



THE ROLE OF VALUE EDUCATION IN EMERGING INDIAN SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT:

This research paper delves meticulously, about the crisis of value in contemporary Indian education system, and at the same time demonstrates on how human values can be fostered through task based activities among learners and other people in the society. And how it will lead to the overall development of an individual as well as of the society. The paper draws attention to the changes and developments in the field of education? And how these changes are contributing for the negative or positive development of the society? And what measures can be adopted for fostering values and ethics in education sector.

The paper starts with defining what is education in broad sense as well as it defines what are universal human values. What is the actual purpose of education. What are the drawbacks of current education system. The research paper, concludes by stating what possible measures can be taken, to foster value education which will lead to the overall development of an individual as well as of the society or nation.

Introduction:

Definition of Education:

The word 'education' has a very wide connotation and it is highly difficult to give it precise definition. There are different schools of thought regarding the definition of education. The term 'Education' has been derived from a Latin word 'EDUCARE' which means "to bring up or "to raise". According to this view, education is a process of imparting to an individual certain information and knowledge which society deems necessary. Some thinkers believed that, the term 'Education' has been derived from the Latin word 'EDUCERE', which means to lead out or draw out the best in man.

Indian Synonyms of Education:

The word "SHIKSHA" and "VIDYA" are the Indian synonyms of education. The term "SHIKSHA" is derived from Sanskrit verbal root 'Shas' which means to discipline, 'to control', to instruct' or 'to teach. Similarly the word 'VIDYA' is drawn from the Sanskrit verbal root 'VID', which means 'to know'. Thus education refers to acquisition of knowledge. Hence, disciplining the mind and acquisition of knowledge have always been the dominant theme in Indian approach to understanding education.



Education in India is inescapably linked to national development, as it is, indeed, in every country. The system of education, besides other things, needs to strengthen social and national integration, develop intellectual flexibility and creativity, and strive to build character by cultivating social, moral and ethical values.

Some definitions of Education by different philosophers and educationist:

From ancient time to the modern era, different philosophers and educationist, in order to make the concept of education clear, have defined education in their own characteristic way. All these definitions throw a flood of light on the various aspects of education and its essential features. Some important definitions are:

" Education is the development of all those capacities in the individual which will enable him to control his environment and fulfill his possibilities". **John Dewey.**

" By education, I mean an all-round drawing out of the best in child and man-body, mind and spirit". **Mahatma Gandhi.**

Due to restraints of space and time I, am ending this discussion on the definitions of education; with the definition of Ravindra Nath Tagore ,which tries to make for the areas not covered by the earlier definitions.

"The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence". **Ravindra Nath Tagore**

This research paper gives emphasis on the definition of education given by Ravindra Nath Tagore. A definition which aims at the inculcation of values which makes a life of an individual live in harmony with all existence.

Education is a complex activity. Education, in its narrow sense is regarded as equivalent to instruction, imparted in educational institutions. It is believed to begin with the entrance of the child to a school and end with his/her departure from the university. Therefore, education according to this narrow view is mostly limited to class-room teaching of ready-made materials.

But this research paper, focuses on the broader sense of education. According to the broader sense, education is a lifelong process, which starts from conception and ends with death. Education, includes all the influences which acts upon an individual during his passage from cradle to the grave. Education, in the wider sense, includes all the knowledge and experiences, acquired during infancy, childhood, adolescence, youth, manhood or old age through any agency of education - the school, home, college, university, religious places, society, etc. In this way, one's whole life and all life activities become a real source of education.

As the scope of education is very wide, this research paper will restrict its scope with focusing on the development of Human values through education.



Before going on to the discussion on the development of human values through education, let us discuss what this particular term signifies, i.e. Value Education.

The value of any unit in this existence, is its participation in the larger order of which it is a part e.g. value of a pen is that it can write. Here writing is the participation of the pen in the bigger order in which pen, paper, human being, all are present. Value of an eye is that it can be used for seeing. Value of vegetable plant is that it gives nutrition to animals and humans. What is the value of a human being?

This question implies - what is the participation of a human being in the bigger order? That bigger order includes a person's family, society, environment and country. Hence education should aim at making an individual understand his/her existence in harmony at various levels, namely, individual, family, society, nature and existence, and finally being vigilant to one's thought, behaviour and work.

Human values are the virtues that guide us to take into account human element when one interacts with one other human being. They are our feeling for the human essence of others. It is both what we expect other to do to us and what we aim to give to other human beings. These human values give the effect of bonding, comforting and reassuring.

Human values play a decisive role in the overall development of individual, society and environment.

The eternal values of Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love and Harmlessness (Non-Violence), Empathy, compassion, respect are transmitted on first through the family, then through educational institutions and through all the influences which acts upon an individual during his passage from cradle to the grave.¹

Effects of value crisis on contemporary society:

The value crisis in contemporary Indian society can be seen through a comparison of surveys conduct in 1998 and 2018.

According to the crime report published in The Indian Express (Daily Newspaper) dated 26/02/2018: A recent report points out that the crimes in India have seen a spike. The report adds that the cases of murder, rapes and kidnapping have seen a rise. In a report, it has been claimed that crimes in India saw a 'marginal increase' in 2018. The rape cases and molestation cases have doubled from 1990 to 2008 and in 2012, there were 244,270 reported incident of crime against women. Murder cases went upto 59%.²

Some of the horrific cases, that took place in 2018 are; on 22/02/ 2018, the Unnao incident where a 18 years old Dalit girl was burnt alive by a group of people. Another incident which shook the nation from within was from Mumbai where a 45-year -old man was arrested for raping his own minor daughter.

Apart from the above crimes there were other crimes too which are rising in the contemporary India society, they are crime against men, recently it's been noticed that



married women are killing their husbands along with another man with whom they had extra marital affair.³ A 2014 survey conducted by HelpAge India found that 52% of the elderly parents suffered abuse from their children.⁴

Corruption is another most common crime that is adversely affecting India's economy of central, state, and local government agencies. Not only it has held the economy back from reaching new heights, but rampant corruption has stunted our country's development.

The above scenario of the contemporary society in India gives raise to questions i.e. who is happy or successful in the contemporary society? The accused who are committing the crimes or the victims? The answer is no body neither the accused nor the victim.

The contemporary society is facing value crises in all aspects like individual, family, social, political and administration. Even though more people than ever are getting educated, they are not becoming better people or happier people, and the world is not becoming a better place to live.

Why? Where education is going wrong?

The answer to this questions is; it is because education is no longer about the transmission of values. It has become an exclusive transmission of information.

At intellectual level we want stamp of degree from prestigious institutions, awards, recognition but not the virtues of a good character. The current education system is competitive and achievement oriented.

The novelist C.S. Lewis expressed this well when he said "Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil".

Educational institutions are focusing on all other aspects like making learning more effective by involving the learner by creating a meaningful learning experience. But teaching of values and ethics which form the fundamental building blocks of the personality of a learner are ignored .

Values are certain principles that govern the way you conduct your life, while ethics are moral principles that determine right behavior from wrong behavior. For instance, being kind to everyone irrespective of their social status, class, caste or gender is a value, while not lying or indulging in cheating is ethical behavior.

It is the neglect of these values in education which created vagueness and indiscipline in the mind of people.⁵

Human values enhance person's life but in present scenario, these values are deteriorating in several countries. This trend of weakening in human values does not only pose serious threat to the future course of development of the nation but even for its survival, respect and authority itself.

The role of education in present day society:

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Education should reinforce its role of service to society, especially in assisting in the elimination of poverty, intolerance, violence, illiteracy, hunger, environmental degradation and disease. This is possible by inculcating and fostering human values in learners at various stages of education.

Human values are the need of the hour in this world. Truth, Right conduct, love, peace, non-violence, integrity (Integrity: is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness,) Accountability and responsibility:(The obligation of an individual or organization account for its activities, and accept responsibility for the people around.)⁶

generosity, compassion etc. are the values to be inculcated in all the individuals of the society. If only knowledge is given importance by neglecting the essential values of life, then it may be detrimental and dangerous for the society.

Suggestions of the research:

Following are the effective methodologies and models suggested for fostering value education in our education system:

Values can be promoted through task based activities like making learners enact moral stories, role plays, dramas, and also making them involve in community oriented projects like visiting orphanages, slums, old homages, hospitals and traveling to far remote villages, etc. Involving students in programmes like 'Janma Bhoomi' i.e. a self help programme will develop social consciousness among learners and will also make them service-oriented. Providing opportunities for learners to participate in community development programmes will create a link between education and community development and will enhance their communication and soft skills.

And it is not only the role of educational institutions to inculcate values and ethics, but also the role of all the agencies of education -, home, government, religious places, society, etc from which an individual draw influences.

Values can also be promoted at a large proportion in the country through task based activities like organizing campaigns by the government in bringing awareness among the people and creating self-realization to promote values and ethics in public. And also through performing street plays on the theme of importance of values in family and society.

The above said methods of campaigning by the government should not be ignored, as in the past we have seen that, it was through the campaigns of opposition to British rule in India embarked by Mahatma Gandhi resulted in the independence of India from British rule. These campaigns of non-violence were also a source of inspiration for other nations like USA, where Martin Luther King urged his people (the blacks) to revolt against slavery in America by adopting the principle of non-violence.



Another important way of promoting values is through making short films which can be broadcasted on T.V and social media. And also by making big budget films like Dangal (A film based on the concept of Gender equality), Bhoot nath (A film based on the concept of taking care of old age parents) Prem Ratan Dhan payo (A film based on the importance of family) Neerja (A film based on the concept of serving the society) which can be a source of fostering values among a larger group of people. And as these are considered in the modern society the fastest and cheapest mode of disseminating knowledge and information.

I have suggest films as medium of fostering values because in the current era media and films play a major role in bringing a change in the mindset of the society. Because earlier we have seen, before independence i.e., during the late nineteenth and twentieth century it was through literature and journals a revolutionary change in the thinking of people of India was brought. And in this twenty first century, literature and journals are replaced by films and media.

Conclusion:

To summarize, values are bridge between individual and social. Individual holds value but others influence the formation of those values. In philosophical frameworks, values are those standards or code for conduct conditioned by one's cultural doctrines and guided by conscience, according to which human being is supposed to conduct himself and shape his life patterns by integrating his beliefs, ideas and attitudes to realize cherished ideas and aims of life.

Being respectful towards other people, being sensitive to cultural specificities in the workplace, making sure that you are honest in your dealings with people, that your work is done the right way, and so on, all form part of having a solid value system and sense of ethics which are essential for the development of our country.

As our society is becoming more competitive and achievement oriented, which is giving rise to selfish individualism, concern about personal success and protection; ignoring the value of existing in harmony with others, there is an urgent need to foster value education among all the individuals of the society.

The need for value education among the parents, children, teachers etc, is constantly increasing as we continue to witness increasing violent activities, behavioral disorders and lack of unity in the society etc. Value education enables us to understand our needs and visualize our goals correctly and also indicate the direction for their fulfillment. It also helps to remove our confusions and contradictions and enables us to rightly utilize the technological innovations.

In the present context, our mainstream education system has continued to become unbalanced in favor of skill generation and transmission of information, and value dimension has been languishing. This imbalance has been responsible for the above mentioned problems. Even though, the importance of value education is repeatedly highlighted at various platforms and also stressed by various commissions and expert committees on



education. The effective methodologies and models for value education have yet to find a rightful place in our education system. This paper is a small attempt in this direction. It aims at highlighting the importance of value education and also the various methodologies and models of disseminating them.

To put it in a nutshell, I would like to say that value education is like water, even though it is the most common natural resource which is available to us free of cost; we don't give it much importance as we give importance to other materialistic things like gold or money. We can survive without other materialistic things, but we cannot survive without water. I would like to end this paper with a famous quote on water by Benjamin Franklin "when the well is dry, we'll know the worth of water".

Therefore, before it's too late to bring back the value system in the society its high time that all the agencies of education - the school, home, college, university, religious places, government and society focus on fostering human values and ethics among all the people of the country.

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