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Inculcation of Values: A Necessity Today

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ABSTRACT

The new generation is drifting away from its history and culture while crime and violence have spread to all spheres of life. Doubtless, the scientific discoveries have given rise to genuine optimism materialistic accomplishments, but the problems of inequity, conflicts, poverty, apathy and anxiety are on the rise. A teacher occupies a pivotal role, in orienting the students towards a proper direction instead of training in values. The family system in India has had a long tradition of imparting value education. With the presence of so many worldly-wise elders, it is but natural for the child to receive shelter and gain adequate knowledge to survive in the world

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Modern education and training has failed to produce citizens of character and integrity. **Roussou** had said “back to nature”, but now is the time to say, “back to basic values”; so that the strength to deal with the intricacy of modern living is inculcated-producing enlightened citizens who can hold on to coherent perspectives on the issues of morality, religious faith, Value Education and Human Resource Development. Self-Development, Leadership and Personality Development for Students are the need of the hour. Based on time-tested Indian wisdom, efforts are made but insubordination and paucity of values is felt in every sphere of life worldwide. What we need now are not just educated, but literate students whose knowledge is not limited to just the curriculum.

With the worldwide disintegration gradually eroding the core of our society, we are now facing an urgent need to enhance the system.

The new generation is drifting away from its history and culture while crime and violence have spread to all spheres of life. Doubtless, the scientific discoveries have given rise to genuine optimism materialistic accomplishments, but the problems of inequity, conflicts, poverty, apathy and anxiety are on the rise. This has proven that there is a great inadequacy in our system and the education given in science and technology to our youth has failed to inculcate human morals.

Several thousand years old value-based cultural traditions of India have encoded massively while in contrast, deterioration of value is experienced worldwide. This is why political and economic corruption, scandals, scams, anti-social and anti-national activities are steadily rising. The rapid degradation of values in the Indian context has posed a considerable hurdle for the education system in India. According to **Milton Rokeach**- *Value is what an individual desires, likes or prefers*. In other words, a value is an enduring belief that a specific mode of conduct or end state of existence is personally or socially preferable to an opposite or converse mode of conduct or end state of existence. A value system is an enduring organization of beliefs concerning preferable modes of conduct along with a continuum of relative importance.

Values have been classified in myriad ways under different categories. For instance, they can either be intrinsic or instrumental, depending on whether they are their own or are meant to be means of achieving something. Values like truthfulness and spirituality are intrinsic while desire for money and power is an instrumental value.

Swami Vivekananda had emphasized the need for man-making and character-building education to forge a good citizen and more importantly, a better human being. Importance of value education has been realized ever since and especially after Independence. Several Commissions and Committees were formulated from time to time with eminent educationists to head them. In 1938, **Mahatma Gandhi** set up a committee on “*Basic National Education*” under the late **Dr Zakir Husain**, which emphasized the need for changing the system of education in India. In 1944, *The Sergeant Committee* stressed that any curricula without ethical basis would be useless. In 1945, Religious Education Committee of the Central

Advisory Board of Education recommended that spiritual and moral teachings, being the common crux of all religion must be an integral part of curriculum. The University Education Commission, also known as the **Radhakrishnan Commission** (1948-49) stressed the need to incorporate spiritual training in the curriculum of educational institutions. **The Mudaliar Commission** (1952-53) observed that growth of student's character would depend, to a very large extent, on religious and moral instruction. **The Ramamurthy Committee** (1990) also remarked that education must nurture a set of values like love and compassion, build up a new social order based on truth and nonviolence and prepare a ground for integration between science (truth), spirituality (unity of life).

UNESCO, in the preamble of the constitution, in the context of the peace, refers to education not only as general education acquiring cognitive capital but also as the ability to live together. The NCERT's National Curriculum Framework (NCF) emphasized the qualities like regularity and punctuality, cleanliness, self-control, industriousness, sense of duty, desire to serve, responsibility, enterprise, democratic attitude and sense of obligation to environment. Value development is in fact an amalgamation of several forces. It is a multidimensional and comprehensive process whereby an individual learns to consciously choose, think logically and adopt the norms of values governing the conduct and behavior.

The crisis of values in the society has left an adverse effect on the psyche of the students who have now fallen prey to undesirable values such as dishonesty, insincerity, lack of punctuality, disrespect for elders and lethargy - all of it resulting in terror, greed and accumulation of wealth by hook or crook. Today lack of patience and tolerance is resulting in students' unrest, loss of compassion and sheer absence of sensitivity which has also been pivotal in leading to crimes against women.

The family system in India has had a long tradition of imparting value education. With the presence of so many worldly-wise elders, it is but natural for the child to receive shelter and gain adequate knowledge to survive in the world. However, with the progress of modernity, it has not been very easy for parents to impart relevant values in their wards. A child's mind is like soft clay and can be molded to any desired shape. On a related note, a teacher occupies a pivotal role, in orienting the students towards a proper direction instead of training in values as suggested by UNESCO. It is high time we emphasized the need for inculcation of values.

SUGGESTIONS FOR VALUE INCULCATION

- While teaching poetry the teacher can create awareness relating to conservation, love for Nature, bio-diversity, compassion for all animate and inanimate things alike and prevention of excessive use of natural resources.
- Use of appropriate methods of teaching like problem solving or group discussion will facilitate in active learning of values like leadership, cooperation, group harmony and mutual respect.
- Values like punctuality, discipline, sympathy, tolerance, democratic rights and responsibilities may be taught in applied situations. Certain activities in the hostel life like prayer, assembly, meditation and celebration of natural, religious and social festivals if planned and executed properly help in the development of values.
- Stories of great personalities leave a great impact on the minds of young people. Classroom curriculum should include these as well.
- The aim of true education is to enable students to stand in equilibrium with the rest of the world. The power of expression can empower the youth of today and drive them away from violent influences.

Mere academic knowledge without deep rooting of moral and spiritual values will only fashion lop-sided personalities which may become rich in material possession, but will remain poor in self-understanding, peace and social concerns. Education is a methodical effort towards learning basic facts about humanity. To shape one's life and to give him/her an opportunity of performing themselves on the global stage and the dire need for value education is constantly increasing as we continue to witness increasing violent activities and behavioral disorder in the society.

At times deciding between two values might become very difficult and at time even conflicting, but the ability to take the right decision at the right time, in particular becomes even more important. We will find that the world is differentiated not into black and white, but into several shades of grey. There may not be a right decision or wrong decision but may simply be a priority of one value over the other for the child. It is hence the onus of the teacher to train the child to make appropriate decisions.

Swami Vivekananda rightly pointed out- "Education is not the amount of information that is put into your brain and runs riot there, undigested all your life. We must have life building, man making and character making assimilation of ideas. Excess of knowledge and power without holiness makes human being devils".

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