

Civilisations and Culture in the opinion of Sri Aurobindo

Dr. Poorva Bhonde

HoD, (English)
Sharadchandra Arts & Commerce
College, Butibori, Nagpur

Abhay V. Kakde

M.A. (English), M.Ed.

Introduction:

Sri Aurobindo Ghosh (15 August, 1872 - 5 December, 1950) was a freedom fighter, poet, essayist, scholar, yogi and philosopher. He worked towards the cause of India's freedom, and for further evolution of life on earth. He was a versatile writer who dealt effectively with different forms of literature like prose, poetry and essays. He was one of the pioneers of political awakening in India. He founded an Ashram at Pondicherry, where, he also launched 'Arya' a monthly review. The principal writings of Sri Aurobindo include, in prose, The Life Divine, considered his single great work of metaphysics, The Synthesis of Yoga, Secrets of the Vedas, Essays on the Gita, Essays Divine and Human, The Renaissance in India and other essays on Indian Culture, The Human Cycle, The Ideal of Human Unity, War and Self-Determination, Supermental Manifestation upon Earth, The Future Poetry, Thoughts and Aphorisms and several volumes of letters. In poetry, his principal work is "Savitri - a Legend and a Symbol" in blank verse. It is beyond the scope of this study to consider in detail Sri Aurobindo Ghosh.

Sri Aurobindo said, It would seem at first sight that since man is pre - eminently the mental being, the development of the mental faculties and the richness of the mental life should be

his highest aim, - his preoccupying aim, even, as soon as he has got rid of the obsession of the life and body provided for the indispensable satisfaction of the gross needs which our physical and animal nature imposes on us. Knowledge, science, art, thought, ethics, philosophy, religion, this is man's real business, these are his true affairs. To be is for him not merely to be born, grow up, marry, get his livelihood, support a family and then die, - the vital and physical life, a human edition of the animal round, a human enlargement of the little animal sector and arc of the divine circle; rather to become and grow mentally and live with knowledge and power within himself as well as from within outward in his manhood. But there is here a double motive of Nature, an insistent duality in her human purpose.

Civilisations and Culture:

Life starts from Nature, without nature human being can't survive. Human life depends upon the nature. According to the thinking of Sri Aurobindo, Nature is important for us because it develops living being. Animals are also the part of nature. Self - knowledge and self - control is useful for the development of human life. Because of knowledge man's becomes civilized. Culture gives the shape to the human life and teaches the rules and regulations of life. That's why Civilisation and

Culture plays the important role in the society.

Civilisations means advantage of social development and Culture means way of life. Human life is full of individual and social responsibilities which he needs to shoulder from time to time and keep marching ahead towards fulfillment of all, thereby achieving the goal of social development. While deliberating upon the issue of social developments, Sri Aurobindo gives a list of elements for social developments as follows:

1. Education
2. Knowledge
3. Science
4. Art
5. Religion

■ **Education:**

Education is the process of learning or acquiring the knowledge. Education system has been started from ancient ages. But the system is changing of education, according to the situation.

In ancient period, the Ashram system, The human life was divided into four periods:

1. Brahmacharya (Student)
2. Grihastha (Householder)
3. Vanprastha (Retired)
4. Sannyasa (Renunciation)

The Ashram system was the part of Indian religions. So, Brahmacharya is most important part of life. It is a process of taking education. The brahmacharya stage starts from childhood to 25 years of age. Nowadays, Education system has been divided in such stages like as - Kindergarten, Primary School, Secondary School, College. i.e. process of learning. Every person has a rights of

education. It is a universal rights. The progress of human society is depend upon the education. There is no limits to take the education. Because of education, each and every student belongs to different religion. They learn together and know the cultures of religions and respect them. It is very useful for the civilisations and culture.

■ **Knowledge:**

In the opinion of Sri Aurobindo 'knowledge' plays a pivotal role in achieving the aim of social development. Knowledge means learning something new like facts, information, skill and experience. Knowledge is essential for the understanding the problems of society.

■ **Science:**

Living in the age of Science, importance of science can not be ignored. Sri Aurobindo was well aware of the role being played by science in human evolution. Science has been divided into two parts.

1. Natural Sciences: It studies the observation, prediction of daily lives and new inventions. Science is very useful for developing the modern technologies in day to day life.
2. Social Sciences: Sociology, History, Economics are the branches of social sciences.

Sociology studies the human behaviour and the society. It investigates the problems and doing analysis of the society. After analyzing the problems applying the social policy for the welfare and development of the society. It is a social process.

History tells stories about the past, Deeds of ancestors, heroes, God and animals. It may be defined as an account that purports to be true of events and ways of thinking and feeling in some part of the human past. History tells the

experience and gives the lessons for the present condition. That's why the study of history is very useful for the making the bright future.

Economics studies the financial condition of man. The study of wealth. Because life depends upon the financial condition. Earning and learning process is very useful for the development of economic condition and education supports to it.

■ **Art:**

Art is a important part of life and studies of human activities. Art shows artistic expression and the creativity. Art expresses the emotions, feelings and develop the skill of artist. Art is also a part of education. Formal education teaches all the branch of knowledge. Art education makes future. We can say it is a learning and earning process. Art manifests itself in various forms like - painting, printmaking, photography, computer art, plastic art etc.

Art is a type of skill. Above mentioned arts are very important and it shows creativity of human mind and become a useful tool of earning process.

■ **Religion:**

India is a land of varied religions - Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Buddha, Jain etc. Every person belongs to one religion of them. Every religion has a paramount importance. Religion moulds an individual through its teaching, cultural activities, rituals, festivals and etc.

Sri Aurobindo says that, the person performs his role according to religion. Every religion teaches positive attitude towards life. The aim of religion is to give the shape human beings and meaning to life.

In his opinion all the religions have same aims and visions despite their apparent differences.

Conclusion:3

The concept of Sri Aurobindo, Civilisation and Culture is not only essential for the progress and welfare of social development but also useful to become a civilized and well - cultured person in the society. Civilised and cultured person can handle any type of problem and gives the shape to his society as well as nation. The above concept is a kind of training for perfect and happy life.

Thus, to evolve as a better human being one must climb up the steps of social development through knowledge, science, art and religion. Development of the mental faculties of man will make him civilized and cultured.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- *Sri Aurobindo : Essays Divine and Human, Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry, 1950.*
- *Sri Aurobindo : The Renaissance in India and other essays on Indian Culture, Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry, 1953.*
- *Sri Aurobindo : The Human Cycle, The Ideal Of Human Unity, War and Self-Determination, Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry, 1962.*
- *Sri Aurobindo : On Himself, Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry, 1972.*
- *Sri Aurobindo : On Education, Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry, 1990.*
- *Heehs, P. : Sri Aurobindo: A Brief Biography, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1998.*
- *Nahar, Sujata : India's Rebirth - A Selection from Sri Aurobindo's Writings, Talks and Speeches, Hermanville, France, 2000.*
- *Rishabhchand : Sri Aurobindo, His Life Unique, Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry, 1981.*
- *Sen, I.: Integral Education, Aurobindo International University Centre , Pondicherry, 1952.*
- *Tej, Susama : Sri Aurobindo and the Modern Critics, Journal of Indian Renaissance, Triveni, 1975.*
- *M. H. Syed : Sri Aurobindo Ghosh, Himalaya Publishing House Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai, 2011*