

IMPORTANCE OF VALUE EDUCATION : AN OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT

A value crisis in a society implies an erosion of the traditional values of a society or a dilemma situation where there is little balance between traditional values and modern values. Material values prevail over ethical, moral, social and spiritual values. At present, India is passing through a period of value crisis in several areas of national life. It is generally said that individual life as well as our social life is plagued by the evil values of corruption, cynicism, discord, disruption, hypocrisy and violence. Most of the youth have no respect for elders and women, lying has become their habit, and everywhere there is crime and jealousy that drains the much-desired moral values. The overall development of an individual is incomplete if moral values are neglected. With a well-designed curriculum system, it is possible to make education an effective tool for cultivating desirable ethical, moral, spiritual and social values. Value education should help eliminate obscurantism, religion, fanaticism, violence, superstition and fatalism. Education that inculcates universal and eternal values like compassion, courage, honesty, tolerance and truthfulness etc. will help in developing balanced individuals and creating a humane society. It is everyone's responsibility as parents, teachers, great personalities and education to develop the required human values in the young generation. Education without values is like a crime. Therefore, value-based education is a necessity and an indispensable facility. In addition to education, schools should engage in activities that create a sense of brotherhood and love. Schools must participate in social causes through students. Students must be taught the importance of honesty, hard work, respect for others, cooperation and forgiveness. Parents must remember that children look up to their parents and see them as their role models. They should show and set an example of a disciplined life. Experts believe that lack of moral value is the main cause of India's unrest and deteriorating conditions. Restlessness among the youth is a major cause of crime. Openness, easy access to unwanted elements and lack of self-control are becoming a bad part of our society. The youth must be guided and shown the right path. Education must focus on the all-round development of the child, because moral values help to make complete human beings not just individuals. It prepares them for their future role. We need to check this immediately, because if moral values continue to deteriorate, it can lead to the total collapse of society.

Key words : *Value, modern values, education*

INTRODUCTION

At present, India is passing through a period of value crisis in several fields of national life. Today's youth and students are confused a lot. The student today is concerned with material gains, position and power, and does not care for good qualities at all. They don't have patriotic feelings. They are not interested to serve the motherland. They have craze to go abroad for jobs. Many youth take to crime, just for trivial and small reasons. Headlines of Newspapers are generally as one student kills his teacher. Another student kills his classmate for ransom etc. The problems of drug abuse, crime and mental stress are the other fast spreading phenomena. These are serious problems and call for urgent attention. Therefore, it is very essential that education should develop such values in the students that they become an asset and guide them to become individuals of sterling character who place service of society above service of the self. Holistic development of an individual is incomplete if values are neglected.

Meaning & Philosophy of Values

Value represents the ideals for which men live. Values are principles that help improve the quality of life. Values codify what is doable and what is not in behavior. They form the basis of character formation and personality development. Values are not dependent on race or religion. They are universal values including humility, manners,

tolerance, compassion, etc. They are an integral part of a nation's philosophy and its education system." Value primarily means to appreciate, value, appreciate, estimate, it means the act of behaving something, holding it and also the act of carrying it judgments about the nature and amount of value compared to something else" (John Dewey) . The philosophy of values is described by Swami Vivekananda "to be happy is the universal desire of all beings and at all times". One must be at peace with oneself to be happy. There can be no peace for a troubled mind. 'Vasanas' (undesirables, wants) take peace of mind. When the mind is still, we can turn it inward and 'see' the treasure of pure consciousness. The "Shrimad Bhagavat Gita" states: "The mind must be freed from 'durtyapara' (deeds) and engaged in the acquisition of 'Sadgunas' (Virtues). A mind that has 'daivi sampati' (divine qualities) has 'Shanti' (peace). These values make us introspective and correct our personality. Two hundred years ago, Thiruvalluvar, a great saint, said that "the success of a human being is in proportion to how high he thinks. Values are the guiding principles of life that contribute to the all-round development of an individual. They are the normative standards by which human beings are influenced in choosing between alternative courses of action.

Need for Value Education

The National Policy on education (1986) highlights the urgent need for value education in view of the growing erosion of essential values and increasing cynicism in society. With a well-designed system of curriculum, it is possible to make education a forceful tool for the cultivation of desirable ethical, moral, spiritual and social values. Education should foster universal and eternal values. Value Education should help to eliminate obscurantism, religious, fanaticism , violence , superstition and fatalism. Education which inculcates universal and eternal values like compassion, courage, honesty, tolerance and truthfulness etc. will help in developing balanced individuals and in creating a humane society. Value education in schools is needed for the development of balanced personalities, these are: Appreciative of good in others, Creative, Emotionally stable, Fair , Fearless , Happy and cheerful, Loyal (steadfast), Patriotic, Productive , Self confident, Self controlled (disciplined), Self reliant, Silent (whenever needed), Socially adjusted, Socially responsible. Therefore, we need Education for Values : Concern about degeneration of Values, Impact of change on children and youth, Dys-functional families, increased crime and violence, effect of media and information overload, The competitive mindset among students, parents, teachers. Education without values is like a crime. Therefore, value based education is need of the hour and as an indispensable device.

Aims of Value Education

As Value education refers to a wide gamut of learning and activities ranging from training in physical health, mental hygiene, etiquette and manners, appropriate social behavior, civic rights and duties to aesthetic and even religious training. Therefore, it is simply a matter of developing appropriate behavior and habits involving inculcation of certain virtues and habits. Ability to make moral judgment based on sound reasoning is a very important aim of value education and has to be deliberately cultivated. Value Education is essentially a matter of educating the feelings and emotions. It is the '*training of the heart*' and consists in developing the right feelings and emotions. Values are common to all fields of human activity, but education is looked upon as the most effective instrument for inculcating values. Values shape one's behavior.

Causes of Value deterioration

Some of the important causes of Value deterioration are as follows:

- Experts do believe that lack of moral value is the major cause of unrest and deteriorating condition of India.
- Restlessness among pupils is the major cause of crime.
- Openness, easy access to unwanted elements and lack of self control are becoming bad components of our society.

- This happening is due to financial, personal, family, social, cultural and educational as well as superstition factors.
- In present time, due to increasing competition, the survival has become difficult especially in the metros cities. This is causing increasing financial pressures and youth are forced to keep away the values in order to survive or grow in their profession.
- When youth settle at a new place, the value systems they have learned earlier, clashes with value system of new surroundings. Then the confusion about deciding what is right and what is not causes deterioration of values.
- There are families where the values are so forcibly inculcated that as soon as the force is over due to the loss of the value forcing youth who have been following these values out of force just drop them like a hot cake.
- Sometimes, values are changing due to the reducing distance between cultures within the country as well as between cross-country cultures.
- With increasing Education, awareness in people is increasing. They are not taking values by their face value. In this process many values are discarded as blind faith or superstition.
- In fact, superstition is one of the factors that make youth give up values. As the education level in people is increasing the level of trusting anything because elders say so is decreasing. Now even a three year old child wants to know why he has to do certain thing. But the way in which most of us have been given the values does not have any explanations to many logical questions. The actual reasons behind those actions may be logical but we are not aware of it, as we call them as superstitions and drop those values.

Suggestions for Inculcation Values

Some of the important ways of inculcating value education are:

- Examples should be taken from day-to- day life situations.
- Extracts from sayings of great men should be explained.
- Incidents and problems which develop value judgment should be taken up.
- Inspirational dialogues, dramas, poems and material from religious scriptures could form the major part of the content of value education.
- Biographies of great personalities should form an important source of value education.
- Personal, neighbourly and community values should be taught in the classroom and thoroughly discussed with the students.
- Yoga and other activities that develop self-discipline among students should be included in the curriculum.
- Group activities like cleaning the school camps, visiting slums, service campus, visits to hospitals, visits to places of worship of different faiths should form part of content in value education.
- Discourses on the lives of national and spiritual leaders can bring out values like self-sacrifice, collective happiness, love for truth and ultimate values of life for which the great leaders lived.
- As society around us is dishonest to a great extent so expecting too much just from institutions won't solve the problem. Students must be taught the importance of honesty, hard work, respect for others, co-operation, and forgiveness.
- Parents must keep this in mind that children look upon their parents and consider them as their role model. They should display and set an example of a disciplined life.
- Pupil must be directed and shown a right path. To be a moral person every belief and thought should be strong and determined. Teachers must have the courage to do right and fight for the right.

- One must be trained in the same from the beginning of life. Therefore moral values must be taught and should be an indispensable part of our education system.
- Teachers should train every pupil for his or her future responsibilities.
- Apart from education, schools should indulge in activities to generate the feeling of brotherhood and love. Schools must participate in social causes through schools kids.
- Students must be taught the importance of honesty, hard work, respect for others, co-operation, and forgiveness. Parents must keep this in mind that children look upon their parents and consider them as their role model. They should display and set an example of a disciplined life.

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