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Relevance of the Verse 'Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktaye' in the Contemporary Education System and Its Impact on the Indian Society

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Abstract: In modern times, nefarious activities for selfish gains are evident across the globe, even among educated individuals who very often indulge in wicked and vile acts. Hence, some major concerns regarding the modern education system and practices have arisen, like whether the spiritual aims of education have gradually lost significance and education for livelihood and material gains has gained prominence or is it that education for life has become unimportant? Has education become a mere tool in the hands of some to enhance their status in the society? What about the individualistic aims of education? It is in this context that the researchers thought of undertaking the present research project and analyzing the significance of a very popular

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Patna – 800 001, Bihar, India E-mail: upasanasingh@gmail.com Sanskrit verse about education 'Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktaye' in the contemporary education system.

The present study aims at tracing the meaning of the verse 'Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktaye' from the ancient time to the present time. We know the literal meaning of the verse, that true education is that which liberates a person, but what is the impact of this concept of liberation through education at the present time is the question raised through this study. The study tries to establish a relation among education, self-realization and liberation in the contemporary education system and its impact on the Indian society.

Keywords: Liberation, Self realization, Contemporary education system.

Introduction:

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." – Nelson Mandela

The definition of education as a 'weapon' to change the world given by Nelson Mandela makes us vividly visualize the two aspects of education: education that creates and preserves and education that annihilates. In our ancient scriptures education has been perceived as a means to attain salvation, self realization and liberation. It is not restricted to acquisition of intellectual acumen or dialectical power but to have realized experience. So, it emphasizes training and discipline of body and mind and advocates moulding individuals to a life of duty. If we trace the journey of education from ancient to modern times, we find that ideally, the spiritual