



VALUE ORIENTATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION: SOLUTION OF TODAY'S PROBLEMS

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Introduction

Institutions of higher education have a major role to play in preparing the younger generation for promising future. Apart from imparting quality education, they need to instil ethical, moral and social values amongst the student fraternity. Values are the auto-regulators of human behaviour. One's vision remains restricted to oneself only without value education. It is the value education which develops the competence of recognising the universality of human aims and aspirations. Values give a person his individuality and character. It acts as a guiding force and tells us what we should and should not do. The moral worth of a society is reflected in the values it cherishes, the ideals it pursues and its sincerity in upholding them. Spirituality is the art and science of divine remembrance. Spiritual values provide ethical foundation to lead a meaningful life. Value education is the pathway to global paradise. Again to achieve sustainable development value education is essential as the ideals and values that form a basis of sustainability include equity among generations, gender equity, tolerance, poverty alleviation, environmental preservation and restoration, social justice, human rights, cultural diversity, international understanding and peace among others. Therefore, it is necessary that students should also be educated in spiritual values.

In this day and age, newspapers are teeming with alarming news akin to "Mother killed her children", "Girl Gang-raped", "women killed for Dowry" and so on, exposing the mindset of the society. The youth of today seem to have lost all decent social, *moral and ethical values*. There is a mad pursuit for accumulating wealth and power and acquiring superior status in society even at the cost of humanity in us. We have entered in a century full of crisis- particularly crisis in character, credibility, competency and value based competency. There should be equilibrium between knowledge and skills that science and machinery bring with the values and insights of ethics. The loss of moral and ethical values among students is

leading to conflicts in the globe. The moral and ethical values that make us honest individuals can be inculcated only by value-based education. Knowledge Based Education can only be transferred to our younger generations but Value Based Education (VBE) can transform them. It is more awakening and informing. For life-oriented education, we need to create a special environment in institutions to transform our students. There is an urgent need to revamp the entire educational system to make value education an integral and important component of education. The need of the hour is to inculcate values like quest for peace, adherence to truth and right conduct, tolerance, love for all living beings, respect for the motherland and the glory of our culture and tradition in youngsters to deal with the value crisis which our society is witnessing (The education policy document by UGC).

In view of the above, an attempt has been made in this paper (1) to study the role of teachers in promoting VBE to the students for sustainable development. It is expected that the findings of the study will focus on the challenging role of the teachers in promoting VBE as they are considered instrumental in developing the right kind of values in our youth which is crucial for the smooth functioning and sustainable development of society.

Database and Methodology

The study has been conducted based on thematic review of works. The study is based on thematic review of relevant literatures which were collected from journals, books, pertinent websites etc.

Results and Discussion

Values stand as Light House giving directions to all who want to reach the right place. Values are the guiding principles of life, which facilitate the all round development of a person. Inculcation of desirable values in pupils is felt essential for meeting the crisis of character. Values are bricks which are used to build the strong wall of character. Values bring quality and meaning to life. They make us realize that *WHAT WE ARE* is more important than *WHAT WE HAVE*. Values can come from within and also from training. Values from within mainly include love, kindness, compassion, mercy, sympathy and understanding. Values to be practiced include punctuality, discipline, obedience, behaviour, conduct, character and personality.

In simple terms, value- based education means part of the education which imparts certain essential moral, ethical, cultural, social, spiritual values in children necessary for their all round development and prepares them as a complete man. It builds the character, and is necessary for the development of personality of an individual. It includes physical health, mental health, etiquettes and social behaviour, civic rights and duties, etc. Every one of us is

well aware about the importance of these values in our lives, yet we are unable to inculcate them in our children, resulting in a number of behavioural and developmental problems.

Essentiality of Value Education:

Value education is the national priority because of our growing destructive attitudes. Nowadays, divided families are facing the problem of imparting value education due to unavailability of time and changed lifestyles. Value education helps in developing Character, Good conduct, Moral Integrity, Self Discipline, Compassion, Love for all living beings, Responsibility, etc. and many other positive qualities in the students. And above all, it makes them feel better about themselves. Their academic performance goes up and they are able to spend more time on learning.

Without value education we cannot recognise the universality of human aspirations. A growing consensus holds that value education can help to reduce human- right violations and contribute to building a peaceful society. It is also for promotion of understanding and increased tolerance. Value education teaches the common language of humanity. Value education will help minimise corruption in almost all fields of life. Values provide a moral foundation for successful living. Education without values makes man a cleverer devil (C.S. Lewis). Educational institutions should give more importance to value based education rather than preparing the students to get more marks in examinations. Value based education is an unavoidable reality.

India is one of the fastest growing economies today. Its dominance in the services sector has been acknowledged world over. While this scenario seems to be heartening, there are several concerns related to education, which seems to have gone unaddressed. We seem to be passing through a crisis of values in our social and political life which gives special urges to this question of values of education. It is a commonly accepted fact that crime, violence, cruelty, indifference to human values, greed and spite have spread to all aspects of our life, including the education sector. Sensitivity to the beauty of art, literature, nature and life in general is on the decline. Lacks of social cohesion and national disintegration have become patently manifest and our democratic social order is under severe stress. Social tension, unrest, prejudices and complexes transmitted through the social environment vitiate the quality of life. The primary function of education is no longer the building of character or the promotion of moral order, but the emphasis has shifted to the promotion of skills, technical knowhow and technology for material progress.

Role of Teachers in imparting Value Education:

A teacher is and can be the pivot of the educational system. It is said that

- An excellent teacher inspires
- A good teacher explains
- An average teacher teaches &
- A bad teacher complains!

Imparting values to students is the responsibility of parents to some extent. But teachers and educational institutions also play a significant role as students spend more time in the campus than in their home. It is in these institutions where students learn how to behave in the society. It is in the schools and colleges that a good value system can be nurtured among the students.

The most important agent for building the character of the student is a teacher. Swami Vivekananda says, "Character is nothing but a bundle of habits formed through repeated acts. It comes through 'Sanskaras' or past impressions". Character building can change the nation. As strong foundation is required for a strong building similarly a strong character is required for nation-building.

Ordinary Teachers can bring about extraordinary transformation in the society. A teacher should practice what he/she preaches. Teachers are role-models for the students. Their actions convey more than their words. Students learn values from what the teachers are rather than from what they say. Teachers make a maximum impact on the personality of students in their formative years. Students imbibe virtues and vices knowingly and unknowingly from these role models. Teachers must have a healthy attitude and should possess rich values. Teaching is all about attitude-positive/ negative towards one's job of imparting quality education. Teachers should act as a friend, philosopher and guide. Teachers are not only a source of information but are also mentors and guardians. A decade back or so, the role of a teacher was limited to being a source of information. But today, the role of teachers have increased manifold. Teachers have immense potential to bring about a drastic change in the society by demonstrating essential values of head and heart.

Teachers should give creative inspiration and guidance to our youth. Character building and instilling values, which start at home, have to be continued relentlessly in our higher education system as students spend most of their formative years in the institutes of higher education. In this respect, the roles of modern teachers are very challenging. Teachers are primarily responsible for building up new generations with deep love for the nation and

humanity. So, our nation needs a regiment of qualified and dedicated teachers with adequate potentiality for developing new generations with strong values and wisdom. The teaching community is required to generate power inherent in the student population. Teaching is also about inspiring students. They should set good examples of conduct and behaviour which students may imbibe. Teachers can impart values in students by giving them instructions through discussion, experimentation and lectures, and also by the following ways:

- Fostering nationalistic feeling among the students by celebrating national and religious festivals
- Give equal importance to all students irrespective of their caste, creed, sex and money.
- Eradicating illiteracy and ensuring uniform education.
- Ensuring social equality and justice.
- Developing the qualities of character and strong leadership.
- Emphasizing on the unity of all religions, harmony among communities and development of national integration.
- Organise cultural and recreational programmes for developing values like team spirit, sharing, spirit of cooperation, patience, courtesy, etc.
- Under mentoring system a teacher can take charge of 30 to 40 students and can maintain a case-study register to closely observe the students and note down the positive and negative traits of their personality.
- Teachers should also tell the students to maintain a spiritual diary in which they will surrender themselves to God and take an oath to follow the path shown by him.
- “Quote of the Day” should be displayed in the notice boards in the institutions.
- Teachers should give importance to cooperative learning
- Skits and role- plays propagating moral values can be performed by students under the guidance of teachers.
- Teachers must tell the students to go to the library- the treasure house of knowledge. Classics available in the library are morally rich and inspiring.
- Teachers must explain the students the importance of meditation & yoga practices for realization or attainment of oneness with God.
- Imparting knowledge of foreign languages to make them know different cultures.

- Organizing games, excursions, visits to places of historical importance. Club activities like nature club, literary club, wildlife prevention club, social service camps, blood donation, etc.
- Suicidal tendencies in students should be curbed. They must be prepared by the teacher to face the challenges of life fearlessly and with courage.

Conclusion and Suggestions

From the above discussion we can come to the conclusion that providing value based education to our children in higher educational institutions can help us to overcome the problem of deteriorating moral values in our youth. Collaborative efforts of parents, teachers, society and media can bring the youth on right track to live a disciplined life. So far as social progress is concerned value-based education is an unavoidable reality. Teachers play an important role in the nation building by building the character of the students. The best and the greatest profession in the world is that of a teacher, because the future of a nation depends upon the type of teachers who shape the future generations. There is a need for reawakening of the entire teaching community so as to improve the younger generation which is utterly confused and bewildered about moral and social values in life. Every teacher plays the most important role in shaping the students as enlightened citizen. Swami Vivekananda's words should not be forgotten by the teachers- "Arise, Awake and Stop not till the goal is achieved".

Let us accept this challenge with a spirit of dedication and national service to develop morally and socially well equipped younger generation.

The field of value education is as broad as human life itself. In India during *Ramayana* or *Mahabharata* period values are taught to the child along with formal education in *Gurukuls*, where *Guru* or Priest teaches the students at their *Ashrams* through different methods and prepares them to face the life. In modern days *Gurukuls* were replaced by the formal schools and colleges which are providing the formal education to children. Not only schools and colleges but family, society, mass media and other means of communications also affects the learning of child and act as an instrument for incorporating essential values in child. Values can be transferred in students through hidden or unplanned method but curriculum plays an important role for providing value based education. In class room teacher can use biographies, debates, discussions, stories, essays, article writing, news paper reading, to make the students aware about importance of values.

Students can be engaged in practical situations similar to the original life incidences, which will be helpful in development of essential life skills. This approach gives them a chance to apply the concepts and experiences they have already learned. Certain social activities such as maintaining school campus or classroom, social forestry, organising environmental awareness or health and sanitation, literacy programmes in community can make the difference. Students must be promoted to organise and participate in the programmes such as drama, street plays, cultural fests etc which is message based which can be beneficial in developing values in child. Here are some suggestions, which can be helpful in development of essential values in students if implemented with serious efforts and outmost care –

- Curriculum reform is urgently needed, especially curriculum of languages and social sciences can be used for promoting value along with the learning of subject matter.
- Beside the subject matter teachers should try to figure out the value based messages hidden in text and communicate it to students.
- Parents should try to invest more time with the child rather than investing their time in earning money. Parents are too much attached to the technological devices. They are connected with the whole world yet disconnected with their own wards.
- Teacher should understand their duty to impart value education to the child from very first day along with the formal education.
- Different type of co-curricular activities and other such programmes must be organised in the institution of higher education from time to time to promote values in students.
- Instead of having a separate subject called ‘Value Education’ educators should use their respective subjects to impart and instil values to their students. However, there can be a centre for value education in all the institutions of higher learning with the sole purpose of imbibing human values.
- Media (print and electronic) can play an important role in instilling values among the younger generation. Especially television channels should try to avoid showing those serials, programmes, advertisement which directly or indirectly challenges the human values. Same responsibility is expected from other form of media such as news paper, magazines etc.

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