



Ramakrishna Mission

Dr. M. Vijay Kumar Sharma

Associate Professor,

Department of Social Work,

Mahatma Gandhi Central University,

Motihari, Bihar– 848401.

SWRK5003
Unit-V,
Bharatiya Approaches to Social
Change and Development

Topic- Approaches to Social Reform:
Ramakrishna Mission

Contents

- **Introduction of Ramakrishna Mission**
- **Founder of Ramakrishna Mission**
- **Foundational Concept of Ramakrishna Mission**
- **Need of this movement**
- **Ideology of Ramakrishna Mission**
- **Structure of Ramakrishna Mission**
- **Motto of Ramakrishna Mission**
- **Philosophy of the Ramakrishna Mission**
- **Activities of Ramakrishna Mission**
- **The Philosophy of Service**
- **References**

Introduction of Ramakrishna Mission

- Ramakrishna Mission is the socio- spiritual organization founded by Swami Vivekananda on the ideology of Sri Ramakrishna.
- It is a registered society.
- The main motive of this organization is to set in motion a non- sectarian, universal spiritual movement which is working silently since last 100 years.
- The base of this organization is Vedanta.
- Sri Ramakrishna is known as Prophet of Harmony of Religions. According to him ‘As many faiths, so many paths.’”

Founder of Ramakrishna Mission

- *Ramakrishna Mission was founded in 1897 by his favourite disciple Swami Vivekananda.*
- The mission stood for social service.
- The best way to serve God is to serve mankind was its motto.

Foundational Concept of Ramakrishna Mission

- The foundational concept of Ramakrishna Sangha is 'As many faiths, so many paths'
- Ramakrishna Paramhan's message was his God-consciousness.
- When God-consciousness falls short, traditions become dogmatic and oppressive and religious teachings lose their transforming power.

Need of this movement

- Hinduism is based on dynamic philosophy of life known as Vedanta.
- Vedanta represents the timeless quest of the human soul for the Eternal & Infinite.
- It is the outcome of the enquiries conducted by the ancient ages of India, into the mystery of life, death, consciousness and existence.
- Western thinkers relied on external, the ancient Indian sages, known as rishis, developed the technique of yoga, i.e. inner concentration.
- As the world itself was in critical situation caused by the erosion of cultural, moral and spiritual values therefore the lives and messages of Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda had great significance all over the world.

Ideology of Ramakrishna Mission

The Ideology of Sri Ramakrishna Mission consists of the eternal principles of Vedanta as lived and experienced by Sri Ramakrishna and illustrated by Swami Vivekananda. It has three characteristics.

- Modern, Universal and Practical

The basic principles are:

- God Realization is the ultimate growth of life
- Potential Divinity of Soul
- Synthesis of Yoga
- Morality based on strength
- Harmony of Religion
- Avtarhood of Sri Ramakrishna
- A new Philosophy of Work

A new Philosophy of Work

Swami Vivekananda has given a new philosophy of work for the modern world. All work is done on the basis of philosophy of work, which is based upon:

- All Work is sacred
- Work is Worship
- Service to Man is Service to God
- Focus on Service to poor and downtrodden
- Work is a spiritual Discipline

Structure of Ramakrishna Mission

- The Ramakrishna Mission is a Public Association or Society open to monks as well as lay people.
- Those who have faith on Sri Ramakrishna's ideology and his message are eligible for its membership.
- This mission was registered as a society on 4th May 1909.
- It has branches all over India and other countries.

Aim of the Movement

- The ideology of Sri Ramakrishna Sangha is SERVICE.
- In Ramakrishna Mission, service is a way of life.
- Service comprises these activities cover different areas of human needs and social welfare such as education, health, rural development, self development, women's welfare, interfaith understanding, moral life, spiritual guidance and relief to victim of calamities.

Service has certain distinctive features in Ramakrishna Mission

- Selfless Sacrifice and Love
- Liberty, Equality and Fraternity
- Excellence, efficiency and Teamwork
- Truthfulness, Honesty and Transparency
- Social commitment with politics

Motto of Ramakrishna Mission

- *Atmano mokshartham jagad hitaya cha.*
- *" It means, 'for one's own liberation, and for the welfare of the world'.*
- The Ramakrishna Mission has been founded to help people in attaining salvation themselves as well as in serving others.

Philosophy of the Ramakrishna Mission

Ramakrishna Mission is based on the philosophy of Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa. As per this philosophy-

- The main aim in the life of an individual is the upliftment of oneself as well as others.
- Each human being is gifted with enormous moral and spiritual potential.
- The only thing one has to do is work towards the discovery and development of that potential.
- The mission does not believe in the superiority of a particular religion, nor does it prescribe the necessity of *shastras* (religious texts) and *anushtana* (rites and rituals).

Activities of Ramakrishna Mission

Types of Service

1. Medical Service
2. Educational Service
3. Work in Rural and Tribal Areas
4. Relief and Rehabilitation Work
5. Women Welfare Programmes
6. Youth Welfare Programmes
7. Mass Contact
8. Spiritual and Cultural Work
9. Celebrations of holy days with cultural programmes, publications

The Philosophy of Service

- Sri Ramakrishna used to say, 'Man is Narayan Himself. If God can manifest Himself through an image, then why not through man also?'
- He declared very categorically that God-realization is the aim of human life. But the means to this are legion.

Basic Approach

- Till date the Ramakrishna Mission conducted hundreds of relief works in India, Burma, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, during calamities and hardships issuing from such a variety of causes as famines, floods, fires, epidemics, cyclones, tornados, riots, earthquakes, landslides and droughts.
- In 1897, when the Ramakrishna Mission started its first relief work, there were hardly any other organized services in the field.
- It was in fact a pioneering activity of the movement.
- The Ramakrishna Mission tries to realistically address many developmental models and environmental safeguards important issues in its relief and rehabilitation programmes.

References-

- "The Ramakrishna Movement". *Centre Védantique Ramakrishna*. 26 November 2011. Archived from the original on 2 July 2017. Retrieved 14 January 2018.
- "Ramakrishna Movement". *Ramakrishna Vedanta Society of North Carolina*. 15 July 2017. Retrieved 14 January 2018.
- Mission, Belur Math, The Headquarters of Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna. "BELUR MATH : The Headquarters of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, India". belurmath.org. Retrieved 25 July 2017.
- David Smith, "Religions in the Modern World", p.57
- Vivekananda, Swami. "Conversations And Dialogues ~ XVI". *The Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda*. 7. Advaita Ashrama.
- Retrieved on 18.05.2020- http://www.rkmissionchapra.org/our_ideals.html
- Ananda (2 April 2009). "Service in the name of God in every human". *The Telegraph*. Retrieved 25 April 2020.

Thank You