

VALUE EDUCATION IN PRESENT SCENARIO

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ABSTRACT

Values are virtues and ideals on which actions and beliefs are based. They are guiding principles that shape our outlook, attitudes, and conduct. Values are described as the socially defined desires and goals that are internalized through the process of conditioning, learning & socialization. Epistemological crisis and identity crisis are the two main crises of value which create the major problems like suicide, murder, robbery, insurgency, caste and class conflict, etc. Scientific discoveries have given rise to materialistic accomplishments, but the problems of inequality, conflicts, poverty, apathy, and anxiety are on the rise. The function of education should be to enable individuals, to operate at their fullest potential. They must be equipped with the sense of opportunity to use their wits, skills, and passions to the fullest. Education provides the means for strengthening and enabling our native mental powers. The most important task is not to give education to the children, but enable them to apply the knowledge. It is also important to educate them to end up with confrontations in cultures, ideas and principles of various social groups that may cause dissolutions.

KEYWORDS: Society, Conflicts, Crisis, Degeneration, Values, Disregard

INTRODUCTION

The emphasis on the scientific and mechanical ways of life has reduced the status of man to a machine. Conflicts of ideas, manners, and habits are pervading in the atmosphere. Disregard for old values is the fashion of the day. Due to the dearth of values in the present generation the society is degrading. We have outstanding doctors who are into organ robbery, brilliant engineers whose bridges collapse soon after their bills are passed, accountants who rob the government treasury by manipulation, civil servants who rule as emperors and politicians with fake promises. All of them are the best educated and trained, but their intellectual dishonesty is alarming. The appearance of qualities of selfishness, clashes, and conflagration gives a clear indication of the process of degeneration of human society. Although our country has made rapid progress in various areas like science, technology and in economics, its value system has been declined. Parents, teachers, and society at large are concerned about values and value education of their children. Hence, the need for development of moral values is significant in today's world. Value education is "learning about self and wisdom of life" in a self-exploratory, a systematic and scientific way through formal education. Values are described as the socially defined desires and goals that are internalized through the process of conditioning, learning & socialization. Every country has its own system of education to express and promote its unique its ideal values to meet the challenges of the times. Value education helps in building positive sentiments among people. It prepares individuals for active

participation in social life and acceptance of social rules. The values present a true perspective of the development of any society. They tell us to what extent a society has developed itself. Values are virtues and ideals on which actions and beliefs are based. They are guiding principles that shape our outlook, attitudes, and conduct. Major values are love, peace, happiness, mercy, and compassion as well as the positive moral qualities such as respect, humility, tolerance, responsibility, cooperation, honesty and simplicity etc.,.

In the present time values are degenerating. The main causes of value degeneration are:

- Lack of respect for the sanctity of human life
- Lack of control of parents on children
- Lack of respect for law and justice
- Disregard for rules and regulations
- Abuse of alcohol and drugs
- Abuse of women and children and other vulnerable members of the society

Value crisis is one of the alarming problems in today's society. Dowry system, divorce, abortion, animal cruelty, superstitious beliefs, etc. are the burning problems in the present human society. Women are actually facing crisis, due to insecurity because of rape, molestation, etc. Some people violate social norms, morality, and ethics and utilize freedom, causes of the problems of the society. Everybody wants to fulfill his or her need by utilizing ultimate freedom. This is really a serious value crisis being faced by the present society. We are witnessing violent activities, behavioral disorder, lack of unity in the society, etc. The values of truthfulness, kindness, honesty, law, justice, patriotism, humanism, etc. are to be preserved in society in order to regulate human life in a well-ordered manner. A value-crisis has occurred due to not understanding its proper role in our society. Epistemological crisis and identity crisis are the two main crises of value which create the major problems like suicide, murder, robbery, insurgency, caste and class conflict, etc. Scientific discoveries have given rise to materialistic accomplishments, but the problems of inequality, conflicts, poverty, apathy, and anxiety are on the rise.

Current technology era has drawn us not only to opportunities and convenience, but to dangers also. It is possible to change the world into a heaven if we use science in a positive way. The most important thing is to use science and technology to serve man or else, it will begin to cause disaster in the hands of uneducated ones. There is no real reason to be afraid of it for the danger as it does not come from science but from ignorance, unconsciousness. It is certain that lack of knowledge causes more problems. Instead of being enemies of the innovations brought by science and technology, we should look for the ways to use it for the sake of humanity. This is possible only when people are equipped with a positive attitude from science. If we cannot achieve this, the whole humanity will be paralyzed.

A negative attitude towards value and its institutions is pervasive in the world today. The appearance of barbaric qualities of selfishness and clashes gives a clear indication of the process of degeneration of human society. There is an urgent need for a great effort to revive and reform the values of human life and to rejuvenate the foundation of civilization.

A child showing unethical behavior and moral degradation is not to be blamed for this because there are several responsible reasons. The major reasons are- broken homes, involvement in worldly pleasures, over involvement in social obligations, emphasis on money making and materialism, a negative impact of information and technology, a role of media, the impact of the constant flow of unhealthy information on the sensitive mind, unawareness of human values norms and ethics. Moral behavior of an individual can be determined by five factors:

- Socialization: becoming aware rules of conduct for being good.
- Moral judgment: learning to think reasonably about our own ethics
- Moral feelings: the internalization of our moral beliefs to the degree that we feel shame and guilt when we fail to do what we "should."
- Empathy: the awareness of other people's situation, feelings, and needs
- Confidence and knowledge: believing that one is responsible for and capable of helping.

The problem of value deterioration can be solved if we are socially conscious about the deep-rooted values in our society. This consciousness is possible only when we will flourish our philosophizing or spiritualizing force to assess the value in our life. The value of human life surpasses all other values. So societies and religions, acquire significance only if they develop humanity to the maximum. For developing humanity different institutions take their various forms to abound ordinances and regulations.

The family system in India has a long tradition of imparting value education. But with the progress of modernity, it is not easy for the parents to impart relevant values in their children. Therefore, many institutes today is conducting various valueable education programs that are addressed to rising problems of the modern society. These programs concentrate on the development of the children and young ones focusing on areas like happiness, humanity, peace and unity, etc. Value Education in India from the ancient times has held a prime place of importance. From the ancient time the child not only learnt skills of reading and archery, but also a philosophy of life. Various programs like assemblies, festivals on themes of value education, e.g. national integration, character building etc. can be organized. Value education quotes can be displayed in schools. The curriculum should include various forms of value education by means of stories, power point presentations, activities, etc. Books, videos and source material on various topics of value education can be provided to children. Science should be taught not for reasons only, but for rational knowledge. In the universe, everything undergoes constant changes throughout life. Owing to this, human beings cannot be left out of these changes, as well. Since everything is changing in the universe, we have to pace this change as well. Without having an understanding of what "changes" means, it is impossible to find out neither the reason of "human existence" nor the human reality? Future generations should be dedicated to their traditional values together with the universal ones.

The function of education should be to enable individuals, to operate at their fullest potential. They must be equipped with the sense of opportunity to use their wits, skills, and passions to the fullest. Education provides the means for strengthening and enabling our native mental powers. The most important task is not to give education to the children, but enable them to apply the knowledge in the right way. It is also important to educate everybody to end up with confrontations in cultures, ideals and principles of various social groups that may cause dissolutions.

If young generations are brought up without education, and if their brains and hearts are not satisfied equally they will be ignored and the biggest illness nowadays is ignorance that is causes of problems. Teachers are the people who should help the younger generation to think in a correct way; they can inculcate love and can provide wings to souls. Teachers should nurture the heart and mind of learners in a balanced way. If they can perform their duties in its true meaning, young ones can learn to live together.

The culture and traditions can be preserved & transferred to the next generation with the help of value education only. Value education is much concerned with striving for personal wholeness as well as generating a responsible attitude towards others and an understanding of wrong and right behavior. The most constructive factor in value education is to encourage the child to explore his powers. Value education helps in building and strengthening of positive sentiments of people and ideas. It prepares individuals for active participation in social life and acceptance of social rules while offering living guidance and setting appropriate limits of behavior.

There is need for a balanced curriculum of values and other essential skills in today's education system. The education should aim at making human life better not only through economic up liftmen of the individual, but also through social, moral and spiritual strengthening. Students must be able to distinguish between right and wrong; good and evil and between justice and injustice. Values are the foundation of human existence. They make our life meaningful. The present education system should inculcate moral, spiritual and aesthetic values among children.

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