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## **Sister Nivedita as a Great Leader of Women Education**

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### **Abstract**

The contribution of men and women in the development of the nation is equal. We are getting the evidence constantly that women contribution to the development of Indian society is not less. In the form of Swami Vivekananda's India, we got Sister Nivedita as a foreign gift to fulfill his dreams. At that time, Nivedita was the best leader for women's development and the spread of women education. We are able to identify of the great virtues of being a leader of the nation that seeing in Nivedita that skills or qualities are co-operation, intelligence, dear, compassion, sympathy etc. She has not only inspired women education, she also inspired all people and youth generation. Nivedita was daughter of holy mother's Sarada Debi, on the other hand, she was a leader of women's education and development. This paper discusses an effort has been made to expose the new aspects of this new form of Nivedita.

**Keywords-** *Leadership Quality, Women Education, Empowerment*

### **Introduction**

The last half of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century is an important chapter in the history of India. Nivedita's contribution can't be denied in development of national development and women's ideals as well as women empowerment in India. Nivedita highlighted the social, politics, economics, education and culture of India under the British rule, through the spread of women's education in this country. Women are part of society, without the development of the them, the development of the whole society is not possible. Birds can't fly like a donation, and one foot can't be won, such as race competition. Similarly, women and men of the society are not excluded from overall development. In the light of Swami Vivekananda, Nivedita came to India for the development of Indian women and to build up to the nation of India. Due to the efficient management and sincerity of the devotees, it has become a result of the 'women education' as an 'oasis in the desert'.

### **Objectives**

- To know the brief life history of Sister Nivedita.

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- To know the quality of a great leader.
- To know the Sister Nivedita's role of leading power of women education.

## **Methodology:**

This study is analytical in nature. It is based on the secondary sources of data like books, journals, visit Ramakrishna Math and Nivedita's school and different websites regarding this topic.

## **Brief Life Span of Sister Nivedita**

Sister Nivedita was great hearted lady. Her father Samuel Nobel was a social worker and humanist in Ireland. She was born Ireland in 1867. Her real name is Margaret Elizabeth Noble.

At the very young age, her tendency is to see spiritual and philosophical ideas. She was a very meritorious student. She used to ask questions but she was not satisfied with any reply. After studying at Halifax College, she self established 'Raskin School' in 1892 at Wimbledon and at the age of 17 then she joined the teaching profession. She earned his reputation in field of teaching profession, in a very short period of time she devoted himself to social, intellectual and literary studies.

Nivedita is very thirsty in search of truth. In 1896, she came in contact with Swami Vivekananda when Swamiji discussions of Vedanta religion in an elite family in London. She listen Vedanta philosophical logic then she realized aim of her life and accepted Swami Vivekananda as her guru. On 28 January 1898, she came to Calcutta for the formation of India. After coming to Calcutta, she found her youngest mother to show her first with Srisri Sarada Devi. Sri Sri Saroda Devi named her 'Khuki' by adoring him. In March 1898, Vivekananda initiated him as an apprentice for Ramkrishna theory and gave him her new name, Sister Nivedita.

Nivedita was devoted herself to the development of women of Bengal. On 13th November 1898, he started a school for girls in Calcutta. Srishri Ma Saradha said to the school- 'I am grateful that the school is blessed with the blessings of the God, and the educated girls from this place become an ideal girl'. In July 1899, she went to the United States and there for a year, through public relations, she collected money for the education of women. Nivedita left Ramakrishna ideology after the death of Vivekananda's in July 1902. After that she got involved in Indian politics. She left his spiritual thoughts and devoted himself to anti-British movement. During from 1907 to 1909 years, she worked for the same purpose while in England. She returned to India in July 1909. After this, she was unable to adapt to the Indian hot weather. For the change of weather, she went to Darjeeling on October 13, 1911 and died there. Rabindranath Tagore named her "Lokmatata" by honoring the contribution of dedicated people to the formation of Indian society.

## **Quality of a Great Leader**

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Every people have quality of leading power. But every people are not a great leader. Some people are born to be leaders. Whether a person is a national leader then make them a great leader are the same. Some quality is indicated who are the great leader. This quality is –

1. **Honesty:** Honesty is the best policy. A leader would be always honest. It will be help to the leader for construct a team and also motivated to the others member of a team. Honesty will be very strong of the quality of leadership.
2. **Commitment:** A great leader always will show commitment to their team. It is said that leader's commitments will encourage the team members to work harder to fulfill their obligation as well.
3. **Positive attitude:** It is very essential quality of great leader. Positive and attitude will be able to destroy all negative thinking. That attitude can motivate others to do same things. A person who have positivity then he or she able to solve any difficulties.
4. **Creativity:** A great leader will be creative minded. His/her every work will be creativeness. It is said that if creativity is a strong point of certain members of the team then bring them in on a brainstorming session that can get the entire team thinking outside the box while striving to reach the finish line.
5. **Inspire ability:** It is very important for any leader to inspire their team. When team member loss their motivation then leader dose the role play as inspirer. Inspiration is internal matter that will encourage any team members.
6. **Responsibility:** A great leader is responsible person. He/she would be taken to responsibility for every situation or every moment, decision making, failure and joyful event.

## **Leading power of women education:-**

In that context, we discuss the role of leading power of women education of great noble hearted sister Nivedita. Nivedita is a treasurer of Indian women's education. She came to India in the ideals and inspiration of Vivekananda. In a short span of time she accepted India as her own country and she thinks all the Indians are her relatives. To know the Indian society and culture, she read the Indian literature, history, Ramayana, Mahavarata etc. she also thinks about the development of women in this country, as well as implementation of her thinking. So, we said 'A gift of India given by England'. Sister Nivedita is a national leader of women education, its major causes are ----

- **School established & Nivedita:** Education is the most powerful weapon for the development of women. For the development of Indian women, she proposed to set up schools for women. Then Vivekananda thanked him for this great thinking. At last she established 'Sister Nivedita Girls School' in the year 1898, 13<sup>th</sup> November at Kolkata. Sri Sri Maa Sarada Debi came to open the school of Nivedita and she blessed in this institution "I pray that the blessings of the Divine Mother may be upon the

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school and the girls; and the girls trained from the school may become ideal girls.’’ The establishment of the school of Nivedita is an adventurous task in the society which is now advanced effort to spread the education of women. She has made her the leader of the nation's women education in establishing the school.

- **Motivating & Nivedita:** Nivedita was not only limited to the established of the school but also a strong motivator. She had been encouragement to others. Initially, the guardians did not send their girls to school. She encourage the guardians for the sending their girls to school. In January 1904, in his speech at the Patna in the public meeting, she inspired the Indian youth in the struggle of freedom. Strong patriotism can protect from all forms of subsidence. We get one of the other patterns of her motivating work, when in the time of ‘Plague disease’ in Kolkata. By her work, behavior she motivated to the masses especially young people when she cleaned the dirty garbage on the road.
- **Cleanness & Nivedita:** The present Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the campaign is the name of the ‘SWACH BHARAT’ which we find in the life-span of sister Nivedita. In 1899, plague disease was found in Calcutta. One day Nivedita noticed that there was dirty garbage on the streets of Bagbazar, but no one had any frown. Then she herself came forward to clean the road with the hand of a broom. We get another example of cleanliness of sister Nivedita—after hearing the Holy mother Sarada Devi coming to her school, she cleaned the school and decorated with flowers. She understood that it was absolutely necessary to form a clean India. Through cleanliness, she wanted to present the women empowerment to the world and take the standard of women education to a much higher level.
- **Culture and Nivedita:** culture carries a national identity. Nivedita did not any work that could hurt the Indian culture. She respected Indian culture. In 1902, at the prize distribution program of the cricket players, the students advised to give priority to the country’s play. She said the students to play boxing, swords, kabaddi and wrestling. Sister Nivedita honored Indian culture, her one of sings is that –In the year 1903, when she arrives at Medinipur station then to give him a well come as ‘hip hip hurray!’, she lifted her hand and said three times loudly –‘Wo gurujiki fote, bol babujiki khalsa’. She started a song of ‘Bandematram’ every day in school. Thus she always tried to raise the spirit of protecting culture among the students.
- **Writer and Nivedita:** One of the many identity of Nivedita is one of them- she is a writer. From her early age, she expressed her thoughts through writings. Sister Nivedita is writing –As I saw him, kali the mother, the web of Indian life, Hints on national education in India, civic ideal and Indian nationality, cradle tales of Hinduism, footfalls of Indian history etc. Through these writings she tried to highlight the Indian society, culture, custom, education and as well as the status of women.

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Through her writings, Nivedita accelerated way for development of women's education.

- **Good speaker and Nivedita:** She was a good speaker. She used to be able to enlighten everyone by her lecture. She speeches at different places in the country. The purpose of these speeches was to inspire the youth, extending women education, Formation of India, encourage national unity, etc. Her notable lecture is—in 1899, speech on 'Plague and student duties' with the Swami Vivekananda in the classic theater. In 1902, she gave a speech in Nagpur to encourage patriotism of youth students. Girls are not less in any part, we also get the proof of leadership skills among them through all these speeches.
- **Co-curricular activities and Nivedita:** She used to believe and earnestly wanted girls to gain financial independence. Keeping this in mind, Sister Nivedita, a great soul, teaches different types of handicrafts for girls. She taught with the simple reading of school girls as well as teaching –Sewing, Cooking, Services-Nissan, different types of handwork etc. these works have made women education very rich.

## Conclusion

According to Swami Vivekananda-'Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man'. Sister Nivedita was one of the key-drivers to implement this ideology. She understood that for the development of women's education and to express the talent of women; it will be needed of eligible and competent leadership. She has tried to do this work in her life span. To express the talent of women, self-dependent of women nation, promotion and expansion of women's education, her contribution is undeniable. That is why Sister Nivedita is called a role model of women. In order to improve the quality of women education in the formation of a healthy nation, her untiring efforts have made her unique. So, she has become the national leader of women's education.

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