



EXIGENCY OF VALUES-ROLE OF LITERATURE

SHAIK RAHAMATHULLA

School Assistant (ENGLISH) Z.P. High school,
Patha Kadapa, Kadapa (dist.)
raham1013@gmail.com

To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society

-T.Roosevelt

Abstract

Human values empower individuals. Education and human values are interdependent and interconnected. Education devoid of values is a menace to society. Even though we are passing through an era of outstanding advancement, we come across an erosion of values in our society. Man's Wisdom has been affected by vested interests, narrow mindedness, egotism and other various deterrent variables. Human values like Love and Compassion, empathy, brotherhood, honesty, truthfulness, respect etc., are swiftly declining. Consequently the cherished goals of our sacred Constitution are in peril. At this juncture the roles of school, teacher and society need to be revamped and redesigned. The structure of curriculum need to be modelled in consonance with the changing needs. The Role of Literature in promoting values among young minds is paramount.

Key Words: Human Values, Education and values, Erosion of values, cherished goals, sacred Constitution, Role of literature

I.INTRODUCTION

Try not to become a man of success, rather become a man of value.

----- **Albert Einstein**

India is my country. All Indians are my brothers and sisters. I love my country and I am proud of its rich and varied heritage..... these are the stirring words that inspire every Indian. We, the Indians are heirs of our affluent cultural legacy. We all know that Emperor Asoka in ancient India preached values such as truthfulness, non-violence, tolerance etc., to his subjects. The Ashoka Chakra in our National Flag is the symbolic and unique representation of law of dharma. The 24 spokes in it enshrine various human values such as love, courage, patience, sacrifice, truthfulness, righteousness etc. These are some typical evidences that portray the cultural ethos of our nation. Without demur, we could claim that we are the champions of values since time immemorial.

But in recent times, even though we are traversing through an era of outstanding advancement, we come across an erosion of values in our society. Man's wisdom has been shattered by vested interests, narrow mindedness, egotism and other various deterrent variables. Consequently the cherished goals of our sacred constitution are in peril.

II. Deterrent Variables responsible for declining of values



We could exemplify certain factors in a nutshell that dwindled the values in our society:-

- Globalisation
- Commercialisation
- Environmental degradation
- Misuse of science and technology
- Vested interests
- Acceleration of desires
- Egotism

The problem of declining values is multi-dimensional resulting in directly or indirectly in the fall of Happiness Index of our country.

India has attained 140th rank this year (2019) in Happiness Index according to the world Happiness Report issued by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network after surveying the happiness levels in 156 countries.

Globalisation has created economic inequality, steep unemployment and intense competition paving the way for the decline of values across the world. Prevalence of commercialisation in every sphere of social activity has immense ill effects causing panic in the lives of people. One of the biggest challenges that humanity facing now is environmental degradation. Exploiting the environment ruthlessly for one's own vested interests is the root cause of ecological imbalance. This is sheer violation of socio-ethical fabric. Wealth is worshipped as god, pride has become a creed. Selfishness has entrenched in the intellect. The ego is flaunted and desires have become an adornment.

III. Nurturing Values

Kane in 1962 said "Values are the ideals, beliefs or norms which a society or the large majority of society's members hold". Not gold but only men with values can make a nation great and strong. Values are not just ideal concepts but empowering tools for individuals.

In the back drop of swift decline in the human values it has become mandatory on our part to put in efforts to nurture the values and reconstruct a happy, fulfilled and resilient society.

Love and compassion, truthfulness, empathy, respect, honesty, gratitude, brotherhood etc., are the universal values that are inevitable and exigent to carve out a peaceful, harmonious and prosperous society. Family, school and society are the crucial potent forces on which the onus of propagating values is laid. Among these school is the pivot and indomitable influential agency to infuse values in the young minds.

IV. Exigency of Values:-Role of Literature

Literature just adds to reality, it does not simply describe it. It enriches the necessary competencies that daily life requires and provides: and in this respect, it irrigates the deserts that our lives have already become

----- C.S. Lewis (British Scholar and Novelist 1898-1963)



Education and human values are interdependent and interconnected. Education devoid of values is a threat and menace to society. Literature is an exceptional means in infusing values. Literature helps the student to imbibe the core values to become complete human being.

Collie and Slater (1987: 3.6) support the inclusion of literature in the language classroom that provides valuable authentic material, develops personal involvement and contribute to help the reader to attain cultural enrichment. Literature encompasses aesthetic and moral values.

Since it is undeniable that literature is a potent instrument in manoeuvring the realm of social ethos, the curriculum need to be revamped and redesigned in consonance with changing needs. Literacy aspects embedded with human values and character building should be given top priority in the curriculum construction.

How literary works promote values?

There are umpteen literacy marvels in the literature that could be used to infuse values among the students. The following are some examples:-

Study of the song 'Where the mind is without fear' written by Rabindranath Tagore instills fearlessness, freedom, self-esteem, broad mindedness etc among the learners

Nissim Ezekiel's poem 'Night of the scorpion' is an epitome of simple life of the villagers and the love and affection towards the neighbours. The villagers rushed to mother's house like swarms of flies on a rainy night to pacify her suffering from scorpion bite. This kind of empathetic attitude is lacking in the present day society. The end lines of the poem are really gems that depicts the true and genuine love of mother

My mother only said

**Thank God the scorpion picked on me
And spared my children**

Leo Tolstoy's short story 'The Wooden Bowl' is endowed with the value of Compassion. In the present era of mechanisation, there we find a little prominence for mind and heart. We come across from various pathetic episodes of old people living in old age homes alienated by their children from print and electronic media. This story teaches us how to treat the old people. The horrendous culture of young generation isolating their parents needs to be rooted out. Filial ingratitude should not be spared.

These are some literary examples helpful in upholding values in the society. Value embedded literary texts of literary legends like Tagore, SarojiniNaidu ,MulkarajAnand, R.K.Narayan, Ruskin Bond etc. are to be incorporated in the curriculum. But it is the teacher's role that is paramount in accomplishing this sacred enterprise.

Suggested Measures

To retrograde the swift declining of values in the society the following measures are suggested:-

- Redesigning and revamping curriculum aiming of Man-making as envisioned by Swami Vivekananda.



- Empowering the libraries with literary material.
- Change in the pedagogy and following didactic approach.
- Introduction of Happiness Curriculum aiming at values and Life skills
- Introduction of citizenship development courses in educational institutions.
- Introduction of culture skill/Moral skill apart from four skills of language.
- Establishment of Ethics department in Government Organisations and Ethic clubs in schools.
- Renewing schooling system for fostering values.
- Encouraging moral dialogues / collaborative story making by the peers.
- Curbs on indecency in social media.
- Irrelevant unsuitable topics from the curriculum should be discarded.

Conclusion

NCF 2005 echoed the vision of education where values are inherent in every aspect of schooling. This lofty ideal is cherished when the teacher plays a vital role as a stake holder in the value transfer through her/his teaching. Ginnot a in his classic book 'Teacher and child' described the power of teacher. "As a teacher, I possess a tremendous power to make a child's life miserable or joyful. .I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humour, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be. escalated or de-escalated or a child humanised or de-humanised"

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