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Make Yourself Worthy of Education

True education is a comprehensive concept. True education encompasses all that goes to make an individual in the real sense of the term. This education builds us not only from without but also from within. The purpose of education does not stop with the acquisition of certificates, degrees or securing a handsome employment. It extends beyond this absolutely limited sphere. Education engenders in an individual the sense of values, an urge for serving not only one's own self or that of the family, but also the larger humanity of which we are a part and parcel. It may be noted that we are what we are, because of the society in which we are born and have our being. This fact enjoins on us the duty to serve, the society, our fellow men and women and all that lives on the earth. It is impossible for us to lead an isolated existence aside and apart from the society. We have to redeem the debt we owe to our society, the society which brought us into being, nursed, nurtured and made us capable of leading a respectable life. Development of self must be accompanied by the development of the human society in which we move and have our being. The purpose of education is to enlarge our vision of the milieu in which we move, to broaden our concept of true development which includes the development of all, and to make us capable of responding to the needs and aspirations of our fellow men and women, who directly or indirectly contribute to our growth and development.

When we talk about a total or a complete human being, we mean not only a physical human being, but something more. This something more is more important than an ordinary human being. The complete human being has a capacity to explore, to examine his inward being. His capacity of going beyond the usual state of mind is the factor which constitutes the 'something more' of the average human being. To make the two—the human being and the human being with the something more—is the real purpose of education. So, the real issue of education is to see that when the student leaves the school, the college or the university, he is well established in goodness, both outwardly and inwardly. The human being is courteous, the something more human being is inwardly courteous as well. It follows, therefore, that education enthrones in the minds and hearts of the students the ideals of loving knowledge and wisdom, service and sacrifice. It is not without purpose that Hindus seek salvation at the feet of Shri Vishnu or His reincarnation—or the incarnation of compassion and wisdom. Let our young men and women treasure these great goals, and strive after them and seek them, because, where your treasure is, there is your heart as well. It is these ideals which need to be religiously cherished and pursued to attain to a higher level of humanity.

In case the ideals of education *i.e.*, service and sacrifice are practised in real life, truth is respected, beauty

valued and goodness imbibed, the individual concerned would have proved worthy of his education. A great educationist, throwing light on the value and importance of education has written that—"Let all that is dark within us be burnt with flame and devil of error be torn away. Education is the most potent and effective tool to redeem our lives—to bring about an individual's development, his emancipation, his cultural regeneration, his economic advancement and training men and women for the diverse needs of a socialistic, secular and democratic society in the present scientific, technological and nuclear age."

The aspirations of an educated man are very ambitious and encouraging. But do many of us come up to the mark? Most of the so-called educated are satisfied after getting university degrees and a lucrative job. The result is the society consists of lop-sided individuals and persons whose personalities are far from complete, because their activities are confined to meeting their selfish ends, and the qualities of service and sacrifice have no place in the scheme of their lives.