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KNOWLEDGE (VIDYA) & EDUCATION (AVIDYA)

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to differentiate the originality or separate the purpose of both the discipline (Knowledge (Vidya) & Education (Avidya) where knowledge is the supreme that enlightens our soul, purifies it and leads us towards eternity or salvation is the ultimate goal of the life, moreover education polish us and train or guide us towards the physical world, its sole purpose is to make this world beautiful and utilise this education to fulfil our routine needs and physical growth. Both are the wheels of our life and we have to balance them for the betterment of human beings and society.

Keywords – Knowledge, Vidya, Education, Avidya, Soul, Balance.

Introduction

There is always a question that revolves in our mind, why the world is so restless? Why the difference between inner knowledge and the education of the world is not clearly implemented? As we know all religion has the same message which is “know thyself”. All the cults unanimously believe in God and have the same message about humanity. Is Bacon has clearly explained truth in his essay “Of Truth”? or has Emerson discussed in his works “Brahma, Over-soul” the truth of life, self-reliance, or the knowledge of the inner self? There are numerous writers who have clearly pointed out the reality of knowledge and tried to explain the true concept of life. The root of our being is mainly called knowledge which is proven by many saints and maharishis like Mahatma Buddha, Mahavir Swami, Swami Vivekanand, Kabir Das, Swami Aurobindo

Ghose, and many others who felt the power of soul and enlightened their soul by the self-knowledge. On other hand, Education is the medium of enriching and enhancing our capability to understand this physical world. The phenomena of the universe, the external beauty, the external connections, and the surface knowledge of the world can be understood and help to survive and get into the materialistic world of life. In this paper, I try to draw attention to both the world the inner and outer, spiritual and physical, immortal and mortal, internal and external, soul and body, and all the factors that can provide us a vision to know both the wheel of our life and how to balance it.

Knowledge (Vidya) & Education (Avidya)

As the two wheels of the vehicle help us to ride and to reach our destination. In case one wheel

is not working we cannot go longer and our journey may not be continued. As the day and night rotate on this sphere and we work during the day and rest at the night. As males and females, both complete the universe and they both are equally important. Likewise, body and soul or Knowledge and education are equally important for a human being. We are facing many challenges and western culture has so much influence that the truth has created a new truth that is "Post Truth". Truth (Soul) has lost its value, there is no truth and it has been replaced by Bacon's idea of Practical wisdom (an alloy of silver with gold). T S Eliot tried a lot to explain the bareness of the earth in Waste Land. It is full of diagnoses of the futile life of modern man. There are several issues like sexual perverting, loss of faith in God and degradation of moral values, lack of real human relationships, commercialization of all the aspects of life, mental tension that has created politics and wars everywhere. There are many writers who have tried to save humanity through their writings. Lord Krishana has clearly advocated the truth of life and the practical aspect of humanity. After going through various writers, religious views, and their opinion, it is common to consent that everyone believes in oneness.

We know well about the energy of life force and as per law we have a certain span of our life and the flow of the energy of our life must be managed to understand some important aspects of it. We know well about the middle way of life that is clearly stated by Mahatma Buddha. Sometimes if we seat alone and meditate on it we can find that in such a hectic schedule it is almost true because the middle way can help to balance us.

सा विद्या या विमुक्तये।

The root of the word knowledge is taken from "jna". That means knowing, realizing, experiencing, etc. That solely means to know yourself your inner temple, experiencing and realizing the soul, the connection of the soul to over soul. The essence of knowledge is to get salvation. For example, if I have any disease, I take medicine and the disease will be cured. Moreover, if the medicine is not working that means either the medicine or the diagnosis is not examined properly. Thus the real difference in the

importance of both (Education & self-Knowledge) must be understood to save the calamity of barbarism.

It is the only knowledge that can bring utter liberation. By the way, the teaching pattern that is taught in today's schools, colleges, or universities, such as linguistics, engineering, commerce, computer, technical, legal, ground, material, development science, etc. is called education. All these teachings are based on knowledge of the external world through which our life goes on and external pleasures and facilities increase day by day but harmony remains. In fact, Knowledge can also be called skill to some extent, such as music, archery, horse riding, and many other arts, which may be done or taught under the guidance of a supervisor directly. So, both kinds of knowledge can be useful but it is not entirely helpful for the upliftment of our soul. Yes, what we can call, a worldly education so that this world can run smoothly in the materialistic sense.

Vidya is a light of eternity that lightened the darkness of the soul or sorrow of life. What is sorrow or darkness of life? The problems of life that make you feel sad all the time such as attachment to anything, hatred, things, ego, etc. Whether you belong to any caste or religion, or you belong to any country or time on this planet, such sorrow never leaves anything and anyone. The liberation from such sorrow, the liberation from the worldly or materialistic attachment that is not permanent is called liberation. The art or process that helps in getting liberation is called knowledge or Vidya or can be called Vidya Yoga. The knowledge of self or the connection with the soul or attaining the completeness of life or attaining freedom or connecting to over soul or free from all sorrows or connecting with God or oneself, that can be realized directly from soul to God or soul to over soul, the true and compassionate Guru can manifest in one's life. By realizing the true power of the soul, we can get rid of all the sorrows, and that is the true knowledge, all the rest part of the knowledge is Education or avidya belongs to worldly education. Reading or singing our scriptures helps us to understand Vidya as books to education. That's why we call **Sa Vidya or Vimuktaye**.

It is a special privilege for humankind to know and understand the difference between both and to search the path of Vidya. It won't help only to enlighten you but the complete world and this society once again may be the ideal state for all beings. No other creature of the universe except human beings can attain knowledge.

In the poem, Emerson tries to explain that the notion we have about life is wrong. If anyone thinks that he is killed or died they have killed or died and does not understand how this universe is created and the God of the Trinity works. He explains the meaninglessness of life where there is control of God everywhere and we are just the puppet in the hand of Him. He opines in his poem 'Brahma'

"If the red slayer thinks he slays,
Or if the slain think he is slain,
They know not well the subtle ways
I keep, and pass, and turn again."

At last, he tells us that meek and humble people who are truly connected to me by heart reach to me and find my abode.

"But thou, meek lover of the good!
Find me, and turn thy back on heaven"

For instance, if there is electricity in a building that can be used for several purposes and the same electricity can perform many duties such as the lighting in the bulb, cooling in AC, or by transforming the electricity we can utilise it in many ways. Moreover, we are surrounded by such kind of equipment. If we see this in our life, we have a life and we can do whatever desire because it is the same as electricity that can be used or utilised as per our understanding or mindset. This life is precious and nothing is as important as it is. Sometimes we call this my hand or this my eye or other parts of our body but who are we is a question to be asked to ourselves to know ourselves. The purpose of Vidya is to manifest that reality of ours in our life.

The task of this paper is to elaborate on how the materialistic approach to life has been the motto of human beings and we are running into the rat race without knowing its consequences. We even

don't meditate on it to understand the meaning of life. Our life is too valuable but it is used to collect the penny, not eternity. It is a well-known concept that the soul is immortal and the body is mortal but we never ever meditate to the essence of knowledge or the consciousness of the soul.

Our soul is the essence of the human body because that is more valuable than anything else even our life in itself. Entire human beings have the same type of features or attributes and the soul possesses all the powers.

नैनं छिन्दन्ति शस्त्राणि नैनं दहति पावकः।
न चैनं क्लेदयन्त्यापो न शोषयति मारुतः॥

Water cannot soak it because water has the power of soaking a material object and separating its parts. It is not possible for this to happen in an impersonal soul. In the same way, the air absorbs the wetness of the wet substance and destroys it, so that air also cannot exploit the soul in this form.

Our soul remains even after death if we are filled with knowledge. There are many examples who are no more and their physical existence is not here but their true knowledge inspires us and the journey of their life always gives vision or path to lead a life of the enlightened soul. It is well known that a lighted candle can lighten all the candles of the universe. Our soul starts taking things positively and our followers' surroundings will also be benefited even without knowing it. Sometimes we call some souls great souls and those souls try to help others. Their happiness becomes the happiness of the world as it is said that the world is flat, which means such people think about the happiness of the universe or brotherhood, it indicates the slogans of the French Revolution: Liberty, Equality & Fraternity. They try to build a peaceful place where the world can be peaceful under one umbrella that goes on till eternity.

They spread the message of positivity, leave all their burdens in the hand of God, and get immense pleasure in their life. That pleasure is spread out wherever they go and whomsoever they meet.

To be spiritual has no relation or nothing to do with your outer situation. You can transform yourself to be spiritual if you live in a small hut or a big palace. Living in a small hut or a big palace is only either due to your choice or the condition of social or economic compulsions. These external things have nothing to do with spirituality.

Thus, Knowledge and education are the two legs of our body where the first one is the soul and the latter one is the body. Balancing both should be the aim of our life, once it is balanced and the purpose of human beings will be fulfilled, the final destination will be reached. All the philosophers and great souls unanimously agreed and delighted humanity in the same way. Only peace can create an equilibrium in our life.

Conclusion

The education system is a kind of powerful tool for change, and it improves our health and livelihoods, contributes towards social stability in society, and also drives human beings' long-term growth in a worldly or materialistic world where eat drink and merry is a limited scope of life. Apart from this, Vidya is most important to realize ourselves or God, it is the way to know the self or the soul. The moment you manifest true knowledge that means you accept it. As Lord Krishna tells, once you feel or accept yourselves, become free from all the bondage of actions or suffering even if you perform actions those results won't influence you. You move to eternal where neither you are the doer nor the bearer. Once this kind of manifestation happens to us, we naturally start following the path of spiritual disciplines and spontaneously move towards the right conduct. When this knowledge or Gyan pours into the heart, the impact can easily be visible, all the actions will be disciplined and the ultimate goal of life which is salvation will be peacefully eternalized. Thus in this world, we must make the impartiality of both the learnings either Education or Knowledge (Vidya) to balance a healthy life as life afterlife must be shined by enlightenment.

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