

Relevance of Swami Dayananda's Social Philosophy in Present Education.**Harpreet Kaur Kalra**

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Dayananda Saraswati the great Indian scholar and social reformer. Swami Dayananda was the **founder of Arya Samaj**. Swami Dayananda's ideas are the stock in trade of every reformer, political or social. whether that acknowledge the debt they owe to him or not is a different matter. History is giving its verdict, however, Dayananda is no longer the founder of a religious sect, but a pioneer of progress, a true nation builder, a veritable world delivers. Truly, Dayananda was a superman, equipped with the torch of love to lead the suffering humanity into the Temple of love. He was a friend of the poor and the lowly. He left the comfort at home and hearth to join the fraternity of the poor.

Dayananda was not only a social and religious reformer, but also a scholar an educationist and a great patriot. His whole life was a search for truth. He began as an orthodox Hindu, then become a vedantist and at last a worshipper of God. He believed that if Indians became strong in body and mind disabilities, political freedom would follow as a necessary consequence. Swami Dayananda Saraswati was born on **10 February, 1824** in **Tankara** near **Morvi** in the **Kathiawar**. His father's name was **Karshanji Lalji Tiwari** and his mother's name was **Yashoda Bai**. Theirs was a Brahmin family. His father Amba Shankar held the position of Zamindar, or revenue collector and besides this, he did some banking and money lending business. He was a stern, austere man, a devout worshipper of **Lord Shiva**, Orthodox and uncompromising in his views. Strict in the performance of his religious duties, he could not tolerate the slightest departure from the observances enjoined by his faith.

Saffron clad a patriot reformer, the torch bearer, a great nation builder. Swami Dayananda Sarswati stands out by himself with the peculiar and solitary distinctiveness. Possessed of sharp intellect and rational thinking and a vision for ahead of his time, he ceaselessly worked hard to bring a new life to his countrymen through a stupendous programme of religious reformation and social reconstruction. Indian society was at its cultural, social and political nadir when Swami Dayananda was born in 1824. He grew up in an environment of political subjugation where he witnessed extreme casteism, superstition, religious dogma and social oppression of women and marginalized section of society due to centuries of foreign domination. The Hindu people had lost their personality. Dayananda as a great maker of Indian nation, infused a new faith and renewed self-confidence in the Hindu people. He boldly asserted the supremacy of the old Vedic wisdom. This gigantic champion of Indian wisdom at that time produced amazing results. Hindu people learnt to assert themselves. They got new vision and a new pattern to mould their lives. Dayananda also strove hard to end inter-religious conflicts by urging them to accept ' Universal truths, love each other, live in peace and work for their common welfare. Swami Dayananda, the founder of Arya Samaj, rebuilt the entire Indian nation and Hindu society in a new mould. He believed and preached that in our Vedas there is no such thing as untouchability. He, through Arya Samaj, succeeded in launching a great movement against untouchability which was followed up by Gandhi Ji and Congress. Arya Samaj successfully fought with the orthodox Brahmin community, preached and pleaded to return to Vedas in true sense and to follow its dictates.

Swami Dayananda led a crusade against the superstitious and pernicious practices that prevailed in contemporary India. He emphasized on Swadeshi and patronizing of Swadeshi products only amongst all the Hindu community. He was the sage who empowered women. He was no less generous and no less bold in his crusade to improve the condition of women, a deplorable one in India. He revolted against the abuse from which they suffered at home. Swami Dayananda and Arya Samaj hit hard on the most barbaric and orthodox Sati custom among the Hindus of our country. He emphasized for equal rights for women, condemned child marriages and discrimination against women even in the provision of education. He opened Kanya Mahavidhyala and more than thousand D.A.V institutions, Gurukulas and Arya Schools all across the country. He even advocated the girl consent and say in the matter of marriage and went a step ahead to spearhead widow-marriage. Homes for the widows and destitute women were opened to accommodate, train them in useful professions and get them married to suitable partners. Giving a cry back to Vedas; he translated Vedas from Sanskrit to Hindi so that a common man can read it and understand that Vedic Hindu scriptures gave utmost importance to women. However high, the name of Swami Dayananda stands as a student and teacher of religion, it is as one of India's greatest benefactor as a social reformer and Yugpravartak he will go down in History. In purity of character, in fearlessness of expression in the acuteness and comprehensiveness of intellect in devotion to the Vedas and his love for his country he was an outstanding figure of his time.

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