

STUDY OF VALUE EDUCATION ON THE PERSPECTIVE OF BENGALI TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE

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ABSTRACT

Value education is an important part of any education system. It is derived from different source of life. Traditional knowledge and culture is one of main source. Traditional knowledge is the most important property of rural folk. The livelihood of the rural folk is depending on traditional knowledge system. Some values are born in the mind of the native to practice their traditional knowledge. These values play an important role in their social behaviour and personal. It promotes good sensibility of children through exposure to appropriate practice, events and experiences without aid of formal education.

KEYWORDS: *Value, Value Education, Traditional Knowledge, Bengali Traditional Culture*

INTRODUCTION

Values regulate and guide human behaviour and action in our day to daily life. Value education attempts to develop a set of behavioural skills necessary for peaceful living and peace-building from which the whole of humanity will benefit.¹ So it is an important part of any education system. Recently it is very crisis condition due to lack of different type of humanitarian attributions like, love, hospitality, affection, curtsy, honesty, morality, obedient, co-operation, respectfulness etc. Other hand corruption, selfishness, savagery, jealousies, power is gradually increasing our society. So the value crisis is one of the emerging problems in our daily life. Sexual assault, sex harassment, sex trafficking, gang rape, terrorism, murder, robbery, extortion, ransoms, dowry system, divorce, child labours, teacher harassed with other, adulteration, corruption, political jealousies etc. are the burning problems in our human society as well as education system. Women are really facing existential crisis due to lack of security because of gang-rape, molestation, trafficking etc. Some people violate social norms, morality and ethics due to their strength of personal freedom, consequence upon which we are facing lots of social problem. These are ever growing problem. Everybody is going to execute his or her all kind of needs by utilizing ultimate freedom. They forget their social responsibility, equality and equity.² In this situation the role of value education is very important. In development of value education the first strategies has been taken to highlight our traditional culture and tradition knowledge. Traditional culture is important source of value in any society. Traditional knowledge and culture is provided social norms, morality and ethics which are promoted their social values.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A qualitative research approach was chosen as the research method for this study. The researcher used a self-made semi-structure interview schedule for the primary data collection and Document review tools used for secondary data collection. Thirty six participants were interviewed for this research. The sources of data of the present study were collected from Primary Sources and secondary sources. The primary sources were different Bengali community like

Fisherman from South 24 parganas, Santal community from Paschim Medinipur, Folk physician from south 24 parganas and folk community of north 24 parganas. Secondary sources were- website, research paper, reference books and other type of articles.

DISCUSSIONS

Value Education of Bengali Folk Custom

A custom is a widely accepted way of doing something, specific to a particular society, place or time, and that has developed through repetition over a long period of time.³ Some important sorts of value education identified from the traditional knowledge of folk customs as follows:

Table 1

Community	Traditional knowledge of Customs	Values
Bengali Folk Community	The Bengali folk use 'Namaskar' to greet each and another with the place both hands together.	Gratitude
	Bengali men should not try to shake hands with women.	Social Respect for women
	The Muslims folk use their traditional greeting, Assalamu Alaikum to which the response is Wa-Alaikum Salam.	Gratitude
	Guest is accepted an invitation to dine, unless you have a reasonable reason for not attending.	Respect for guest
	Apologies have to be given if your feet or shoes touch another person.	Courtesy
	Women do not drink alcohol.	Discipline
	Food is eaten to allow with the right hand.	Cleanliness
	Guests are generally served in first; after men and children, Women may eat later.	Honour of Social norms
	Avoiding black or white gifts to give another person; black signifies anger, evil and negativity, while white is earmarked for funerals and mourning.	Love for society
Give and receive all type of gifts with both hands—left is not considered due to unclean.	Courtesy	

Value Education of Bengali Traditional Belief and Rituals

A belief is a propositional attitude, a settled way of thinking.⁴ The beliefs and rituals of a folk community are closely linked with cultural value. The Bengali Hindu people follow many religious beliefs in their day to day social life. They believe in different gods and goddesses, spirits, ghosts, natural phenomena, magic etc. When something wrong happens in their home, they immediately make up their mind to offer something to the God.⁵ They have great impact in their faiths. People also believe in magic and spells.⁶ Agricultural work is the main occupation of the rural Bengali people. So, many cultural practices are observed with agriculture period. The traditional knowledge of a group helps them to nourish their beliefs. Some important component of value education identified from the traditional knowledge of folk belief as follows:

Table 2

Community	Traditional knowledge of Belief and Ritual	Values
Bengali Folk Community	Important folk deities propitiated by Hindus and Muslims alike include the "goddesses of the calamities"—Sitala, goddess of smallpox; Olabibi, goddess of cholera; and Manasa, goddess of snakes—all of whom have their annual festivals.	Secularism And Sense of Equality
	They believe fertility cult and prayer in Goddess.	Respect of Women

Table 1 (Contd.,)		
	The celebration of Nabanna festival is a form of thanksgiving for prosperity. The folk honoursto the Goddess Lakshmi, who symbolizes wealth and fertility. According toBengali folk custom, the farmer community cannot enjoy the new rice crop until Lakshmi is first offered Nabanna.	Trust And Joy of giving
	Pohela boishakh celebrates all Bengali community as first harvest day of calendar. It is colourful day that symbolized that many colour and renewed of life.	Solidarity of Mankind

Value Education on Traditional Knowledge from Folk Physician

The local medicine man (*Kabiraj*) used their traditional knowledge to treat various types of diseases through different type of herbs and materials. Generally they are treated to cure skin diseases, poisonous Snake bite, fever, allergies, headache, arthritis, diabetes, diarrhoea, stomach ache and nervous disorders. Different parts of medicinal plants are used as medicine with the long experience and common practical sense. They used different plant parts like leaves, fruit, stem, root, stem and root bark, seed, flower and latex. They used four major methods for preparing the medicines. These are-

- Different Part of plants applied as a paste,
- Juice extracted from the fresh medicinal plant parts,
- Dust or Powder made from fresh or dried plant parts,
- Decoction of plant parts

Some important points of value education recognized on the study traditional knowledge of rural medicine man as follows:

Table 3

Community	Traditional Knowledge of Folk Physician	Values
Bengali Folk Physician Community	The rural folk pursue the advice of local traditional medicine men (<i>Kabiraj</i>).	Respect of Leadership
	The <i>Kabiraj</i> serve their duty any time when the emergency. They used various species to treat various diseases.	Social Responsibility
	The rural folk believed that by listening to their advice they could overcome this health hazard.	Trust
	Different parts of medicinal plants are used as medicine.	Positive Thinking

Value Education of Material Aspect Related Traditional Knowledge

A large number of local people in Sundarban have depended on fishing and related activities. They have amazing traditional knowledge of fishing. They have used their knowledge to seize in large scale of fishes from dark night, huge water current, Creek area by the water signal, wind movement, water colour. Water current, tidal time. Some important sorts of value education acknowledged from the traditional knowledge of fishing as follows:

Table 4

Community	Traditional knowledge of Fishing	Values
Fisher Folk of Sundarban	Both Hindu and Muslim prayers goddess Banabibi during the fish capturing.	Secularism
	They do not catch fish fry	Ecological value
	Not using Net <i>jal</i> (Very small looped net)	Non-violence
	Avoid fishing in spawning period	Environmental Awareness
	They do not urine or any bathroom activity inside the forest because they believe it is holy place.	Cleanliness
	They promise to offer a particular sacrifice to a deity the Banabibi on entrance to forest and safe return to home.	Devotion

Value Education from Sacred Groves of the Santal Tribal Community

Sacred Groves are segments of landscape, containing plants and other forms of life and geographical features that are delimited and protected by human societies under the belief that to keep them in a relatively undisturbed state is an expression of important relationship to the divine or to nature.⁷ Different cultural groups perceive this relationship in different ways, and practice various rules of behaviour in regard to the sacred space and its elements. The Santal tribal community of west Bengal is practicing this culture from long time.

The Santals of the study area informed that Baha is their most important festival which also known as the spring festival and celebrated during the *Sal* blossom period.⁸ During this festival, they worship the major *Bongas* to ensure the safeguard of children as well as youth generation to promote prosperity. In worshipping day, everybody gathers at the *Jaherthan* (sacred grove) after taking their bath in the morning and the festival continued up to three days. In spite of they have the beliefs that *Jaher Era* and the *Gosae Era* protected them in the *Jaherthan*.⁹ *Jaherthan* is a sacred grove. They believed that all the *Bonga* live in *Jaherthan*. After the worship *Jaherthan* is closed no body allow inside the *Jaherthan* and no body collect any kind of forest product. Some important value identified from the sacred groves related traditional knowledge as follows:

Table 5

Community	Traditional Beliefs and Rituals (knowledge) of sacred groves	Values
Santal of Paschim Medinipur	All the Santal people have great respect to the spirit of the ancestors and before their ancestral worship.	Respect for ancestor
	During the festival time all the Santal people meet into the <i>Jaherthan</i> and sharing their greeting.	Unity of the group
	Cultural festivals among the youth generation.	Socialization, Sanskritization
	Preservation of forest	Ecological value
	The belief sacred groves is bounded their society and to prevent intra-group clashes.	Peace of society
	Sacred groves have a meaning which is common property resources.	Love for society

CONCLUSIONS

The present study has been focus on some light on the issue of social value of traditional knowledge. In the light of analysis and interpretation of the present study, following findings concluded.

- There is positive relation between traditional knowledge and value education.
- The social values have been promoted by the proper use of traditional knowledge and culture in our education system.
- Traditional knowledge is the best medium of value education.
- This study point out that the crisis of value is a significant problem in present education system.

It is believed that traditional values have been aid to teacher to develop a desirable professional attitude and adjustmentso that they can inspire themselves for the numerous duties in their schools. Learners can play their ideal role in academic and personal life. Their adjustment of traditional value is reflected in their attitude from time to time.

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