



## भारत विकास परिषद् Bharat Vikas Parishad

### Inspiration of Bharat Vikas Parishad Swami Vivekanand

Swami Vivekanand lived on this earth for a very short period. He was born on 12th January 1863 and left for his heavenly abode on 4th July, 1902. He was a versatile genius and in this short span he made a mark in almost every sphere of life. He was a giant intellect, a great scholar and orator. He was also a great philosopher and powerful preacher of Vedanta. He was a born leader and in him thought and action resided side by side. A western admirer described him as being young in years but eternal in wisdom.'

The founding fathers of Bharat Vikas Parishad from the very beginning decided to treat Swami Vivekanand as the role model and to follow his foot prints. They made every effort to put in practice his ideas and ideals. The paragraphs that follow describe in brief how the teachings of Swami Vivekanand have impacted the selection of projects by Bharat Vikas Parishad.

**Punya Bhumi Bharat:** Swami Ji was of the opinion that if there is any land on this earth that can lay claim to be the blessed punyabhumi, the land where humanity has attained its highest towards greatness, generosity, purity and calmness she is Bharat Mata. Above all it is a land of introspection and spirituality. We must follow our own ideals, the Indian ideals and should not copy the West blindly. We should love India from the core of our heart and have faith in our culture and traditions.

Bharat Vikas Parishad has started many projects to inculcate love for their motherland among youth and to be proud of being an Indian. The first and the foremost of them is National Group Song Competition. It was started as early as 1967 and thousands of students from VI class to XII class participate in it. They sing patriotic songs in the

groups of 7-8 and the competition is held at Branch, Prant and National levels.

Another competition Bharat Ko Jano was started at National level in the year 2001. Aim is to give a good knowledge of Indian history, culture, religion and mythology etc. to the young students. A book Bharat Ko Jano has been published in Hindi and English. More than one lakh copies of the book are distributed among the students every year. The competition, both written and oral, is held at Branch, Prant and National levels and lakh of students participate in it.

**Nar Sewa - Narayan Sewa:** Service of the poor and down trodden was the greatest mission of Swami Vivekanand's life and he considered it as worship of God. He said that the only Mahatma is he whose heart bleeds for the poor. He looked upon every man and woman as God and did not believe in a God or religion which cannot wipe the widow's tears or bring a piece of bread to the orphan's mouth. According to him our greatest national sin is the neglect of poor masses.

Sewa is one of the five mantras of Bharat Vikas Parishad. Under this mantra many Projects like Viklang Sahayata Yojana, Village Development, Health Projects, Simple Mass Marriages, and Vanvasi Sahayata Yojana etc. are being run by a large number of branches.

Thirteen Viklang Sahayata Kendra's are working in different parts of the country where 26000 artificial limbs have been provided to the disabled and more than one thousand have been trained in various trades and rehabilitated.

In Kota a 220 bed super specialty hospital is in full swing where almost every kind of treatment is available at nominal rates. In this hospital more than two lac patients avail the OPD facilities annually. A diagnostic centre at Chandigarh and a big hospital at Ludhiana are providing various types of services to the masses.

Twelve hundred branches spread all over India are organizing eye operation camps, blood donation camps and other types of health camps. The branches are running more than 1400 permanent projects which include schools, ambulance vans, legal help etc.

**Need for an Organization:** Swami Ji was of the view that our nation was lacking in the faculty of organization. It was the one drawback which produced all sorts of evils. We were altogether averse to making common cause for anything. We cannot combine and cannot

come together. Obedience and discipline are most necessary to accomplish great tasks.

The founders of the Parishad felt the need of a strong organisation. Starting from one branch at Delhi they created a network of 1200 branches spread all over India. Despite the great distances these branches are closely knit, have some common programmers and work under a well defined constitution.

#### **Apathy for the sufferings of the masses and self - centreness:**

As mentioned in the beginning Swami Ji lived on this earth for a very short period. He became a sanyasi at the age of twenty three. But he did not agree with the way of life of his brother sanyasis. The sanyasis of his time worked for the salvation of their own soul and all of their efforts were directed towards attaining Moksha. They were self - centered and apathetic towards the sufferings of the people around them. Swami ji did not agree with them. He preached that the sanyasis should worship the living gods and in their upliftment lies their salvation.

During his wanderings he also found that the educated, wealthy and affluent classes were unsympathetic and indifferent towards the woes and sufferings of the common people.

The founders of Bharat Vikas Parishad also felt the same thing about the rich people of India. Their mission from the very beginning was to contact and inspire this class of people to come forward and organize themselves for the service of the illiterate, poor and helpless people of India. It should be done in the spirit of duty in accordance with our cultural tradition and not as a show of mercy to the helpless. Due to their persistent efforts, Bharat Vikas Parishad has gained recognition as an organization of selfless, enlightened and affluent people dedicated to the service of the poor.

**Divinity of Soul:** Swami ji gave to the world the unique doctrine of the 'Potential Divinity of Soul'. He preached the religious philosophy of Hinduism, which declared the soul to be eternally pure and free. Under the influence of matter and evils it is covered by impurity and comes under bondage. The West believes in the theory of evolution according to which man is basically a beast and should be trained and controlled to make him a human being.

The third mantra of Bharat Vikas Parishad is "Sanskar" which means eliminating the bad qualities and implanting virtues in a human being. Under this mantra we try to create a divine atmosphere

under which the divinity of soul shines in all its brightness.

**Empowerment of Women:** Swami Ji said that the ideal of womanhood in India is Motherhood - that marvelous, unselfish, all - suffering and ever-forgiving mother. Sita is the typical ideal women of India - the idealized India. Trampling on the women is our greatest evil. If women of India remain backward the country will remain backward. Women should be given highest education and allowed to participate in all spheres of life.

From the very beginning the Parishad has encouraged women participation at every level. It is the only organization where both wife and husband are members and have voting rights. Some programmes and projects are executed exclusively by women. They are holding important positions at every level - Branch, Prant, Zone and Centre.

**Youth, the Future of India:** In one his speeches Swami Ji said that his faith was in the younger generation and they would become his workers. He hoped that India's future lay in the youth of character-intelligent, renouncing all for the service of the nation and obedient - who can sacrifice their life for the country.

The Parishad is incessantly working to inculcate the spirit of patriotism, sacrifice and discipline in the youth. It believes in the motto, 'Catch Them Young'. Through our projects like NGSC, Bharat Ko Jano, Guru Vandan Chhatra Abhinandan, the youths are taught to love their Motherland, to respect the Indian traditions and their elders and teachers. Seminars on similar topics are held for the youth getting professional and higher education.

- ★ My hope of the future lies in the youths of character – intelligents, renouncing all for the service of others.
- ★ Look upon every man, woman, and every one as God. You cannot help anyone, you can only serve.
- ★ Sita is the name in India for everything that is good, pure, and holy; everything that in women we call womanly.

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