

# Educational Thoughts of Swami Vivekananda and its Futuristic Relevance – A Study

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## Educational Thoughts of Swami Vivekananda and its Futuristic Relevance – A Study

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### ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** *To review the Indian education system in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to find lacunas and to develop a holistic approach to disseminate knowledge and impart skills as proposed by Swami Vivekananda in his educational philosophy of man-making in the light of character-building ideologies.*

**Research Design:** *Descriptive and Analytical research design is used for the study through SWOC analysis by using secondary data including research articles published in international journals and books which are available for search in the google scholar database.*

**Result/Outcome/findings of the Study:** *The study identifies the gap in modern education which is a hurdle for the holistic development of youth. The study emphasizes man-making by developing Values, Character, and Manifestation of the inner self. The outcome recommends the holistic approach by connecting the gist of the educational ideology of Swami Vivekananda and the crux of the New Education Policy 2020.*

**Originality/Value:** *The paper reviews the educational ideologies proposed by Swami Vivekananda are connected to the crux of NEP-2020 with the SWOC analysis framework. The value of the philosophical thoughts of Swami Vivekananda matches with the NEP-2020 policy document to a greater extent. An earnest attempt has been done with the basis of relevant sources to suit the educational philosophy of Swami Vivekananda to the NEP-2020 policy.*

**Paper type:** *Descriptive/Analytical Study*

**Keywords:** Swami Vivekananda, Educational Ideology, Holistic Education, Man-making Education, Character Building, SWOC analysis.

### 1. INTRODUCTION :

'Education' is a tool for empowering Society. From times immemorial, education is assumed to be a repository of knowledge which shapes human life by fine-tuning human diligence and character [1]. India has witnessed ancient education in the 'gurukula' system with a very divine relationship between 'guru' and 'shishya'. Especially after the implementation of Lord Macaulay's report of 1835, the Nation adopted Western education [2]. As time passed 'Guru-Shishya' tradition gradually disappeared and the craving for Western education got familiarized. At this juncture, Nation has witnessed the vibrancy of thoughts and philosophies preached and propagated by Swami Vivekananda. His paramount thoughts on holistic education with man-making education are considered to be the foundation for building a new India with a strong mindset and far beyond the credibility of Western education [3].

### 2. RELATED WORK :

2.1. Related work on the Significance of Educating the Youth based on the published literature between 2012-2022 (Google Scholar, published between 2012-2022, keywords used are education, skills, literacy, holistic development).

**Table 1:** Related published work

S. No.	Focus/Area	Contribution	References
1.	Life Skills Education	Life skills education cherishes social, emotional and thinking skills and helps youngsters to achieve their goals.	Prajapati et al., (2017). [4]
2.	Financial Literacy of working young in Urban India	The financial literacy of working young in urban India is unexceptional in comparison to other countries.	Agarwalla et al., (2013). [5]
3.	Importance of educating for empowering women especially	Holistic education is a desired need for the empowerment of women.	Singh, (2016). [6]
4.	Entrepreneurship education	There is a need for urgent policy intervention in India on entrepreneurship.	Gautam et al., (2015). [7]
5.	Educational need for growth	Qualitative education and proper training are the need of the hour with qualitative educational institutions imbibing modern digital technology.	Sreenivasulu, (2013). [8]
6.	Financial literacy	Provisions and initiatives to improve financial literacy among young adults are essential for Kerala's educated youths.	Kiliyanni, et al., 2016). [9]
7.	Dalit Women's Education	There is a need for quality education for Dalit women which will facilitate their dignified life.	Paik, (2014). [10]
8.	Implementation of inclusive education	There is a need for the social inclusion of young people, especially those with special needs to attend school with equal access.	Bhatnagar, et al., (2014). [11]
9.	Smartphone Usage, addiction, academic performance and moderating Gender role higher education.	Female students spend more time with smartphones than their counterparts.	Nayak, (2018). [12]
10.	Youth Unemployment and vocational training	There is a need for the promotion of Vocational education and training depending on the labour market by focusing on national and local needs.	Biavaschi et al., (2012). [13]

2.2. Related work on the Educational philosophy of Swami Vivekananda with published literature (Google Scholar, published between 2012-2022, keywords used are educational philosophy of Swami Vivekananda, holistic education)

**Table 2:** Related published work

S. No.	Focus/Area	Contribution	References
1.	Vivekananda's views on the philosophy of education	Education facilitates the progress of humanity fostering a strong nation.	Nithiya, (2012). [14]
2.	Relevance of the educational philosophy of Swami Vivekananda in the present educational scenario	The educational philosophies of Swami Vivekananda are much relevant to the present educational scenario.	Gohain, J. et al., (2022). [15]
3.	The mission of man-making education	Man-making and character-building education is the basis to build a strong nation.	Radha, (2019). [16]
4.	Vedanta and Swami Vivekananda	Understanding Vedanta helps to develop sustainable life strategies.	Saha, et al., (2021). [17]
5.	Swami Vivekananda's concept of nation and education.	Education is the backbone of the development of a nation.	Raul, (2013). [18]
6.	Comparative views of Swami Vivekananda and Rishi Aravinda on education.	Education shall establish a true foundation for Society.	Gupta, (2017). [19]
7.	Evaluation of the educational philosophy of Vivekananda	There is a lucid mixture of ideologies of East & west, religion & science and past & present in the education	Bhat, (2021). [20]
8.	Swami Vivekananda's Life and Teachings	Real education or True education empowers people to be independent without reliance on others.	Garg, (2018). [21]
9.	Swami Vivekananda's Life and Philosophy	True education of the inner self is the best remedy for present social and global problems.	Talukdar, (2020). [22]
10.	The philosophical thoughts	The philosophical thoughts of Swami Vivekananda are relevant to the present standards and meaningful even for the future.	Sarkar, (2015). [23]

2.3. Related work on the problems of present education with published literature (Google Scholar, published between 2012-2022, keywords used are educational philosophy of Swami Vivekananda, holistic education)

Table 3: Related published work

S. No.	Focus/Area	Contribution	References
1.	Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on education	Open & Distance Learning (ODL) and modern ICT can be used during a crisis and its adoption in a normal course is also beneficial to students.	Jena, (2020). [24]
2.	Online education in India	Students preferred using smartphones to attend Online classes that were convenient to educational institutions, but the students faced technical issues.	Muthuprasad et al., (2021). [25]
3.	Academic Stress and coping strategies	Learning creative Online courses esp., especially technical skills, will help them with their academic stress during Covid-19.	Chandra, (2020). [26]
4.	Online learning:- A panacea in the time of covid-19 crisis	Adoption of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to provide Online classes. Innovations with changes must be inculcated among the teachers and a high-level National Disaster Preparedness Plan shall be framed.	Dhawan, (2020). [27]
5.	Online learning during Covid-19	There is a need to enhance the quality of the teaching-learning process with digital technology to conduct practical classes. There is a need to upgrade the curriculum based on the need and time of online platforms.	Nambiar, (2020). [28]
6.	Mobile learning	Mobile learning has great benefits due to its flexibility and approach but must be utilised quickly.	Mehdipour, et., (2013). [29]
7.	Information and Communication Technology(ICT) in higher education for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	ICTs will challenge the relationship between teachers and students by becoming a change agent.	Sarkar, (2012). [30]
8.	Effective use of ICT for education	ICT enhances the learning environment because of its flexibility with intensified usage in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century.	Noor-Ul-Amin, (2013). [31]
9.	Modern technology in education	Modern technology has both positive and negative impacts which need to be tackled accordingly.	Raja et al. (2018). [32]

10.	The blended learning process in the education	Blended learning is flexible enough to provide new learning experiences for both teachers and students.	Khan et al., (2012). [33]
11.	Teacher education in India	There is a dire need for a qualitative teaching-learning environment with suitable apparatus and modes of learning.	Desai, (2012). [34]
12.	Higher education in India.	In the age of globalisation, innovative strategies with quality is a must to meet the changing scenario in India.	Saravanakumar, (2014). [35]
13.	Emotional intelligence among students	Training programmes must be implemented in educational institutions for teachers and students to cope with present challenges.	Kumar, (2020). [36]
14.	Commercialization in management education	The reformation of quality in management education is a must to meet the needs of the present trends in management education because this education plays a major role in our corporate sector.	Oza et al., (2012). [37]
15.	The colonisation of the education sector in India after the Independence	Need to improve the quality of the present elementary education system by not forgetting the traditional educational institutions of India.	Joshi et al., (2017). [38]

2.4. Avenues to apply philosophical thoughts of Swami Vivekananda to solve present days' problems in education with published (Google Scholar, published between 2012-2022, keywords problems in education, holistic education, educational solutions by Swami Vivekananda, man making education)

**Table 4:** Related published work

S. No	Focus of Study	Contribution	References
1.	Retrospective Study of Materialistic and Spiritual Discourse	A blend of materialistic and spiritual education is the need of the present and only materialistic education is worthless and cannot contribute in Nation building.	Sarif et al., (2019). [39]
2.	Man-making education against the British education system made man a slave of their desire.	Subjective aspects of life such as Morality, Spirituality, Equality, Vernacular language, Science and Technology, Values, etc. cannot be materialised.	Jana et al., (2021). [40]

3.	Man-making education is not effectively understood by policymakers.	Man-making education with true Character will lead to a democratic Society with Harmony.	Kumar, (2021). [41]
4.	Significance of educating women to uplift and upgrade their position in society.	Indian women have achieved a new height in their status by entering varied fields and professions.	Maity, (2016). [42]
5.	Important aspects of education.	There are several educational needs of independent India.	Das, (2020). [43]
6.	Investigating Swami Vivekananda's perspectives on teaching and the present scheme of education.	In due course of time due to commercialisation of education has reached its peak. The government has taken multiple initiatives to strengthen the educational foundation through schemes of Pade Bharat, Bade Bharat, etc.	Gohain et al., (2022). [44]
7.	Swami Vivekananda's concept of education	To motivate keen learners without any discrimination between males and females in pursuing education.	Bandhu, (2018). [45]
8.	The religious Perspective of Swami Vivekananda is open-minded and a gateway towards true education.	Unity in diversity is possible through a proper understanding of religion which is a part of true education.	Singh, (2017). [46]
9.	The curriculum aims to achieve democratic ways of living in today's world.	There is a need to inculcate Moral and Spiritual Values to revive humanity since present education does not much aim at social and individual development.	Bhardwaj, (2021). [47]
10.	Analyse human and material resources in education.	Education is a commodity which Society buys. The effectiveness of educational management is possible only by adopting the philosophies of man-making, and character-building is relevant even today.	Manna et al., (2018). [48]
11.	Real education promotes true character which in turn fosters a strong nation. The importance of teachers in shaping the personality of the students in the present education system.	To learn from man-making education to build a strong nation based on the shoulders of the youth. The youth needs to inculcate good qualities with a focus on real education; behind all these, the teachers will play a significant role.	Behera, (2018). [49]
12.	Values are significant in our age to face problems and challenges in the right spirit.	Values are a necessity to lead a brighter life since in the modern age values are considered a trend only. To tackle this mentality, education with values is a must. Educational institutions must compulsorily imbibe this feature in their functioning.	Indrani, (2012). [50]
13.	Mass education is important to remove social evils like poverty,	Education must be broad-oriented with the inclusion of technical education, and industrial education.	Mallik et al., (2015). [51]

ignorance, illiteracy and so on.	Vernacular languages must be used to reach the masses.	
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### 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

The following study objectives are explained below in detail.

- (1) To revisit the educational philosophy of Swami Vivekananda.
- (2) To oversee the outlook of Swami Vivekananda on educating the youths.
- (3) To understand education as professed by the Vedanta.
- (4) To study the landscape of the modern education system.
- (5) To identify the vacuum in the present education system.
- (6) To visualize Vivekananda's vision of education in light of NEP 2020.
- (7) To examine the outcome of the man-making education based on the SWOC analysis framework.

### 4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY :

Study with content analysis using secondary data by using literature from the Google Scholar database referring to articles published between 2012 and 2022. This study is carried out with a descriptive research design. The paper will also explore the outcomes of a man-making education based on the SWOC analysis.

#### 4.1. Educational Philosophy of Swami Vivekananda:

Swami Vivekananda visualised a much stronger nation with man-making education [52]. His philosophy has propagated the manifestation of inner knowledge and inward motivation. The base of knowledge rest in the minds of people. The spiritual and material knowledge hidden within the self has to be unfolded for the outer benefit of all through the help of a teacher. The teachers unfold the hidden treasure of knowledge existing within the students. Swami Vivekananda has said that education is the manifestation of divine perfection already existing in man and the above discourse connects with the idea of the unfolding of knowledge. Further for Swamiji, education is not just book learning or a collection of facts rather it is a much deeper exercise to concentrate upon a definite goal and planting the power of detachment as well. This kind of education makes an individual to be independent on his own by filling the capacity to sustain any challenge of life. In real education, the teacher plays a dominant role. An intellectually strong teacher can only ignite the spirit of students and guide them on the path to unfold the inherent knowledge for the common good. The relationship between a teacher and student always needs to be proactive, closer and truthful. The truth alone provides strength and courage to be self-reliant which the mission of education is. Moreover, according to Swami Vivekananda religion is the core of us which acts as the source of education. Religion does not denote mere rituals but rather acts as the essence of the existence of mankind. Every individual possesses infinite power within which is knowledge (it implies both spiritualistic and materialistic dimensions of life). Swami Vivekananda has given importance to both Western and Eastern knowledge. Western education focuses on the material possession of knowledge whereas Eastern education focuses on the spiritual dimension. Hence, for a strong nation, Swami Vivekananda proposes to apply the blend of Western and Eastern education resulting in the holistic development of the personality. He gave prominence to educating the masses and other general public at large since education is the only powerful instrument which can bring social transformation. Education earned at the foremost wipes out the ignorance of people giving the highest scope for a positive attitude with true character and increased intellectual maturity. Overall, man-making is the primary goal of education embedded with 'Shraddha' (faith in self) [53]. The radial cycle (figure-1) denotes man-making education with spiritual, physical and materialistic dimensions of education powered by self-confidence. Endurance to pursue any rigorous course of action with faith and self-confidence is the core of man-making education.

#### 4.2. Outlook of Swami Vivekananda on Educating The Youths:

The life teachings of Swami Vivekananda are truly inspiring [54]. The thoughts and ideologies of Swamiji have impressed millions which made him a youth icon. He believes that youth are the treasure house that can build a strong nation. Since from contemporary period, India has been suffering from social evils, poverty and ignorance. The wiping off of these societal lacunas is possible only through



real education. Educating plays a pivotal role in transforming walks of life. In this regard, youth shall have to develop iron muscles, nerves of steel and a strong mind from within. The mind with knowledge is inherent and to be uncovered. The blend of para (material) and apara (spiritual) vidya (education) will certainly wipe off ignorance from the minds of youth. Selfless Social Service is the foundation upon which a strong nation could be built which has either less or no social evils. Swami Vivekananda with a firm belief in the power of youth in nation-building has always emphasised. The education of all, building character and personal integrity [55]. Vivekananda had kept a broader outlook to eradicate social problems with man-making education [56]. The fearless courage proposed by Swamiji has always stood mesmerizing for the younger generation to stand bold against the odds of society like a roaring lion in the jungle.

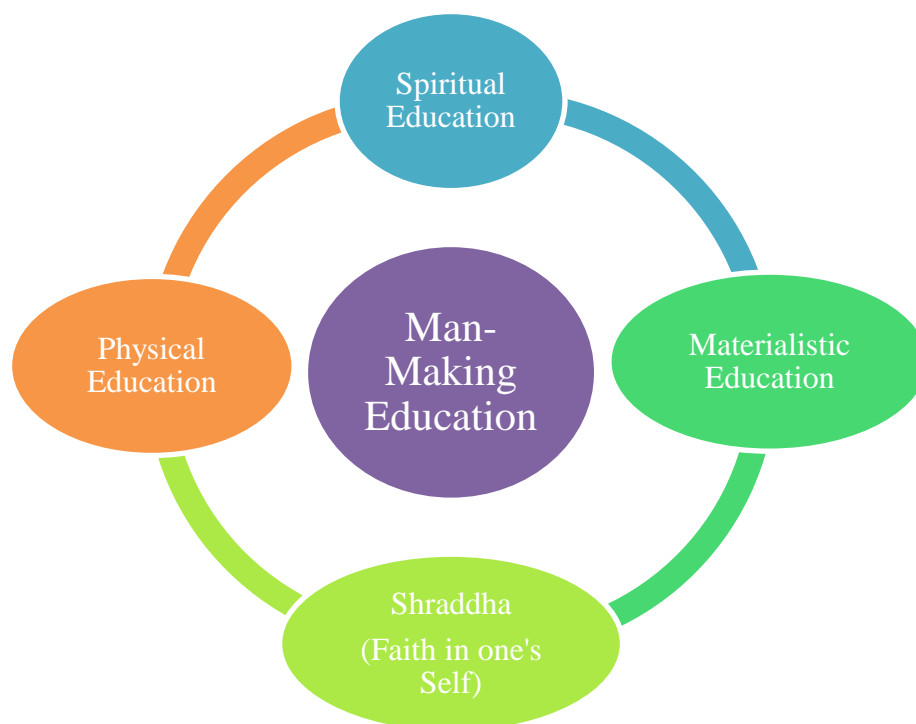


Fig. 1: Man-Making Education Model of Swami Vivekananda [authors]

#### 4.3. Education as Professed by the Vedanta:

Vedanta denotes 'inherent knowledge existing within the man' which requires unfolding with the help of a 'guru' (teacher). From time immemorial, especially during the Vedas, Upanishads etc. Vedanta education was imparted to students by the teacher. Education here implies a kind of journey of wholesome to encompass and experience the all-around development of an individual. It is not merely materialistic but implies spiritual development too. Education is the manifestation of divine perfection which already exists in man [57]. Individual knowledge gained from the external world through sensory organs needs to be dismantled with the help of a teacher and differentiate ignorance and brightness, weakness and strength, sorrows and joy, good and bad etc. Education will unfold the existing interconnection between the minds, matter and absolute existence (Brahman). Every individual possesses the treasure of immense knowledge. The veil of ignorance obstructs a person from shining outward manner. Hence, it needs to be worked under the guidance of a real teacher. Therefore, education connotes a wholesome package of material and spiritual dimensions composed of a balanced emotional, physical, and mental state of affairs. Only real education is meaningful and can contribute to building a healthy society with integrity. Ultimately, the primary goal of education is attaining wisdom through self-less service to the common good rather than accumulating material pleasures of life.

#### 4.4. Landscape of Modern Education System:

The Indian education system is found to be comprehensive but had several limitations. Initially, the country adopted the British education system which was later reformed based on the several educational

policies introduced during the post-independent period. These policies have brought reforms in the educational sector of the country with effective reforms introduced to the educational demography of the country through the educational policy of 1986 and 1992 respectively. However, the Covid-19 pandemic caused severe damage to the educational fabric of the country with enormous setbacks. To tackle the situation, educational institutions have found using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools to maintain continuity in the teaching-learning process even during the lockdown period. The pandemic gave rise to challenges associated with the digitalisation of education, online teaching and learning, technical issues etc. Various online platforms were developed to support teaching and learning processes. The main disadvantage of the new reform was the non-availability of personal contact between the teacher and students. Since students and teachers were habituated to the traditional face-to-face classroom interaction experienced lesser personal touch the online education. Positively, in the age of ICT is found to be more flexible and convenient most of the time. The constraint was the proper utilisation of digital resources. With the lessons learnt during the pandemic, the Government of India has initiated a comprehensive New Education Policy 2020 aiming for the holistic development of students and the teaching fraternity with research-based pedagogies. But as usual, implementing channel standards are not easy at the beginning. Proper training on the implementation of NEP-2020 has been gaining mementoes at present. New Education Policy 2020 brings reforms to the education system by introducing more student-centric approaches, practical, experiential learning and skill development. It aims for enriching employability with industry-requisite skills and competencies thereby contributing to the progress of the nation.

#### **4.5. Vacuum in the Present Education System:**

The present education system [59] resulted in incompetency, unemployment, corruption, skill gaps between academia and industry, poor industrial theory-based learning, digital illiteracy, digital divide and non-utilisation of communication technology etc. The existing gap can be filled if the educational institutions implement NEP-2020 by inculcating the requisite pedagogies based on the ideologies of man-making education' proposed by Swami Vivekananda. Educational institutions can impart 'man-making education' in its true sense and right spirit by introducing lifelong learning with practical orientation, experiential learning, skill building, character development, and nation-building activities rather than disseminating bookish knowledge alone. In this regard, NEP 2020 also narrates value-based learning, skill development, research interventions, practical exposure etc. The technical glitches in the rural areas need to be resolved. The ideal system beneficial to both students and teachers would be blended learning with both face-to-face and digital learning [60].

#### **4.6. Visualizing Vivekananda's Vision of Education in the Light of NEP 2020:**

The true vision of education as proposed by Swami Vivekananda is realizing the inner self [61]. The same ideology is fostered under the NEP 2020 for the holistic development of individuals thereby building a strong nation. The proposed education system is deemed to be value-based, skill-based, and research-based with a high emphasis on cognitive, emotional, and spiritual development as well. NEP 2020 has created avenues to incept the educational ideologies of Swami Vivekananda by introducing reforms in educational institutions. To exemplify, Swami Vivekananda has narrated education beyond bookish knowledge. The same is visible in the NEP 2020 with greater emphasis on skill-based education. This type of education will empower individuals with positive attitudes, confidence and character. Moreover, NEP 2020 builds self-reliant individual ideals Swami Vivekananda's educational philosophy and the aim of NEP 2020 are found to be similar. The NEP 2020 moreover focuses on education rooted in values and culture. However, it can be concluded that Swami Vivekananda's vision of education encompasses NEP 2020 on a positive note.

### **5. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION :**

Swami Vivekananda's ideology on the philosophy of education is relevant even for t. He has visualised his whole concepts in futuristic ways. Today, it stands true even in the light of the New Education Policy 2020 substantially.

#### **5.1. SWOC Analysis of Man-Making Education proposed by Swami Vivekananda:**

Analysis of man-making education proposed by Swami Vivekananda is immense, intensive and holistic in its nature depending upon the need, time and circumstances. His philosophy of education is considered to be the blueprint or fundamental foundation for a meaningful existence. He professes lifelong learning for the common good and nation-building with integrity and values. The SWOC analysis [62] is carried out to analyse the dimensions of Man-making Education [63] proposed by Swami Vivekananda here below [66-69].

**Strength:**

- Inherent Knowledge of individuals needs to be unfolded in multifaceted ways.
- Real education will wipe out ignorance from an individual.
- Man making education leads to Character building.
- Manifestation of inner self will Strengthen the mind
- Unfolding inherent abilities will enrich Physical strength
- Education is completely Value driven by it.
- It professes every potential soul to dedicate Selfless Service to mankind
- It promotes mass education
- It trains individuals to Consciously know their Self
- It encourages Women's empowerment
- It deals with the manifestation of the inner potential gifted to each individual.
- It delivers Spiritual Education
- It aims towards Personality Development
- It promotes nation building
- It believes in the utilisation of youth power for futuristic change.
- The ultimate mission to be executed is the Holistic development of an individual

**Weakness:**

- Lack of perseverance, zeal and integrity among the youth.
- Lack of awareness about the benefits of man-making education
- Need for the intellectually motivated teacher to implement man-making education
- Lack of will and supportive environment to implement man-making education at the school, college, higher education and research levels.
- Holistic approach is somewhat ambiguous and difficult to quantify
- Lack of policy and government support to execute man-making education in the right spirit.

**Opportunities:**

- Integration of Man Making Education aspects into the implementation of NEP 2020 from the inception stage itself.
- Educational Institutions with autonomy need to show interest in developing man-making education
- Higher education councils, accreditation bodies and regulating bodies should frame the assessment parameters based on the results derived from the man-making education outcomes.
- Model blueprint can be developed by the collective participation of all the educational institutions at the national level through organising conferences and symposiums.
- The proper implementation of Man-Making Education is possible by integrating it with the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) demography of the country to derive a positive result.

**Challenges:**

- Adopting the philosophy of man-making education in the right spirit and real sense as proposed by Swami Vivekananda.
- Synthesizing the man-making education with the proposed NEP 2020 across the nation is time-consuming
- There is a need for proper training in all educational institutions from experts
- Motivating and Educating youth about man-making education in the era of technology is a hefty task.

## 6. FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS :

According to Swami Vivekananda, education is deemed to be a lifelong procedure but it requires timely polishing to devoid of ignorance. The man-making educational philosophy carries a holistic approach to achieving the all-around development of individuals. If the pedagogies suggested by Swami Vivekananda is followed in their true sense they create wonderful result in our lives [64]. It nurtures value-oriented education, brings intensive patriotism towards one's nation and motivates selfless service for mankind. These educational ideologies are even extended to include spiritual and emotional dimensions of life with minimum emphasis on the materialistic world. The ultimate aim of education ought to be self-reliance and building strong character for life [65]. True education or real education is not just a mere collection of information but a foundation for the peaceful coexistence of Society. Hence Man Making Education is deemed to be the voyage of knowledge to bring common good and transformation in the Society thereby building a strong Nation. A systematic synthesis can be drawn from the collaboration of the educational philosophies of Swami Vivekananda and the crux of the New Education Policy 2020. If the blend of it is implemented in a true spirit there is no doubt in building a nation with a fully skilled, futuristic and enlightened workforce empowered to serve the whole world.

## 7. CONCLUSION :

To conclude, Swami Vivekananda's philosophy on 'Man Making Education' is of immense relevance to futuristic education in India. The National Education Policy 2020 aims at value-based, skill-oriented, research-driven, and practically-based education. Hence the crux behind the implementation of New Education Policy 2020 is deemed to be the replica of developing Swami Vivekananda's 'Man Making Education' to quite an extent. However, over time, the educational ideologies of Swami Vivekananda in one form or another other will be inspiring in the nation-building process. Now the challenge is about the conscious implementation of 'Man Making Education' in its right spirit and sense. Developing the requisite educational infrastructure in the country can be made possible by linking industrial finance through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) can be the financial breakthrough in India. The collective effort of government, educational institutions, service agencies and the general public to bring massive educational reforms in the country is the need of the hour.

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