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## **Necessity of Value Education in Modern Period**

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### **THE UNIQUE FEATURE OF MAN:**

Man believes in the same way like animals. He also eats, drinks, procreates and vegetates. But in addition to these, he does one more activity, and that is, he thinks, reflects. It is this power to think, to reflect, to rationalise that distinguishes him not only from animals but also from the other forms of creation.

### **THE CREST-JEWEL OF CREATION:**

It is because of this power of thinking that he has known the advantages of living in a society, is able to evolve a society and carve out political systems for the betterment of his life. This power of reflection has enabled him to step aside, assess the Rights and wrongs of his actions and regulate his behavior, whenever and wherever required. Once again it is the same reflective capacity that has given him the knowledge that “ All life is basically Divine and hence one “ and the awareness that he is to formulate his actions in relation to this fundamental maxim, providing him thereby a “ Value –Base “ for his activities.

### **ARISTOTLE’S DESCRIPTION OF MAN:**

Aristotle is an eminent Greek Philosopher. Keeping in view these, different characteristics of man, Aristotle describes man as Rational Animal, Social Animal, Political animal and a “ Moral Being “.

### **MAN- THE CENTRAL POINT AND BASIC UNIT:**

Since it is man who has evolved the social set up, the political systems and the moral codes for the betterment of his life, he is rightly spoken of as the central point, the basic unit of society ; the political set up and in short, everything.

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Even as the individual is the basic unit of a society, family is the basic unit of social institutions. Unless the various members in a family co-ordinate with each other, no smooth functioning of the family will be possible. In the family, what the various members expect from each other is love and truthfulness. If the same yard-stick can be applied to a society, what each individual expects from each individual expects from the other person in a society, among the many other things, is love and truthfulness.

**VALUE:**

The term “value “has many connotations. Social philosophers like Malinowski, define values as “that which satisfies human desire “. Mackenzie relates value with pleasure. He considers pleasure as the subjective sign of value. Either way, value signifies human aspirations or ideals that any human being aims at realizing.

**TWO KINDS OF VALUES:**

Even as there are two facets of a value namely proximate and ultimate, there are also two kinds of values. They are 1) Material 2) Spiritual.

**1. Material values :**

Material values are sensory values. Being sensory, they are ever changing and therefore, non eternal. Further, sensory values promote egoism. As opposed to material values, we have spiritual values.

**2. Spiritual values :**

Spiritual values are not sensory. They are super-sensory. Being super-sensory, they are eternal, that is why we say that the spiritual values are eternal. Spiritual values as their name suggests recognize a basic spiritual element underlying not only human beings but also entire creation. That is why adherence to spiritual values are said to promote altruism.

**Some of the spiritual values are:**

1. Truth – speaking

2. Non-Violence
3. Honesty
4. Non-stealing
5. Self-discipline and a host of others

These values never changes; hence eternal.

**Values draw their strength and sustenance only in and through society.**

If a value should be firmly and necessarily rooted in truthfulness and love, so, truthfulness and love should form the basis of values.

**Basis of Truthfulness and Love:**

Truthfulness and love, for their part, become meaningful only when the individual is able to identify himself not only with his fellow-human being but also with the entire creation, is called “The spirit” or “Divinity”

**Spirituality – Basis of values:**

A value then becomes meaningful, productive and human only when it is based on the recognition of a basic, divine, spiritual, elements underlying all creations.

**The contemporary challenge to our Nation:**

Presently in India and elsewhere in the world, selfishness and violence have become the order of the day. There is scant respect or even no respect for human life. Terrorism is spreading its ugliness. It is starting to note that the terrorists’ age group ranges from sixteen to thirty years, the best part of an individual’s life.

The reason is quite obvious. The modern youth in India as also elsewhere, even in the midst of different pressure groups and are subject to diverse opinions. These pressure groups may be in the political, economical or in any other plane.

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Today the people are caught in the horns of dilemma, unable to decide which is right and which is wrong, thus making a split personality. When he can not understand properly, naturally he cannot understand others. The result is only isolated individuals. When individuals are isolated units, they care only for their own welfare, by exploiting them in whatever way they can. Presently the religious passions of common man are taken for personal advantage. In the name of religion, emotions are running riot, dividing mankind into many sectors, each group vying with other for supremacy. These emotions which are on the destructive side need to be harnessed and utilized constructively. Towards this end, awareness in regard to the basic identity not only of human beings but of the entire creation needs to be aroused. Each one has to realize one's true relationship with Reality viz Divinity.

As in the past, presently also, India is facing a stiff challenge in the form of western culture and western civilization. The modern western culture seems to believe that life force is a blind, amoral and aimless energy "the elan vital". Because of this and also due to faulty education, sophistry, and pedantry, most of us are ignorant of our rich culture. As Nani Palikiwala aptly puts it, we are like asses carrying loads of gold without knowing what the load contains, \* "yearning for western pseudo styles.

Now a days, the modern youths develop a cynical, nihilistic, immoral and anti social attitudes in them and get themselves entangled in savage and bloody clashes. They also develop a negative tendency, negative thought and negative approach to everything resulting in Juvenile delinquency, indiscipline and restlessness , which ultimately find an outlet in negative and destructive actions.

Presently, India is in a sad state of affairs. People go after material, wealth only in order to enjoy. Dharma is totally neglected. People are ready to do anything to get money . So presently what we have in India is only money culture. Since people are prepared to indulge in violence to get money, the culture in India can be described as Violence or Gun culture.

#### **REASONS FOR THE PRESENT CONDITIONS:**

The following are the reasons for the present conditions.

**a) Religion diverted from life.**

The term religion is that which binds man back to his original nature. Religion therefore is the instrument which helps man to realize his true nature. Religion in this sense is a way of life. It lays down certain rules and regulations for man to be followed in Life. It teaches man the methods to lead one's life. It tells us how we ought to lead our life.

It is only in the sense that Mahatma Gandhi tells us that, Religion should form the basis of our daily activities in Life. He even tells us that politics should be based on Religion. But what he means by this is that not his Religion or that Religion but Religion as a way of life.

But presently in India Religion is totally divorced from life. That is to say, a Religion has no place in life.

**b) No Integration between thought, word and Deed**

Religion teaches us the method to lead our life. It tells us that we should integrate our thought, word and deed. What we think should be expressed in words and what we speak should be put into action. But the present conditions in India are that there is no absolutely no co-ordination between thought, word and deed.

**c) Efficacy of Values, not taught.**

Values are aspirations or ideals which every one of us aim at realizing in one's life time in and through the society.

In this scheme of values, certain value aims at the promotion of one's own well being. These values are quite selfish. There are certain other values which aim at promotion of well being of others. These values are called Human values. Truth speaking, non-violence, helping others are some of the human values.

**d) Every one of us is aware of the Human Values but not its significance.**

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For instance, even a child knows full well-speaking falsehood is wrong. But the problem is that no one knows the benefits of speaking the truth. That means no one knows the value of values. That means we are not taught the value of a value. In the absence of a clear knowledge of human value, people keep following the opposite values.

**e) Indian cultural tradition – not taught :**

Indian cultural tradition stands for certain fundamental Human values. When is said that we are not taught the values it only means that we are not taught about our Cultural Tradition. It is quite clear that our knowledge of Indian Cultural Tradition is very poor.

**f) Faulty Educational Pattern:**

According to Swami Vivekananda, Education should aim at bringing out the excellence in man. In other words, Education should aim at bringing out human excellence.

It is generally shows that Education in the real sense of the term, should be Man-Making, Character- Moulding and Life-Building. That means, Education should not consist in merely getting by heart the reading and re-producing it in the examination without digesting it, Education, on the other hand, should consist in the Assimilation of ideas, like the food that we take get digested and assimilated in our blood stream.

As Swami Vivekananda would say, if we study ten ideas and assimilate atleast one idea and practice it in our life time, then education can be said to have served its purpose. This is he calls man-making, life building, character moulding Education.

In short, the Educational pattern should become Human value oriented. But presently the Educational pattern is such that it does not aim at bringing out Human excellence. It does not make a person fit to face the challenges in Life. It has made men able quill drivers.

**g) Education – Nothing to do with Life.**

Indian philosophy practically states that precepts and practice or words and deeds should always go together. There should be absolute integration between theory and practice or between word and deed. So, the Indian Philosophy of Education says what we say we should do. But presently there is no integration between words and deeds. That is because our educational system has taught us no value. What little has been taught is not incorporated or translated into action. That means we have not bothered to put into practice what we have learnt.

**What, then, is the remedy?**

Total transformation of the attitude of the individual alone is the remedy. The selfish and the materialistic attitude which is responsible for all the ills of the individual, the degradation of values and consequently of actions must be substituted by the spiritual attitude. And education is the only instrument which can bring about this transformation.

In addition to Epics or Ithihasas, Puranas also have played a significant role in the shaping of Indian Culture.

By providing the educational pattern with the necessary Human value Base, hence the contemporary for Human value based education.

**IMPORTANCE OF VALUES:**

Values and cultural tradition cannot be taught to the individual overnight. Values should become a part and parcel of an individual's life. It is not as if we practice values such as truth speaking, non violence etc., for practicing it once again after non-violence are to be practiced and has to be practiced from childhood onwards. This becomes possible only when they are taught from childhood onwards and Education is the only media which can achieve this objective. So the education pattern in India

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should be so restructured in such a way that values form a part and parcel of the curriculum.

**“From small seeds tall Oaks grow”**

Towards this end, the present educational pattern should be so restructured as to highlight, emphasize and integrate this essential spiritual aspect of Indian Culture with every one of the disciplines being offered in schools, colleges and universities, to be taught from the primary school level onwards.

After all, it is only “From small seeds that tall Oaks grow “.

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