



Value education: Importance and its need

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Abstract

Values are essential for positive human behaviour. Education from time immemorial has focused on values. Values form the core of educational goals and objectives. Education is inherently values oriented and must develop in learners caring, co-operation and respect for others. In addition to equipping them with life skills and attitudes, it must prepare them to lead a full life.

A value is one of the many alternatives that a person chooses and acts upon because it increases human development. Values constitute that which is accepted by the group, community or society. Hence, all the aspects are important and linked to each other. Value means primarily to prize, to esteem, to appraise, to estimate, it means the act of cherishing something, holding it dear and also the act of passing judgment upon the nature and amounts of values as compared with something else.

Today there is deterioration of values in the society. The values have been neglected not only at the social level but at the national level also. There are several factors with the modern higher education which are making people literate or educated undoubtedly but on the other hand responsible for forgetting the basics or values of a good human being or a responsible citizen of the society.

In the existing educational system lays greater emphasis on individualism, competition, verbal fluency or linguistic ability and mere acquisition of information is given, this is just not sufficient and great emphasis will have to be given on the value education. Since it is the time to coherence with broadly acceptable national cultural identity where social values and development can be naturally reinforcing. The cultural values need to be identified for standard curricula all over the country. The value education should be imparted compulsorily up to the high school level. Evaluation of value education should be routine one and it should be based upon the daily observations of student by teachers and peers and should be monitored by administrator properly and also by the parents.

Keywords: human behaviour, essential, group, community or society

Introduction

Education is the vehicle of knowledge, self-preservation and success. Education not only gives a platform to succeed, but also the knowledge of social conduct, strength, character and self-respect. The greatest gift education gives us is the knowledge of unconditional love and a set of values. These values include the simple difference between right and wrong, a belief in God, the importance of hard work and self-respect. Education is a continuous learning experience, learning from people, learning from leaders and followers and then growing up to be the person we are meant to be. Value-based education is a threefold development of any individual of any gender and age, but most importantly of a child. Education tries to develop three aspects: physique, mentality and character.

Even though physique and mentality are important, they are menaces without the third because character is the greatest of these. Education plays a huge role in precisely this area. Value based education is a tool which not only provides us a profession which we can pursue but also a purpose in life. The purpose of our life is undoubtedly to know oneself and be ourselves. We cannot do it unless we learn to identify ourselves with all that lives. The objective of education in a country like India, which has a glorious heritage and can boast of diversity in geography, culture, values and beliefs very

rarely seen in this wide world, should be to educate a student of the value system which is indispensable to live successful life (Das, Sayan, 2008) ^[2].

Values are essential for positive human behaviour. Education from time immemorial has focused on values. Values form the core of educational goals and objectives. Education is inherently values oriented and must develop in learners caring, co-operation and respect for others. In addition to equipping them with life skills and attitudes, it must prepare them to lead a full life. As a society, the concern with Values Education is not unique to our times but the erosion of values has forced introspection and reflection in education. Values Education is integral to education of any kind and has been focused upon in many educational committee reports in India.

Meaning of Value-Education

A value is one of the many alternatives that a person chooses and acts upon because it increases human development. Values constitute that which is accepted by the group, community or society. Hence, all the aspects are important and linked to each other. Value means primarily to prize, to esteem, to appraise, to estimate, it means the act of cherishing something, holding it dear and also the act of passing judgment upon the nature and amounts of values as compared with something else. A value stands for ideas men live for.

They are the part and parcel of the philosophy of a nation and that of its educational system. They are the guiding principles of life.

Value literally means something that has price, something precious, dear and worthwhile; hence something one is ready to suffer and sacrifice for; if necessary one is ready to die for it. Values are standards, rules, criteria, attitudes, guidelines, desirable ideas, beliefs and important things, which play a crucial role in shaping the life of individuals. Values give direction and firmness to life. Human values are the principles, standards, convictions and beliefs that people adopt as their guidelines in daily activities.

According to C. V. Good "Value education is the aggregate of all the process by means of which a person develops abilities, attitudes and other forms of behaviour of the positive values in the society in which he lives."

According to John Dewey "Value primarily means to prize, to esteem, to appraise, to estimate, it means the act of cherishing something's, holding it dear and also act of passing judgement upon the nature and amounts of values as compared with something else".

Value education is education in the sense that it is education for 'becoming'. It is concerned with the development of the total personality of the individual- intellectual, social, emotional, aesthetic, moral and spiritual. It involves developing sensitivity to the good, the right and the beautiful, ability to choose the right values in accordance with the highest ideals of life and internalizing and realizing them in thought and action. As such the process calls into play all human faculties - knowing, feeling and doing. Not only should the learner be enabled to know the right and the good, but also to care, to feel the appropriate emotions, concern and commitment and exercise the will to do the right thing. In other words, to 'value educate' is to develop rational critical thinking, to educate the emotions, to cultivate the imagination, to strengthen will and to train character of the learner.

The very purpose and main function of education is the development of an all-round and well-balanced personality of the students, and also to develop all dimensions of the human intellect so that our children can help make our nation more democratic, cohesive, socially responsible, culturally rich and intellectually competitive nation. But, nowadays, more emphasis is unduly laid on knowledge-based and information-oriented education which takes care of only the intellectual development of the child.

Consequently, the other aspect of their personality like physical, emotional, social and spiritual are not properly developed in providing for the growth of attitudes, habits, values, skills and interests among the pupils. It is here that we talk in terms of value-education. A complete description of what value-education is could entail a study in itself. Value education, is thus concerned to make morality a living concern for students. Hence, what is needed is value-education. Despite many educators and educationists description regarding value-education, it cannot be denied that continuing research will continue to making the description of value-education more adequate.

Objectives of Value-Education

Traditionally the objectives of value-education were based on

religion and philosophy. There was no secular value-education; but in today's modern world, this has been taken as very much essential.

1. Full development of child's personality in its physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects,
2. Inculcation of good manners and of responsible and cooperative citizenship.
3. Developing respect for the dignity of individual and society.
4. Inculcation of a spirit of patriotism and national integration.
5. Developing a democratic way of thinking and living.
6. Developing tolerance towards and understanding of different religious faiths.
7. Developing sense of brotherhood at social, national and international levels.
8. Helping pupils to have faith in themselves and in some supernatural power that, is supposed to control this universe and human life.
9. Enabling pupils to make decisions on the basis of sound moral principles
10. Evolving the evaluation criteria on value-education.
11. Suggesting measures for better utilisation of value-education.
12. Finding out the interests of pupils in relation to different aspects and activities of value-education.
13. Clarifying the meaning and concept of value-education.

Reasons for degradation of Values

Today there is deterioration of values in the society. The values have been neglected not only at the social level but at the national level also. There are several factors with the modern higher education which are making people literate or educated undoubtedly but on the other hand responsible for forgetting the basics or values of a good human being or a responsible citizen of the society.

1. There is lack of development of sound moral vision among human being along with the scientific and technological development. As a result human being can produce such powerful means of destruction like hydrogen and nuclear bombs and destroy the whole world in no time. Wealth worshipped as god, Pride has become a creed. Selfishness is entrenched in the intellect. The ego is flaunted, and desires become an adornment, righteousness has become merely a figurehead in the world, compassion has dried up, gratitude has waned, Hypocrisy has become the hall mark of life and love and affection has become lustful afflictions.
2. The modern youth receiving education are losing their idealism and living in spiritual vacuum. Moral values have no respect now. Man fails to distinguish between right and wrong, good and evil. Highest respect is being placed on wealth and power. Religion has now become a private affair and stress is being laid on secularization of social relationships. Human relations are becoming impersonal and secondary.
3. Loss of leadership among the teachers is another manifestation of the deterioration of values in the modern society.
4. Lack of academic syllabus related to human values and

professional ethics. Student's focus have been changed from enhancing hidden talents or values to just make them eligible to earn well or professionally equipped. Now a day, children are educated but they are not aware of the ways of its practical application. Consequently students are unemployed & depressed as present education makes them job seeker not job maker.

5. Higher importance to materialistic achievement among school students.
6. Privatization of educational institutes is another major cause for decline in ethical values in education. Permission and recognition given by government to open self-financed private institutions have made the education to acquire the status of a marketable commodity, where educational institutes act as the traders and students are their customers. These institutions run various courses without basic infrastructure and qualified faculties. The teachers appointed in such institutes are paid low with no job security and are far away from the required teaching standards.
7. Lack of extra co-curricular activities based on human values and professional ethics. There is a great importance curricular & extra-curricular activity for the student's life. But now the scope of extra-curricular activities is been limited to only sports, literary competitions, Quizzes, few games, dance or musical events only. Morning meetings, prayers, literary works, discussions over social problems and other cultural activities have been disappeared. Today, on the occasion of birth anniversary of any legends of our history or culture there is holiday. Teachers & Students stay away from discussion of these topics. And if there is open debate on such things so people are more focused toward win not on the real importance of discussion or learning of morals. In the same manner on the national festive are celebrated just for the sake of formality. Flag hoisting and general activities are performed but nobody talks about national welfare & development.

Importance of Value Education

In the existing educational system lays greater emphasis on individualism, competition, verbal fluency or linguistic ability and mere acquisition of information is given, this is just not sufficient and great emphasis will have to be given on the value education. Since it is the time to coherence with broadly acceptable national cultural identity where social values and development can be naturally reinforcing. The cultural values need to be identified for standard curricula all over the country. The value education should be imparted compulsorily up to the high school level. Evaluation of value education should be routine one and it should be based upon the daily observations of student by teachers and peers and should be monitored by administrator properly and also by the parents.

In value education man is the object and it is said moral is caught and not taught and therefore the person inculcating moral values must be of very high moral standard. In other words the teachers who imparts these values must be selected in such a way that he should be reservoir of these values and capacity to transform them among the student with active participation and maintenance of good environment and also

all the teachers should be in a position to suggest new projects and at the same time they should be in touch with the parents with their wholehearted support for inculcating such values.

According to Father of Indian Nation M. K. Gandhi "If wealth is lost nothing is lost, If health is lost something is lost, If character is lost everything is lost" Best of all things is character. In today's scenario our values have been discarded by the new generation in the upcoming of the new fashion. In such a situation it is very important for someone to lay down basic principles for us so that we may lead a brightened life, no matter the stepping stones of success hit us hard we on the basis of these principles can guide our life. Thus value education completes this need very easily with an impact on the young minds making the world a better place to live in.

Conclusion

Science and technology which is a great triumph for human kinds in this new era which makes human's life better and easier. Due to the gift of technologies, the world is connected and seems as one small city or village. People of this globe more voracious on material comfort which makes people's life more competitive. Hence, material wealth has become major indicator for measuring the success in every society instead of value based person. However, human's civilization fundamentally depends upon the cultivation of values, those values which shape human's lives and craft real human. Indeed, it is observed everywhere the values are degrading constantly which results increasing of inhuman activities. Thus; there is a great need for imparting value based education in each stage of education. Although education is an agent of change and the expected process of inculcating values to equip the learners for their successful life with the cherished values and contribute to ideal and healthy society.

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