

Short Communication

# The Usefulness of Swami Vivekananda's Concept of universal religion for world peace

Monalisha Dutta\*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Guest Faculty, Department of Logic and Philosophy, Bahona College, Assam, India

\*Corresponding author email: monalishadutta1998@gmail.com

**Abstract:** Establishing global peace is an important topic in the present time. Currently, there are numerous conflicts at the global level, resulting in significant economic, social and humanitarian damage. It cannot be said that all these conflicts are solely based on religious or ethnic grounds, but direct or indirect religious or ethnic reasons can be found in these conflicts. Achieving peace cannot be accomplished solely by cessation of war. To establish lasting peace, there needs to be a change in social and ideological structures. The allegation of equality among all human beings is the key to establishing permanent peace, and Vivekananda's concept of "Universal Religion" is capable of accomplishing this complex task. Vivekananda accepts the uniqueness of all religions even in the midst of equality. This universal religion inspires individuals to turn their attention inward, where love, equality, welfare, brotherhood and all divine qualities reside. Swami Vivekananda's universal religion promotes universal brotherhood, love and unity among all religions and sects, thus addressing the challenge of a lack of these values in a global society. If the global community is introduced to the idea of Vivekananda's "Universal Religion" it will undoubtedly be helpful in establishing peace permanently.

**Keywords:** Global peace; Conflict; Universal religion; Equality; Brotherhood; Unity.

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## 1. Introduction

The present global human society is progressing towards higher and higher levels of civilization. In this process of development, the vast population of the world, the limited availability of resources on earth, and environmental issues pose significant challenges. Therefore, it is necessary for every individual in the world to not only address these problems through unity and interconnectedness but also collectively find solutions to the challenges emerging against humanity as a whole. However, the reality is not such. Today instead of fighting the real challenges, many communities at the global level are fighting based on religion, caste, race and sect. We cannot say completely that the basis of all the conflicts happening in the world is ethical conflict. The basis of many of these conflicts is economic as well as political. But if a subtle analysis is done, caste or religious hatred is visible in these conflicts in a direct or indirect form.

“ It is clear from empirical research that in the present age- 1/3rd are carrying stamps like religion, caste and national identity”

- Iti Chattopadhyay

( Universal Religion of Vivekanand: A Way out of Religious Dissension, Journal of East-West Thought Vol. 05, No. 01, 2015 )

Although many efforts are being made for peace by the states and international organizations at the global level, the issue of global peace remains in a burning form. Because the establishment of peace cannot only be, done by the end of the war. For the permanent establishment of peace, a change has to be brought in the social and ideological structure, if it's not made permanent, then the relevance of the problem of peace and the questions related to research will remain. By the way, there have been many great men in the world who, according to their way, told the world the path of peace. But the motherland of India gave birth to such a great person who inspired all the religions and sects of the world towards mutual love and one's goal, the religion of humanity, without losing their distinctive identity. The name of that great person is - Swami Vivekanand. “Universal Religion” presented by Swami Vivekananda was not only heard by Western society but also appreciated by the legal society because he accepted the quality of diversity in the whole of nature and also called it necessary for the highest development. Vivekanand also pointed out some common features in all individuals along with this diversity which can form a sufficient basis for the loving and peaceful behaviour of humanity. Therefore, this question becomes very important whether the concept of “Universal Religion” presented by Swami Vivekananda can prove to be effective for the establishment of present world peace.

#### **Concept of “Universal Religion” of Swami Vivekanand :**

The word religion is a very familiar word for human society. This word itself has presented the most complex examples of peace and conflict to the world community. Religious persons have played an important role in spreading peace in the human society. While religion has been the main contributor to the global conflict. People in the world are divided based on religion and sects. All these sects try to make their religion superior and others' religions inferior. In such an environment, it is a unique effort by Vivekananda to spread such a religion which makes all humanity feel like a part of the same God. The universal religion of Swami Vivekananda does not become the boundary line to specific principles like other religions but develops a sense of unity and cooperation in all by publishing the common features of all religions. Vivekananda has accepted the basic soul of all religions. He believed that “the great soul” had first achieved this great element in their hearts they had created these. At this time many people understood its meaning and made religion only a game of words. Now religion has been transformed into paternal religion, national religion, native religion etc.(Vivekananda Sahitya 2016 Part-3, Page no. 140 - 141) due to which Sarvdharma The concept of coordination has become a difficult task.

Vivekananda has told three parts of religion - philosophical, mythological and ritualistic. In the philosophical part, the basic elements of religion, the purpose and the means to achieve them are contained. The mythological part tries to explain the philosophical part through gross examples. The ritual part is the gross part of religion, in which things like worship, conduct, rituals etc. come under. All religion have their own philosophical, mythological and ritualistic parts. Based on which one religion calls itself superior and others inferior. In such a situation, it is very difficult to talk about universal elements among religions. We talk a lot about universal brotherhood, but the reality is that Hindus, Muslims, Christians or other religions are far away because of this feeling.

Vivekananda identified the common elements of humanity despite the harsh disparity among different religions. Vivekananda has said that 'I found humanity in general in anyone I see, black or white, men or woman; I can't see or hold him yet I know for sure that he is there, the word that is the unquestionable existence of a thing belong to this same bravery, which is present in all of us.' (V. Sa. 2016 Part-3, page no. 144 - 145). The same principle applies to the relationship with world religions, which is inherent in all religions as the manifestation of the Divine from time immemorial and will continue to be pervasive until eternity. Swami Vivekananda believed that in our external actions, there may be differences but in the divine realm, we are all one. Thus, this universal religion of Vivekanand inspires the global community towards love, unity, and a divine experience. It is undoubtedly the best religion for humanity.

### **Concept of Peace and Global Situation :**

Although both the words peace and conflicts are familiar to the word community, human society has always given priority to peace over conflict, because "Peace is not merely the absence of violence or armed conflict; it extends far beyond that. It encompasses the presence of justice, equality, and mutual understanding among individuals and nations. By prioritizing peace, societies can create an environment conducive to human development, where people can freely pursue their goals and aspirations" (Barash & Webel, 2002, page no. 03) . Let's define the word peace according to ourselves - where someone finds peace in sleeping comfortably, while someone finds peace in achieving their goals by staying awake day and night. Some attain peace by destroying castes different from themselves, while others attain peace by serving different creatures.

Peace does not only mean the cessation of war or conflicts, but peace refers to such a social environment where every person lives in a spirit of cooperation with the necessities of life such as food, health, education, rights and justice. The current global society is seen keeping the above framework of peace in the world community as a challenging task. The human community is struggling with hunger, illiteracy, lack of resources for human life and environmental concerns and pursues its religious struggle for ethnic and racial existence. Ethnic conflicts have increased rapidly all over the world, especially in developing countries. " In recent years there has been a decline in the traditional form of inter-state conflict, while there has been an increase in intra - state conflict, particularly in Third World countries" (Stavenhagen, R. 2016).

In modern global society, incidents like 9/11, Syria - Jordan, Israel - Palestine conflicts, violence against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, Tamil conflict in Srilanka etc. are many examples, which are directly or indirectly in the name of religious and ethnic hatred. Today terrorism has become a racial trend. It attacks based on the religion, ethnicity, and nationalism of the followers. When the ideology adopts this trend that 'our blood' is redder than the blood of the other gender, then that species adopts Ashvabhisharta. The same racialism further turns into religion and after becoming self-confident, it turns into nationalism. ( Tarlow, 2015)

Therefore, there are many challenges before peace at the global level. For the establishment of world peace, not only direct conflict has to be stopped but also corrective changes have to be brought in the social structure and mental nature of human beings.

### **Conclusion**

In today's world, where many conflicts are based on religious and ethnic differences, Swami Vivekananda's idea of Universal Religion offers hope for lasting peace. By focusing on the unity of all people and respecting the value of every religion, this idea encourages love, equality, and brotherhood. It urges individuals to look within themselves

to find the divine qualities that connect us all. Following Vivekananda's Universal Religion can help heal divisions, reduce conflicts, and bring about a more peaceful global community. Therefore, sharing and applying these ideas worldwide may play a key role in achieving lasting peace.

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