

## **My learning diary**

1938 April was my vacation after my matriculation exam

My history/geography teacher loaned me a copy of a book by Swami Vivekananda.

I studied in Tamil medium and my proficiency in English was modest.

My teacher told me – do not worry if you do not follow every word. Get the spirit of what Swamiji says. He infuses a spirit and that is what you may like to absorb.

Incidentally some of my elders questioned the wisdom of placing such a heavy material in the hands of an impressionable mind –they feared a sanyasi/swami in the family.

Many things appealed to me in that book – the word power, the thought power, the expression power, the idea power.

The seeds were probably sown then.

When after 20 years I became an educator and consultant, I was looking for inspiration from within the country. Swamiji's works gave me that.

All of us are learning all the time

WHY a learning diary then?

The Japanese practice/experience –

Infact they have a “Diary handing over ceremony”

**HOW** a learning diary?

Not being taught/forced but learnt of our own volition

‘new ‘ information. Idea,

Method, application, revision

Some jettisoning.

Use a Grid as a learning tool’;

Review Knowledge formally/informally acquired,

And its current tenability.

### **Why a learning diary?**

Keep learning to keep young enough;

Both our hand, head and heart,

And yes our heart.

LEARNING is an act of changing.

The process of learning is one of discovery and acceptance  
Of new ideas;

Learning is something  
a person does,  
rather than something  
done to that person.

You cannot teach a man anything  
you can only help him discover it within himself

When learning stops, dying has sort of begun.

Fear of failure can block real learning anyway.

If you expect that it will be!

And last of all

It is a way to measure me, and telling myself first.

**The reality of not learning:**

If I continue to do what I have been doing

the way I have been doing,

I will continue to get what I have been getting

and may be in this fast changing world

I may not continue to get what I have been getting.

QED: Remember life unexamined, is a life unlived.

Record, review, rethink both what I have been doing and the way I have been doing, in terms of this fast changing world so I can update / jettison what is needed to be