

# Revitalizing the Virtues of Swami Vivekananda: Awareness among the Students of Punjab University Chandigarh

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**Abstract:** *Awake! Arise! and Stop Not! Till the Goal is Reached! These electrifying words of Swami Vivekananda hold the potential to shake the soul of each individual to reach the coveted goal. The present study is an attempt to analyze the awareness about Swami Vivekananda and his teachings among the students of Punjab University Chandigarh. To conduct the study a questionnaire in the form of Google form containing the questions related to Swami Vivekananda and his teachings, was sent to one hundred twenty students, studying in various departments of Punjab University Chandigarh and the response of only sixty - four students was received. The data received was analyzed and interpreted. The findings suggest that Self Discipline, Self Confidence, Self Sacrifice and Service, Courage and Fearlessness, Positive Attitude and Self Leadership are the teachings of Swami Vivekananda and are the basic pillars of leading a gratified and courageous life. The educational pivots like school and college plays a very crucial role in acquainting the students about the moral values and student life is the best time to inculcate the virtues of Swami Vivekananda for rest of their life. The celebration of the days like Youth day also plays a crucial role in directing the mindset of the students. The study holds implications for the policy makers that, Swami Vivekananda's teachings should be made a mandatory chapter in school and college curriculum. Though majority of the students were aware of Swami Vivekananda but still there is the need to spread more awareness about Swamiji, so that all the students could realize the hidden power within them and get benefitted with the illuminating wisdom of the great saint.*

**Keywords:** Swami Vivekananda, Youth Icon, Youth Day

## 1. Introduction

Swami Vivekananda (1863 - 1902) made his mark through the power of words, not only in India but also in Western countries, especially in America. This Hindu Monk spell bound the whole world during the Parliament of religion, which was held in Chicago in 1893. Swami Vivekananda is still alive in our hearts and acting as the guiding force in every phase of life. Inspired by the virtues of the Swami Vivekananda since childhood, the researcher got the urge to study about the life story of this great Hindu monk. The present study is an attempt to analyze the awareness about Swami Vivekananda among the students of Punjab University Chandigarh, so that the policy makers could be acquainted about the urgent need of incorporating Swami Vivekananda's teachings as a mandatory chapter in school and college curriculum. The review of the related literature revealed that though ample research has been done on Swami Vivekananda and his life history but not much research have been with respect to the student's opinion and specifically in Chandigarh region. So the researcher got the urge to conduct the short study to know the opinion of the students in Punjab University Chandigarh.

### Objective of the study

To study the awareness about Swami Vivekananda and his teachings among the students of Punjab University Chandigarh.

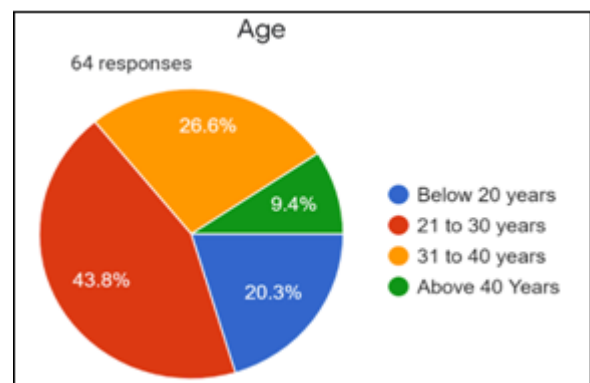
## 2. Research Methodology

To conduct the study a questionnaire in the form of Google form containing the questions related to Swami Vivekananda and his teachings, was sent to one hundred twenty students, studying in various departments of Punjab

University Chandigarh and the response of only sixty - four students was received. The data received was analyzed and interpreted to reach the meaningful results. The data analysis and interpretation of results has been discussed below.

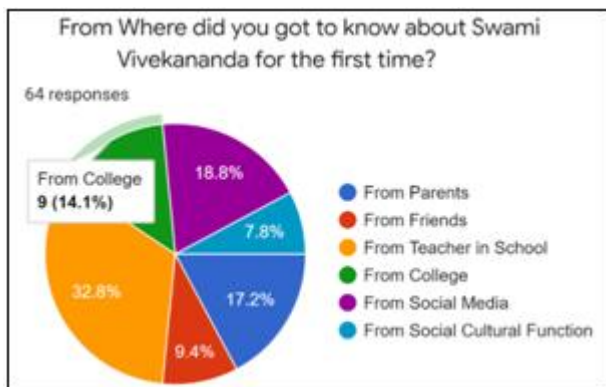
## 3. Data Analysis and Interpretation of Results

After the collection of data, the analysis and interpretation was done as given below:



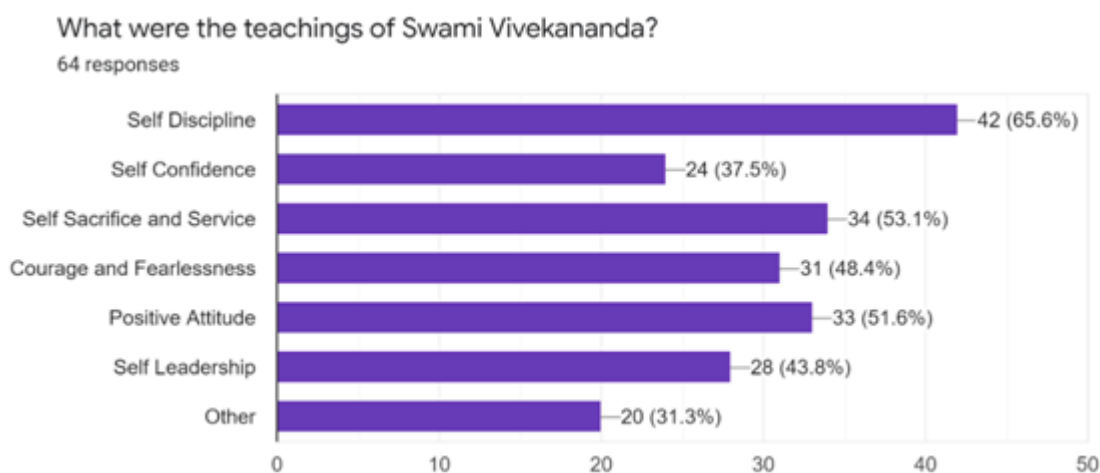
**Graph 1.1:** Showing the responses of the students with respect to their age:

The response reveals that majority (43.8%) of the respondent students lie in the age group of twenty one to thirty years. 26.6% of the respondents lie between the age group of thirty one to forty years of age. The data depicts that the respondents were the young students and the study is an attempt to know about the awareness about Swami Vivekananda and his teachings among the youth studying at Punjab University Chandigarh.



**Graph 1.2:** Showing the responses of the students about from where did they get to know about Swami Vivekananda for the first time

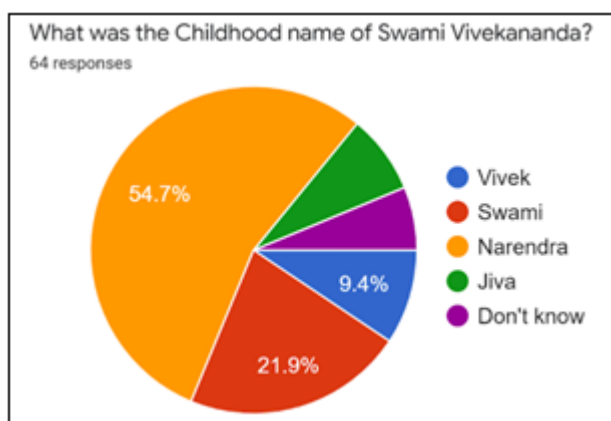
The responses reveal that majority (32.8%) of the students heard about Swami Vivekananda from their school teacher, 18.8% of the students from Social media, 17.2% from social cultural functions, 14.1% from college and 7.8 % of the students got to know about Swami Vivekananda from their parents. It depicts that the school plays a very crucial role in acquainting the students about the moral values and student life is the best time to inculcate the wisdom of Swami Vivekananda into the lifestyle for rest of their life. The celebration of the days like Youth day also plays a vital role in directing the mindset of the students.



**Graph 1.3:** Showing the responses of the students about the teachings of Swami Vivekananda

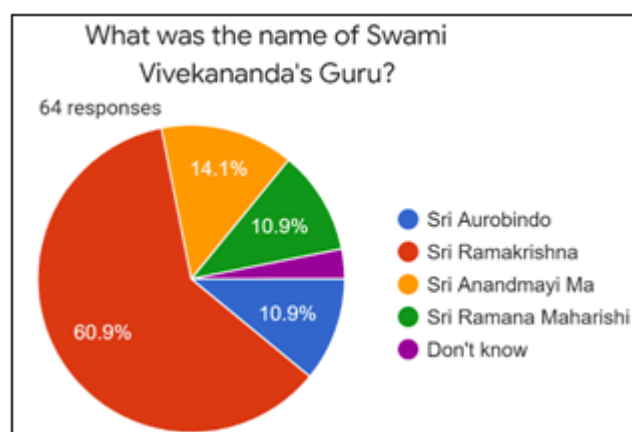
The responses reveal that the various values which they learnt after reading and listening about Swami Vivekananda are Self Discipline, Self Confidence, Self Sacrifice and Service, Courage and Fearlessness, Positive Attitude and Self Leadership. All these are the basic pillars of leading a gratified and courageous life.

benefitted with the high power words and teachings of Swami Vivekananda.



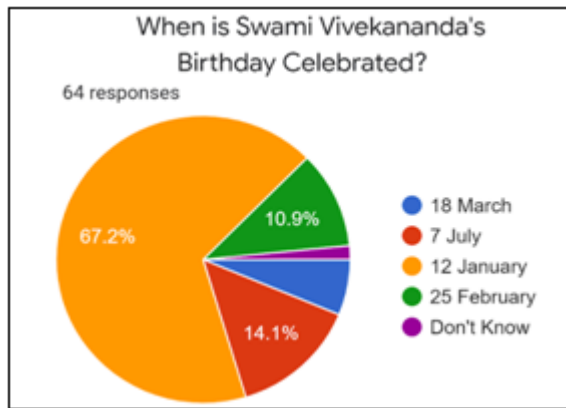
**Graph 1.4:** Showing the responses of the students:

The responses reveal that majority (54.7%) of the students were aware that the childhood name of Swami Vivekananda was Narendra but still many of them were not aware of the same. So the need is to spread more awareness about Swamiji, so that the students generate curiosity and get



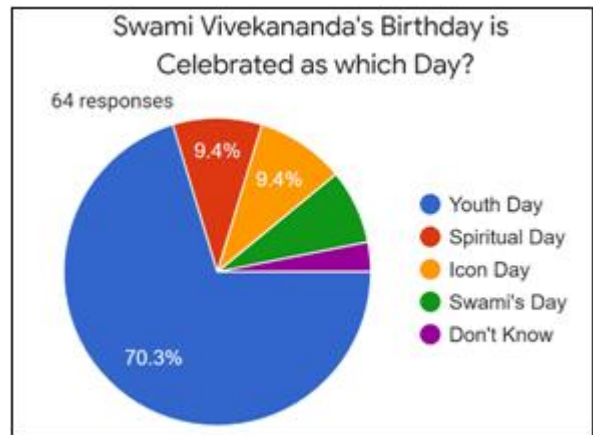
**Graph 1.5:** Showing the responses of the students:

The responses reveal that 60.9% of the students knew that Sri Ramakrishna were the Guru of Swami Vivekananda. The more awareness could be spread via social media and through virtual platforms to make children aware about the life history of Swami Vivekananda so that they too could get inspired by the life of such a great Saint and Philosopher.



Graph 1.6: Showing the responses of the students

The responses reveal that 67% of the students knew that the Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda falls on 12<sup>th</sup> January. The rest of the students had no idea. Celebrating Youth day at school level and at college level could play a great role in making a mark in student's mind about Swami Vivekananda's greatness.

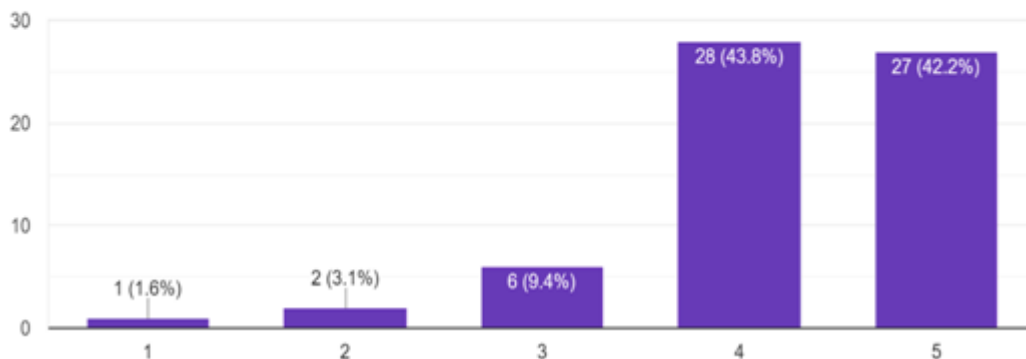


Graph 1.7: Showing the responses of the students:

The responses depict that 70.3% of the students were aware that Swami Vivekananda's Birthday is Celebrated as the Youth Day. The need is to ignite the youth about the greatest youth icon by celebrating this day with Great Spirit every year and indulge maximum number of students in the great day celebrations.

How likely would you rate the idea of Incorporating Swami Vivekananda's teachings as mandatory chapters in School and college Curriculum?

64 responses



Graph 1.8: Showing the responses of the students

The responses reveal that Majority of the students believe that Swami Vivekananda's teachings should made a mandatory chapter in school and college curriculum so that the youth could learn the utmost required lesson of Self Control and Self Discipline.

#### 4. Suggestions and Conclusion

The findings suggest that school plays a very crucial role in acquainting the students about the moral values and student life is the best time to inculcate the high energy words of Swami Vivekananda into the lifestyle for rest of their life. The celebration of the days like Youth day also plays a crucial role in directing the mindset of the students. Self Discipline, Self Confidence, Self Sacrifice and Service, Courage and Fearlessness, Positive Attitude and Self Leadership are the teachings of Swami Vivekananda and are the basic pillars of leading a gratified and courageous life. Swami Vivekananda's teachings should made a mandatory chapter in school and college curriculum. Celebrating Youth day at school level and at college level could play a great

role in making a mark in student's mind about Swami Vivekananda's greatness. Though majority of the students were aware of Swami Vivekananda but still there is the need to spread more awareness about Swamiji, so that all the students could realize the hidden power within them and get benefitted with the illuminating wisdom of Swami Vivekananda.

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