



NEED FOR VALUE EDUCATION DURING CHILDHOOD

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Abstract

The world at present is passing through a great crisis with many problems in changing trends, which is marked by tremendous scientific and technological advancement. This era is marked by the explosion of aspirations for achieving material goals. These in turn have brought about a corresponding decline in human's moral, spiritual and ethical values creating many problems, making a negative impact in human minds and thought patterns. All sections of the population are becoming increasingly materialistic, artificial and self-centered. As a result there is frustration and insecurity which have led to exploitation and violence. Hence, material advancement has also brought about tension, conflict, competition, social distance, alienation and rivalries.

Keywords: *Value, Value education, Childhood*



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Introduction:

Delinquency among children all over the world has reached such an alarming proportion as to become a cause of concern. The changes in life styles, family patterns and environment as a result of industrialization, urbanization and modernization have contributed to the growth of delinquency rates. Now- a days newspapers, magazines, and other media are flooded with reports of crimes, murder, agitation and even-teasing, disputes between teachers and students, parents and children, husband and wife and in-laws are not rare anymore. Incidents of violence, destruction, killing each other in the name of insurgency, strikes and lock-out are becoming more and more common. The occurrence of different scams and scandals in recent years is a pointer to this fact. There are some factors which are responsible for value crisis in the present scenario.

1. Present Education System

Education is a very important tool for all societies, to bring all round development and also to ensure the fullest development of its citizen's personality. It can play a very effective role in development process.

Bhatia (2006) stated that the present education system is drifting towards western ethos, which ignores the polishing and development of the inner instrument of the man-his mind, and worse, it ignores the innate divinity, the self within and focuses only on the body,

mind, and intellect. The lack of focus on developing the powers of concentration of the mind and ignore of the need for unfolding the inner perfection, peace and happiness of the self is therefore directly responsible for the lowering of our character and values.

The modern educational institutions whom have responsibility for value inculcation performing that they are becoming mere centers for conduction examinations and awarding degrees. Every institution must aim at character formation and develop value of human sensitivity in the youth. Developing value consciousness has been the theme in the traditional Indian concept at education.

2. Explosion of knowledge

India is a fast developing country in the world and many renowned economists and analysts have predicted that India will be a superpower country in 20 years overtaking many developed countries. Such rapid technological changes and development through science and technology have benefitted mankind tremendously. The explosion in science and technology has created many job opportunities in many sectors and helped to establish many industries. It also provides the country with good defense mechanisms, and raised the living standards of people with on increase in their per capita income during the last decade.

But as every aspect has merits and demerits, it also has some demerits or disadvantage. Dhull and Punia (2006) have rightly opined that science and technology produces a variety of materialistic things but it is incapable of producing human beings who have humanity, tolerance, new ideas and desire for search for truth. It is true that without science, we cannot survive. Science has great importance for us but it is considered that many time it goes beyond the expected value system. Science does not teach us values, it does not lay emphasis on social living. We human beings cannot live aloof. We need a society and that society requires some norms and values. In the absence of this value system. Its existence can never be smooth and progressive. Hence, the rapid scientific advances and growth of the material world have led to environmental degradation, social imbalance and weapons of mass destruction.

3. Breakdown of Joint family System

Due to rapid industrialization and urbanization and so called modernization there is fragmentation of the joint family system which used to be a source of values as family influences ones values and helps contribute to the transmission of culture and values from older generation to younger generation. Before the family in India was often understood as an

idial unit with the inbuilt system of strong coping mechanism. Great importance was attached to the joint family structure in India. Roles, responsibilities, control and distribution of resources are strictly determined by the age, gender and generation in an Indian Family (Brandha 2008). But now-a-days nuclear families are on the increase. It provides little or no opportunity for contact and interaction between older and younger generation. Children are taken care of by media and minds. Parents pamper their kids with modern equipment and play things and money in the name of pocket money as a substitute for love and care. On the other hand young people also less inclined to look after their parents and grand parents. As a result of this, the entire fabric of the society is engulfed in a value crisis situation giving rise to numerous social problems.

4. Greed as a result of complicated and complex life

Today, man is not at peace in spite of tremendous scientific and technological achievement. There is great explosion of desire for achieving material goals. As a result there is tremendous frustration and insecurity which have led to exploitation and violence. Needs, when they are magnified, turn into greed resulting in satiable hunger. Excessive desire is the root cause of various problems that humanity is facing. Greed inculcates irrationality and power hunger in human psycho. It also disturbs the peace of mind and misguides people on the path of immorality (Tulsi, 2004).

Greed has increased making many people increase leading to many crimes and violence like dissipation, corruption, exploitation, disparities, hatred etc. Stealing and looking are also becoming very common.

Significance of values in childhood

The future societies depends on their success in providing pathways whereby young people develop and prepare themselves to be contributing to their communities. When these pathways are well-marked, stable, supported by the community a society can be confident that new generations will join the ranks for adulthood well-prepared. When these paths are hazardous, unpredictable, uninviting, or ill-fitted to the demands of adulthood in the society, the future is insecure, both for adolescents and for society.

This is a period of rapid growth and a time of extensive personality reorganization. It is a time of considerable changes in physical stature, physiological and changes in pattern of thinking, attitude, relationship and moral standard. It is a time of acquiring new skills, attaining mastery over environment, learning to handle new responsibilities and gaining

control over emotions and thoughts. Indian child is the child of two cultures, Indian and Western. Development and transmission of moral values in the case of childhood are important concerns of the present-day. Indian society as well as the educational institute. The problem becomes complex not only because of conflicting values but also because of the lack of value based education system which can be a source and vehicles of such values as it can influence one's values and help in the transmission of culture. It is essential to check the development of undesirable, anti-social and antidemocratic value in the adolescents. If values are good, life will be peaceful and useful. If values are undesirable, life will be burdensome and unwanted.

Value Education

Value Education is a process of interacting with the total human being with a view, to develop capacities of reflective thinking and independent judgment. It is not a process of direct inculcation of a body of predetermined 'right' values in the learners by authoritarian instruction, but it is a process of helping the individuals to think freely and critically, to act responsibly with courage and conviction.

Value Education means

- Inculcation of sense of humanism, a deep concern for the well-being of others and the nation
- Developing the social, moral, aesthetic and spiritual sides of a person
- Teaching to preserve whatever is good and worthwhile which we have inherited from our culture
- Helping to accept and respect the attitudes and behaviour of those who differ from us
- process of interaction with the total human beings with a view to developing capacities with reflective thinking and independent judgment on issues that are of critical concern to oneself and to humanity
- Process of helping individuals to think freely and critically, to act responsibly and with courage and conviction
- It does not mean value imposition

Objective of value education

- Promote in children basic and fundamental qualities such as truthfulness, co-operation, love and compassion, peace and non-violence, courage, equality, justice, dignity of labour, common brotherhood of man and scientific temper.

- Train children to become responsible citizens in their personal and social life.
- Enable them to understand and appreciate the national goals of socialism, secularism and democracy and to contribute to their realization.
- Enable them to become open and considerate in their thoughts and behaviour and help to remove prejudices based on religion, language, caste or sex
- Help them to understand and appreciate themselves and continually strive for their inner development, thus moving towards the goal of self-actualization.
- Develop proper attitude towards:
 - (i) Oneself and fellow beings
 - (ii) One's own country
 - (iii) People of other countries, leading to international understanding
 - (iv) Life and environment
 - (v) All religions

Value crisis is a global phenomenon of our times as rapid scientific growth and technological advancements have threatened our age old moral standards. Hence, the first step in the direction of changing the world is to take needed steps for radical change in the human consciousness. One of the most important means to achieve this end is value education. This will help human beings to conduct themselves in the more desirable directions and to shape their life patterns by strengthening their beliefs and by integrating facts, ideas, attitudes and actions. The value based education can only boost the morality and cultivate the feeling of nationalism to fight against all kinds of fanatics, violence, disharmony and corruption.

Thus it is practice of human values by every individual which can establish world peace. Sri Sathya Sai Baba has rightly said:

“If there is righteousness in heart, there is beauty in character. If there is harmony at home, there is order in the Nation. If there is order in the Nation, there is peace in the world.”

The neglect of Value Education has created vagueness and indiscipline in the minds of the people. We have now a society where everyman by and large is for himself. The vicious circle needs to be broken and broken fast. We must take care of today for a better tomorrow. Unless better and responsible citizens are created through value education, the fate of mankind on this globe is uncertain.

“For a better world Live with Value We are the Builders Lets us build a Better World.”

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