

Education and Swami Vivekananda : A Critical Appraisal

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A spiritual genius of commanding intellect Swami Vivekananda was an inspiring figure both in India and abroad during the last decade of 19th century. He was barely of 30 years old when he created a stir at the world's parliament of religions in Chicago in 1898. He introduced Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western World. When he returned India he was as a great figure of strength, courage, confidence and love. He was a devoted disciple of Sri Ramakrishna, the saint of Dakshineswar. He founded the Ramakrishna Math and the Ramakrishna Mission. He was not happy with the social, economic and cultural conditions of contemporary society. When he arrived in south India in 1897 he indicated that he had a plan in mind to uplift the masses. he wrote in a letter; "My whole ambition in life is to set in motion a machinery which will bring noble ideas to the door of everybody, and then let men and women settle their own fate."

Vivekananda was a well educated man of Presidency College Calcutta. He was an avid reader in a wide range of subjects, including philosophy, religion, history, social science, fine arts and literature. He had a great interest in Hindu scriptures, Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita and purans. He was trained in Indian classical music. He passed the Fine Arts examination, and completed a Bachelor of Arts degree. He studied Western logic, philosophy and