



VALUE BASED EDUCATION: An attitude Formation

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ABSTRACT

Value based education for character formation is the need of the hour. Today the world is reeling under the oppression of wickedness. In every sphere we see evil is in broad light and goodness is sidelined. Hence the need for value based education. Today educational system is an important means to bring in the students to mould them through moral values. Then we will have a humanity of character and integrity. Today's education system has to be given a fresh outlook. In order to overcome the rampant scourge of value erosion there should be a re-orientation. Priority should be given to inclusion of value component in all educational programmes. Values are the life blood of human beings. Value inculcation through various programmes are essential for harmonious development of one's personality. Need for human values are felt immemorial. Without values none can live an authentic life with dignity. To make our world a better place to live it's a duty of the humanity to imbibe the values which are nourishing and invigorating. Without basic values human life will be a vacuum which cannot be filled in by any other alternatives. Each and every one should take personal responsibility to be the agents of moral values

“The one thing that interferes with my learning is my education”

Einstein

I. INTRODUCTION

The education in India involved a most arduous task to cause a stream of useful knowledge to percolate through the innumerable strata of immense population rooted in institutions immemorial in their frame work says, Sir H. Verney. The credit for introducing a regular system of education in India goes to the British. When the English came to India, the educational institutions were completely in Private hands and the State did not enjoy any control over them. There were two types of institutions namely Pathshalas and Madrasas or Maqtubs. While the former were attached to the religious institutions of the Hindus, the latter were linked with the mosques. But the system of education was imperfect and irregular. The State hardly exercised any control over this sphere. For quite some time Company did not interfere in the field of education and permitted the existing system to operate unhindered.

Western education had its beginning in India with the coming of the East India Company in 1600AD. In 1673, Pringle established a secondary school at Madras, in which teaching was done by the Company's



employees. In keeping with the Charter of 1698, the Company opened schools in Madras, Bombay, and Calcutta between 1715 and 1731, while financially aided schools were set up at Tanjore and Kanpur.

The first formal step in the field of education was taken up by the Company in 1781, when it set up a Madarassa at Calcutta, to train the sons of Muslim gentlemen for responsible offices in the State during the time of Warren Hastings. This Madarassa imparted instructions in theology, logic, rhetoric, grammar, Law, Natural philosophy, astronomy, geometry, arithmetic etc. After some time similar educational institutions were set up at Banaras in 1785; Jonathan Duncan, the British Resident of Benaras, established Benaras Sanskrit College in 1791, and in 1800, Lord Wellesley established the Fort William College at Calcutta.

Sir William Johns established the Bengal Asiatic Society for the encouragement of historical researches. In Bengal John Owen, the Chaplain of Bengal Presidency made an effort to set up schools for teaching English to the people, however, his efforts proved fruitless. It was the time of the renewal of the Charter of the Company in 1792, that the matter pertaining to the education of Indians was debated in the House of Commons. It was suggested that school masters and missionaries be sent to India to impart education to the Indians.

In 1800, the Anglican Missionary started an aided school and a free school in Calcutta. The Baptist Mission also did commendable work in the spread of education in India. In 1800, they set up a printing press at Srirampur for the printing of books. The Charter Act of 1813 was an important landmark in the history of Indian education. The Charter made the East India Company responsible for the education in India. It also made a provision for an annual grant of a sum of not less than one lakh rupees for the promotion of education in India. This Charter laid the foundation for a State policy of education in India. It also marks the beginning of the modern period in Indian Education.

According to Lowell Milken, "**Education provides the fullest opportunities for fulfilling ourselves. It is the access to all that a person has yet to learn**". Education is derived from the Latin word '*educare*' which means 'to bring out'. Education is then to bring out the hidden talents from the learner. In this context a teacher or an educator is compared to a midwife who, without any effort, brings forth the child. Education is then to give name, shape and meaning to a student's wishes and dreams, through making him/her realize their capacity and capability and thereby to build their own 'nest' in this global arena through their career or vocation, without ever conflicting with or destroying the common good. In Webster's dictionary we find '*Education is for instruction or training*' by which the young learn to develop and use their mental, moral and physical powers. In other words education is character formation. In this process there is more than one approach depending on the method of education.

Education is not mere imparting 'Information'. It is much more than that-it is in fact 'Formation'. Formation is an insider's job- a student should be able to be aware of this goal to be achieved. Others starting from the parents should be able to help them to become aware of it and should help each one to realize this goal in reality.

According to the well known Chinese proverb:



"If you are planning for one year, plant grain;

If you are planning for ten years, plant trees;

If you are planning for hundred years, plant men".

The above proverb signifies the importance of planning for the human resource development. The planning process cannot start at any one single point of time and end at anyone point, but it is a perennial activity which needs to be kept alive for immediate as well as for medium and long term periods. Any country should have short term, medium term and long term plans in all sectors for its developments, and so should be true with education sector, covering the school education system. Once the creative potential is identified in an individual there is a need to enable them to blossom to their best under the most conducive environment.

There are a number of methods suggested and tested by specialist in the area. They include brainstorming, brain-calming, mind control, synectics, morphological, analysis, bionics, random stimulation, value engineering, free association, scenario writing, altered state of consciousness, awareness development, biofeedback training, deep relaxation, creative dreaming, gestalt therapy, enhancing incubation, socio-drama, psychodrama, meditation, sensitivity training, sound and images, analogies, attribute listening and scamper, reversal method, destructing-restructuring etc. Some of these have been tried out by different researchers in the field of education.

Advancement of any society or nation depends on the quality of education being imparted there. For quality of education we have to adopt modern and easily understandable techniques of teaching. Learning takes place throughout the developmental stages of adulthood and in a variety of situations. **"Our moral ideals do not work with Chisels and hammers; like trees they spread their roots in the soil and their branches in the sky"** says Rabindranath Tagore.

Education is considered as an important factor for the development of any individual or society. Education plays a crucial role in the advancement of people and their existing knowledge, decision making and transfer of technology. Education can be acquired by using formal or informal means of education system.

Education and human quality of life are intertwined or interdependent. They cannot be separated. In the present scenario education is a must for the socio-economic development of the people. Education can answer the numerous problems arising from unhealthy nature of development.

II. TRADITIONAL VALUES AND MODERN EDUCATION

Education performs two important functions, namely sustaining and transmitting the social values and secondly preparing people to meet the demands made upon them by a society. Since any educational institution operates within a socio-political framework it not only reflects the prevailing socio-political values but also helps in ushering in change. Only a dynamic educational system can meet the challenges of a growing society; where



this dynamism is lacking, the aim of education falls apart and it fails to perform its role. Thus, the success of any educational system is contingent upon the nature of curriculum and training. In this context, it can be stated that the traditional educational system fails to keep pace with the needs of a developing society. This explains why at present the traditional educational institutions fail to attract the youth. These institutions at one point of time, played a significant role are now relegated to the background.

Man is a social being. He lives in the society. It is the society which makes him socialized and cultured. Almost everything that he learns are acquired from the society. Only the capacity of learning is his own. It is in society that his ego develops whereby he is called a human being. Altruism implies concern for others, social service and sacrificing one's own interest. Social values have been evolved by the society to make life safer, comfortable, and civilized and worth living. As man began to live in groups, he had to follow some code of conduct so that everybody may live peacefully. For example 'Thou shall not steal' is one of the important social values. 'Always speak the truth' is another social value.

In the words of Sri Radhakrishnan, "**The troubles of the whole world including India are due to the fact that education has become a mere intellectual exercise and not the acquisition of moral and spiritual values**". At present when moral and social values are disintegrating, when religion is losing its hold, when power and knowledge are being misused for vested interests, when nations do not trust one another, it is important and essential that education for moral values should be imparted. Morality signifies a code of ethical principles which are essential for leading a noble life. Moral values are important for the life of an individual. Morality is the base on which character is formed. Morality is the only balm which can heal the wounds of humanity. It is the education for moral values which would impel man to utilize atomic energy for the betterment of humanity rather than for destruction.

Every culture has some value system. According to Maclver, "**Culture is the realm of styles, of values, of emotional attachments, of intellectual adventures**". **It is the inner beauty and refinement of intellectual aesthetic and moral aspects of personality.**

In the present time, modernity has influenced human values to a greater extent. In the present age social, moral and religious values are being disintegrated. Knowledge and power are being used for selfish interests; bribery, corruption, discipline and violence are on the increase. External values, namely truth, beauty and goodness are disappearing. There was a time when people had blind faith in religion and they used to sacrifice their lives for religion. Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha had been once considered as four noble values of Indian culture, now people are interested in their own welfare. They do not bother about the welfare of others. In the modern age people are becoming more and greedier. Some people have become thieves, dacoits, smugglers and sexually corrupt. Mahatma Gandhi said, "**The lust for money and power has corrupted theman**". Modernization has influenced our custom and traditions. In ancient times people used to worship for many hours in a day but in the modern age the tendency of worshipping are decreasing. Standard of living of people in the moral sense has been changed. Many changes have taken place in human behavior, in culture, customs, laws, social norms, art, literature, religion and value system have tremendously changed. Changes have taken place in behavior and character of human beings. In the words of Prof. Joad, "**The modern culture is**



totally different from the old culture. It is because of change in human values.” Modern civilization is different from ancient civilization.

At present there is greater need for value oriented education, when social, moral, cultural and spiritual values are disintegrating, when religion is losing its hold, when power and knowledge are being misused for vested interests, when black marketing, corruption, barbarism, indiscipline, violence are fast spreading. It is essential that education should be value oriented. Only value oriented education can promote individual and social welfare, love, peace, goodwill and understanding.

III. VALUE EDUCATION: NEED OF THE HOUR

As we glance through the newspaper we are shocked to see the flooded news like “Student gang raped by teacher”, “Son killed the mother”, “Women killed for dowry”, “Students slapped the principal” etc exposing the moral and ethical status of our society. Now the question floats as to who is responsible for this moral degradation. What are the ways and means to overcome this crisis? The answer lies in the fact that prevailing system of education and training have failed to produce man of character and integrity. The current system of education is flooded with textual scholarships, forgetting the values. Unfortunately, the students are better informed and knowledgeable, but they fail to imbibe basic human values such as truth, honesty, justice, reverence, non-violence, devotion, kindness, sincerity, sympathy, tolerance etc. The feeling of hostility, aggression, restlessness, jealousy, use of drugs and alcohol are commonly found in students of this modern age. Vulgarity in social behaviors, disobedience to teachers, parents and elders and unethical competitive attitudes become the hall mark of young generation. Though exception exists but the number is too small. The present scenario calls to ponder over this situation.

The present system of education needs a fresh look. In order to overcome the present day rampant scourge of value erosion, there is an urgent need to re-orient the prevailing system of education. Top priority should be given to inclusion of value component in all educational programmes. It's worth noting that values – personal, social, political, cultural, economic, moral etc are the life blood of human beings. Value inculcation through educational programs is essential for harmonious development of one's personality. No society can exist without values. If we want to build a nation on the footsteps and dreams of Mahatma Gandhi, Vivekananda, Bhagat Singh, Lala Lajpat Rai, Vinobha Bhava and other towering personalities, then value based educational system is a necessity, not an option.

Education should consist in transformation through assimilation and not transmission through communication. We are living in a turbulent and worried world. Value crisis is the global phenomenon of our times. The recent developments have threatened over age old moral standards. Human values are disintegrating in all walks of life, public and personal. The main cause of value and moral degradation is the total neglect of value dimensions and character formation aspect of education.



Swami Vivekananda said that, “**Education is man making process**” hence there is need to have value based education since values are the pillars of meaningful life and education is the tool which can bring a change.

In order to eradicate prevailing evils from the society, the nation needs youths and adults replete with sense of courage and fearlessness, having respect for truth and other religions scientific outlook, faith in non - violence, universal brotherhood and appreciation for Constitutional values etc. There is a dire need to develop such an educational system which creates “**Youth with strong hearts, strong minds, true faith and willing hands, youth whom the lust of office does not kill, youth whom the spoils of office cannot buy, youth who posses opinions and wills, youth who have honor, youth who will not be slick**”. – **Oliver Wendell Holmas**

Human values emerge through love. Love is the basic value from where flows the whole life and other values. Though prompted by love is truth. Truth put in action is right conduct. Right conduct always leads to peace and peace to non-violence.

We need value imparting education systems which not only gives shape to one’s own personality or character but also impart a certain amount of real joy to life and work. Values are inseparable part of our living and act as motive force not only to live a satisfactory life but also to enrich it. Moreover, how a person behaves, feels, thinks and conducts is in a given set of circumstances is largely determined by value system. Values act as a lamp to guide a person to pave way from the darkness of life, these are not mere glow-worms.

IV. VALUES CAUGHT OR TAUGHT

Values are not only caught but also taught; acquired, internalized and practiced. The word “Caught” signifies that human beings particularly children, absorb the behavior of members of family and society around them and imbibe it. The word “taught” implies that family, religion, place, school, society and mass media make efforts to teach the incoming generations about values for their all round growth. The word “acquire” means the effect of total exposure of the person to values and what they have imbibed. The word “internalize” stands for a process of rigorous training and practice where the teachers teach by setting an example and the learner observes the teacher and learns. The word “practice” shows the action of persons to put values in practice in life situation. Therefore in order to inculcate values among the learners, we should work on different fronts including teaching and demonstrating values.

Dr S Radhakrishnan was a real teacher steeped in human values. So to be a successful teacher every teacher should inculcate human values. It is human values, which convert work in worship. We have to develop values in life as habits. Nation is not only known by its geographical surroundings but by roots of rich cultural heritage, civilization, tradition and above all by its value preference.

V. SIGNIFICANCE OF VALUE BASED EDUCATION

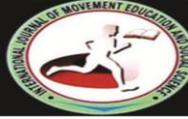
The need for inculcation of human values is felt time immemorial. The need for value based education is felt by all sections of the world, from the primitive to the modern. What have differed are the context of values and the



process of imparting them. In this modern age of Nano-technology and E-Learning the need for value oriented education seems to be more significant because of the following aspects:-

- Without values, it is almost impossible for a person or a society to function properly.
- Values have the status of 'inevitability' in human life.
- Values account for mans survival because these are desirable for a satisfactory life.
- Without values life will be in confusion or get chaotic.
- Values lead and individual to live a productive and happy life by satisfying the ultimate needs which may be physiological, psychological or social.
- The ultimate aim of education is to ensure the fullers development of the human personality. This aim cannot be realized in the absence of value oriented education system.
- Kothari commission(1964-1966) observed that “ *Destiny of a nation is shaped in its class rooms*”, meaning there by that nation of tomorrow is going to be what the young people of today at school, college and university level will make it. So to make this country a prosperous, stable, beautiful, dignified, able and strong nation of tomorrow, we need value oriented education system.
- India is a country with different religions and faiths. However, we notice incidents of religious intolerance. The principle of peaceful co-existence should be promoted through value based education.
- India is a country with a great cultural diversity. Culture is a main source of values because man cannot live without it. Indian cultural values such as sound health through practicing Yoga, obtaining concentration through meditation, imbibing truthfulness, valour and courage of Bhagath Singh and other freedom fighters, policy of non-violence of Mahathma Gandhi, love and devotion for lepers of Mother Teresa etc should be inculcated among young generations.
- To make India a progressive and stable country we need leaders replete with truth, honesty, goodness, sincerity and devotion. Only the value based education can take care of such concerns.
- The current system of education promotes such as 'consumerism', 'unhealthy competition', 'desire for lust', 'frustration', 'aggression' etc which are undesirable.
- The philosophy, objectives and focus of today's school and college curriculum is on fetching jobs and getting lucrative employment. Unfortunately the ideas of character building, patriotism, self sacrifice, national service are ignored.

To sum up, all of us are involved in education in one way or other. There are about 10 lakh schools, 9000 colleges, 200 universities besides likes of priv ate educational enterprises in India making education the largest industry in the country. Caring and mentoring that used to be hallmark of education have taken the back seat and hence quality in education has been compromised. Our independence 68 years ago has paid no dividends in



terms of education. Having lost the traditional values somewhere along the way, education is deficient in its support of democracy, secularism, social justice leave alone technological and economical advancements.

“Students are the real wealth of the country” said Mahatma Gandhi 68 years ago “**If therefore the flame of freedom is to shine brightly in India the very first need is a revolution in education**”. A revitalization of the education system is the need of the hour. Education should gain its rightful place in all walks of life and the educated live up to the expectation taking into consideration their responsibility and commitment to the betterment of the nation and pave the way for development that ensures a good quality of life for the present generation without in any way impairing it for the future generation as well.

Until and unless every member of the society feels and thinks that he/she has an active role in becoming agent of social change, social change for the better will remain a distant dream. In order to sensitize people, value based education is an effective measure. This calls for a total community co-operation. With this we can hope for a better tomorrow and a better place to live in.

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