

Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar: Ideas and Teachings

Dr. Karnika Dubey

Ph.D Barkatullah University Bhopal

E-mail: karnikadubey@gmail.com

Abstract

Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was a prominent social reformer, philanthropist, writer, educator, and Sanskrit Pandit of Bengal. Various notable social reforming activities are maintained by Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. The advancement of women is also maintained properly with the involvement of Vidyasagar. Widow Remarriage act is also sanctioned by him, which is treated as an effective success of Vidyasagar as a social reformer. He can play a crucial role in maintaining educational rights for all students even for Non-Brahmin Hindus. He can redesign the educational system of India, especially in Bengal. Administrative changes in education are maintained by him.

Keywords: Social reformer, Sanskrit Pandit, Widow Remarriage, Educational rights

Introduction

Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar can play a crucial role in maintaining the reformation of society. His humble and determined lifestyle can inspire many people. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar can set a legendary figure with the help of his simple living, fearlessness, the spirit of self-sacrifice, devotion to education, and others. His study can provide information about all essential aspects of his life. He can play a crucial role in the reformation of the educational system. He can maintain the right to education for all people. Many model schools are also established by him. Various characteristics are noticed in the lifestyle of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar such as educator, social reformer, philanthropist, writer, and Bengali Sanskrit pundit. In the 19th century, he was the greatest intellectuals and activist of India and especially Bengal.

Early life, education, and career

The actual name of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar is Ishwar Chandra Bandyopadhyay he was born on 26th September 1820. He was born in a Bengali Hindu Brahmin family in the Birsingha district of Hooghly district. However, now this village is added in the Midnapore district of West Bengal. Since childhood he was trying to grab more knowledge, this

tendency can help him to be a highly successful education and reformer of the modern educational system. He was awarded many essential scholarships for his academic performance. To conduct his study on Sanskrit literature, grammar, dialects, he joined Sanskrit College, Calcutta and he passed out in 1841. This year he joined Fort William College ahead of the Sanskrit department.

After that, he has joined Sanskrit college as an assistant secretary. Due to few altercations with Secretary Rasomoy Dutta, he resigned from the post and resumed employment in Fort William College as a head clerk. However, the college authorities of Sanskrit College are trying to bring back him as a professor. Mainly, he wants to redesign the educational system. In 1851, he becomes the principal of Sanskrit College. To justify the quality of education, many villages of Bengal are visited by Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar (Vidyasagar 2021).

Contribution of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar in the reformation of society

Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar can play a crucial role in the uplifting of society. Many harmful rules of society are banned with the involvement of him. The culture of Bengal is recreated with the help of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. His evolutionary works are noticed in uplifting women's status in India. With the help of few resources, it is easy to state that Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was an important pillar for the Bengal renaissance. He can play a crucial role in maintaining the reformation of education. Educational rights for all people are also ensured by him. Various reformation activities of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar are illustrated below:

- **Educational reformation**

Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar can bring modern inside in educational system. As a principal of Sanskrit college, he made a change in the medium of learning. English and Bengali were treated as a medium of learning besides Sanskrit. On the other hand, the course of European History, Philosophy, Social Science, and Vedic scriptures are also started by him. He encourages students to grab more knowledge. On the other hand, admission rules are also created by him, he allows Non-Brahmin students to enroll in this prestigious institute. Complex notions of Sanskrit are explained easily in the Bengal language by his two books such as *Upakramonika* and *Byakaran Koumudi* (Roy 2018).

On the other hand, the concept of tuition fee and the admission fee is also introduced by him for the first time in Bengal. He can play a crucial role in maintaining teaching methods. Along with this, women's education is supported by Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. According

to him, achieving emancipation from all the societal oppression is the primary way to provide education for women. To maintain women's education 35 schools are opened by him for women education. 1300 students were enrolling in these schools. Head of families is requested by him to allow their daughter to be educated.

To create a fund for this activity, Nari Siksha Bhandar is also opened by Vidyasagar. To establish a permanent girl's school, Jhon Elliot Drinkwater Bethune was supported by him. In 1849, the 7th may Bethune School is established for girls. He was associated with few renowned journals such as Somprakash, Sarbashubhankari Patrika, Hindu Patriot, and Tattwabodhini Patrika. In these articles, he wrote about his ideas towards educational systems. On the other hand, Borno Porichoy is also written by him. This book can maintain the reconstruction of Bengali alphabets. To produce printed books at an affordable price for the common people, Sanskrit Press is established by him. On the other hand, bangle Model schools are also opened by him. Almost 20 models schools are opened by Vidyasagar. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar works endlessly to maintain redesigning of education (Mandal and Pal 2021).

- **Social reformation**

According to Mahato and Murmu (2021), Vidyasagar was always vocal about the harmful actors of society. Social problems of women are also solved properly by Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. The pain and helplessness of Hindi widows are analyzing by him. Hindu widows are forced to live a life of abnegation. Hindu Widows are unable to maintain the pleasure of life; they are not supported by society. In many cases, Hindu Widows are treated as a burden of a family. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was trying to improvise the quality of life of Hindu Widows. Various challenges are also faced by him; however, he can provide information towards Brahminical authorities that widow remarriage is also sanctioned by Vedic scriptures.

He can prove this argument in British authorities and the Hindu Widows' remarriage Act. is sanctioned in 1856. To set an effective example, the marriage of his son Narayan Chandra is organized with an adolescent widow in 1870 by Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. After the success of widow remarriage, he submits a petition against Kulin polygamy and child marriage. Along with this proper education can maintain the condition of women in a down-trodden society. Basic characteristics of Hinduism are also controlled properly with the involvement of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. Kulin Brahmin polygamy is treated as an

effective horrible factor for society, which is maintained with the help of proper acts (Garaian and Sen 2021).

Malik and Tomar (2021) stated that, many teenagers and children are married to aged persons. Due to this factor, early widow related issues are increased rapidly. With the help of these aspects upliftment of women is maintained properly. A unique criterion of Nari Sikhsha is also maintained by Vidyasagar. The larger social movement of Bengal is maintained properly with the involvement of Vidyasagar. He can prevent the social ignominies of Indian society. On the other hand, his philanthropist characteristic can play a crucial role in the reformation of society. These characteristics can make him a leading figure of Bengal. Recreation of orthodox Hindu society is also maintained with the involvement of these characteristics. Vandalism of educational sectors is maintained properly by him, which can improvise quality o education. On the other hand, the primary education of women is also justified properly with the involvement of Vidyasagar (Bhattacharya 2017).

To pass the act of widow remarriage Vidyasagar fought against many Hindu traditionalists. The print campaign is also justified properly by him. Aesthetic widowhood and prostitution elated risks are maintained properly with the help of Vidyasagar. On the other hand, it is noticed that Vidyasagar can easily identify interconnection between various socio-religious practices. Orthodox sections of society are also maintained properly with the involvement of his ideology. Fear for losing control over women is noticed in traditional Bengal society, this myth is controlled properly by the ideology of Vidyasagar. Along with this, the Hindu central tradition is also maintained by him. He can maintain invoking the religious vocabulary of society is also justified by this factor (Mukherji and Mukhopadhyay 2018).

Character and altruism of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

An effective contradictory characteristic is noticed in Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. He can define his path of action; this factor can evaluate an effective obstinate characteristic of Vidyasagar. Insistence of argument he always selects secession to make his judgment. The exceptional strength of character is treated as an effective part of his lifestyle. He can maintain his self-respect always, which s treated of his an effective strength. On the other hand, he also fought with high-ranking British officials to show them discriminatory actors of society. To improve Bengali society constrictive ways are used increased by Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. Along with this, unshakable changes in society are also maintained by him. Authenticities of Hindu traditional societies are also justified by this aspect.

Along with this, he had a soft heart that can help him to maintain their ideology. Due to these characteristics, he is unable to see anyone in pain. According to Bagh (2020), expenses for poor students are also maintained by him, as well as distress of people is also controlled properly by Vidyasagar. Along with this, he also felt the pain of child and adolescents widows. On the other hand, he helps renowned Bengali poet Michael Madhusudan Dutt to relocate him from France to England and bearded his study for the bar. He also helps him to back India and inspire him to write a poet in Bengali. This incident can help to learn about his humble nature (Pate and Sinha 2021).

After that, Michael Madhusudan Dutt can made high-performing literary work. 'Daya Sagar' epithet is also provided by Michael Madhusudan Dutt for this humble and helpful nature of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. On the other hand, high-performing journalism characteristics are also present in Vidyasagar that made him more memorable. On the other hand, he can publish his article on Widow Marriage. This factor is crucial for society. On the other hand, he can write a regular article on Tattwabodhini Patrika. He can play a crucial role in maintaining educational reformation. The necessary measure of a society is also maintained by him. Along with this, he was a path-breaking social reformer. The development of Hindu traditional society is also maintained by him (Yonzon 2020).

The ideology of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

Upliftment of women's status over India especially in Bengal is maintained properly with the involvement of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. He was renowned fame that can help him to maintain the transformation of Hindu society. On the other hand, he can play a crucial role in maintaining the promotion of the educational system. Proper rights of women are maintained properly with the involvement of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. Took out of education from the privilege of the upper class is also maintained by him and he can promote it for everyone. On the other hand, education for non-Brahmin people is also provided by him. Widows are not allowed to take part in social gatherings; this problem is maintained properly by him. On the other hand, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar can play a crucial role in the maintenance of women's advancement in India, especially in Bengal. Concepts of admission fees and tuition fees are also introduced properly by Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar (Gandhi and Mahavidyalaya 2020).

Janvi and Anubha (2021) stated that, Liberal humanism characteristic is also present in Vidyasagar. On the other hand, practical humanism is also embodied properly by Vidyasagar.

Western Enlightenment ideas of secularism are also promoted properly by Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. The growth of modern India is also maintained with the involvement of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. The theocentric root of society is also maintained with the involvement of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. The syllabus for students is also maintained by him, as well as the redesign of the educational system is also maintained with the help of Vidyasagar. The empowerment of women in society was an effective aim for Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.

According to Vyas and Murarka (2020), Vidyasagar faces huge opposition from the upper class of the Hindu establishment for his ideology. The upper class of the Hindu establishment did not want to provide education to children of all castes. This concept is denied by Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, he can maintain educational rights for everyone. On the other hand, women's rights are also maintained properly with the involvement of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. His supportive nature can make him more famous, with the help of this aspect he can maintain the development of traditional Hindu society. The transformation of orthodox Hindu society is maintained with the involvement of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.

Literary work of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

Despite the social deformer role of Vidyasagar, he was a prominent Bengali writer. he was a brilliant student and teacher of Sanskrit literature. In 1850, he was appointed as a Pandit of Fort William College, Calcutta. With the help of few resources, it is noticed that Vidyasagar was a prominent and vigorous writer of the Bengali and Sanskrit languages. Among his all literary works Betaal Panchavinsati (1847) was an effective creature. 25 tales of Betaal are included in this creature. On the other hand, Kathasaritsagara was also written by him, which is based on the 12th book. Various tales are improvised by Vidyasagar and made proper for the modern reader. Along with this, he can discard the vulgar arts of Betaal and made his creation. On the other hand, in 1848 'Banglar Itihas' is written by Vidyasagar. In 1854, he translates Kalidas's Shakuntala from Sanskrit to Bengali. On the other hand, Shakespeare's 'Comedy of Error' is translated into Bhrantibilash by Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. among his works an effective chronicling style is noticed (Talukdar 2020).

His story-telling ability is conducted with effective use of wit and humor. despite these few effective literary works are noticed in Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar such as, 'Oti Alpa Hoilo' in 1873 'Aabaar Oti Alpa Hoilo' in 1873, 'Mahabharata' in 1860, 'Brajavilaas' in 1884, and 'Ratnpariksha' in 1886. To improve literary taste Ramayana and Mahabharata of Kalidas are translated by Vidyasagar into Bengali. According to him, to maintain social reformation it

is important to maintain modernizing of literature. On the other hand, the Widow Remarriage article is also written by Vidyasagar. This article is published in 'Bengal Spectator' in 1842. After that, many social reforms related books are written by him. In 1855, 'Bidhoba Bibaha' part 1 and part 2, in 1871, 'Bahu-Bibaha' part 1, in 1873, 'Bahu-Bibaha' part 2 and 'Balya-Bibaha' are written by him. These are notable writings of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar (Bajpai 2017).

Conclusion

Based on this study it is easy to state that Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was an effective reason behind the reconstruction of traditional Hindu society. Thinking of people is also improvised by him. Pain and problems of Hindu Widow Women are felt by him, to solve his problem he can sanction the Widow Remarriage act. in 1856. Redesigning of the educational system is also maintained by him, which is concluded in this study. Administrative factors of the educational sector are also maintained by this approach. Along with this, he can introduce admission fees and tuition fees for the first time in Bengal. He is also known for his literary work, which is also included in this study.

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