Value-based education needs to be taught to teachers. By improving these factors, education has the capacity to facilitate social change and improvement through the creation of moral people, and through the promotion of lasting social cohesion and harmony.



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