

VALUE- DETERIORATION AMONG YOUTH

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Abstract:

“Always aim at complete harmony of thought, word and deed. Always aim at purifying your thoughts and everything will be well.”

-Mahatma Gandhi

Values are important and lasting beliefs or ideals shared by the members of a culture about what is good or bad and desirable or undesirable. Values have major influence on a person's behavior and attitude and serve as broad guidelines in all situations. Fundamentally the character of any nation is reflected in its youth. Values are essential for positive human behavior. Values form the core of educational goals and objectives. The youth is a precious asset for any nation. Education policies have emphasized the role of education in fostering values. Building values is somewhat similar to building a house, brick by brick. That is why Values Education is to be recognized as a fundamental need. Values based education for all members of society needs to be seen as a valuable investment. Today, the set-up of our society is likely to become more complex. During the present decades, speedy erosion of moral, social and spiritual values has been creating hurdles in the path of progress of the nation. It has also become a serious threat to the society. In the changed social set-up the definition of good morals has been questioned. Today, newspapers, magazines and other news media are flooded with news of crime, murder, violence immorality, rape, corruption, bribery, self centered egoism, youth unrest, eve-teasing, communal violence, cyber crime, etc. There is a great need to equip the present education, being imparted to children, with values of life in order to make them good human beings. Values bring quality and meaning to life and give a person his identity and character. So value-oriented education should be main theme of our present education system. The wholehearted cooperation of all formal and non formal agencies of education is needed very much. That is why the strategy of value oriented education is a challenge for teachers, parents and society at large. It is well said by Albert Einstein “Try not to be a man of success But Rather tries to be a man of value.”

Keywords: Value, deterioration

1. INTRODUCTION:

Values are like seeds that spread their branches all around. Building up of values system starts with the individual, moves on to the family and community, reorienting systems, structures and institutions, spreading throughout the land and ultimately embracing the planet as a whole. Building values is an integral factor in the process of internalization of values because one can only give what one has within. Building values is somewhat similar to building a house, brick by brick. That is why Values Education is to be recognized as a fundamental need. Values based education for all members of society needs to be seen as a valuable investment. Values regulate and guide human behaviour and action in our day to daily life. Values are embedded in every word we select and speak, what we wear, ways in which we interact, our perceptions and interpretation of others reactions in what we are say and so on. Values are formed on the basis of interests, choices, needs, desires and preferences. These comprise the nuclei of value formation. Values have a selective or directional quality. When preferences acquire certain definiteness, intensity and stability, these become the criteria for judgment, choices, action and grounds for decision-making in behaviour. Value thus is considered to be an enduring belief upon which human beings act by preferences. Values involve the processes of thinking. Today, youths are not responsible because they do not know their moral values . They abuse their parents. They scold their elders. Even, they do not feel shame to insult others by commenting bad. Why are spreading these things. Answer is clear. Lack of moral value and its education to youths.

2. BUILDING BLOCKS OF VALUES:

The **individual** is the first building block of the values architecture. For a society to be at peace, its individual members need to be protected against violence, injustice, humiliation and discrimination. A child is not merely a physical entity but a holistic being. His/her physical, emotional, social and spiritual need has to be addressed to ensure harmonious development of all aspects of his/her personality.

The second factor in inculcating values is the **family** which plays a crucial role in fostering values in a child. A child growing in a conflict ridden home is unlikely to be peace oriented. Healthy relationships in a stable family create sound values. Home is the nursery for inculcating values.

The **community** to which a person belongs is the third block. The relationship between the individual and the community is intimate. It plays an important role in the identity formation of an individual. Values Education goes a long way to minimize the insecurity of communities and to promote a sense of belonging.

The **society** is the fourth building block of values. The society is an extended family which is characterized by diversities of individuals, and the interests of families and communities. Every society also has certain shared characteristics that its members adopt and employ, which influence the collective decisions taken by it. Social mores/customs/traditions are internalized during the process of growing up within a society. Individuals, families and communities that comprise a society have the duty to avoid pursuits, advocacies, methods and goals that undermine values.

The **nation** is the paramount building block of values. A country that allows its citizen to be overtaken by hate and negativity lets its energies be wasted. Values are basic to progress and well-being. Nations at peace comprise the building blocks of global values.

However when the same child enters college, the child is suddenly exposed to unlimited freedom. This freedom is welcomed by the child like a reined horse which is suddenly set free. Its upon the child whether to attend lectures or not to - whether to use the freedom given in the right way or in the wrong - whether to use the time after lectures constructively or to let it while away – whether to do what the others in college are doing or to do something different –whether to adopt a particular style of dressing, consuming alcohol, smoking, drugs or to abstain from the same! Many times, the options available to the child are so tempting, that the child gets led away on to the wrong path, succumbing to peer pressure or starts becoming confused, unsure; which leads to a lack of self-confidence. The emphasis of the present education system on academics alone and not on overall personality development has resulted in disabling the youth from achieving an all-rounded personality and realizing his inherent strengths.

3. CAUSES OF VALUE- DETERIORATION AMONG YOUTH

In our society we generally observed that there is a lack of respect towards our culture, religion, moral and social values among the youths. Due to the rapid growth of scientific and technological development the relation between teacher students and parents-children is deteriorating. The growth of nuclear family in the society sometimes has influenced in creating problems among youths. Lack of proper value orientation of educational system is responsible for value-crisis in Indian society today for the following reasons:

- The present Indian educational system is reflecting more or less borrowed ideologies and philosophies and national values are being relegated to the background.
- Teachers have failed in their responsibilities. The teacher educators are not being clearly oriented to the national values, ideas and ideologies.
- Our school and colleges has become examination centre not value-centre. Parents have failed to bring up their children properly.
- Our national leaders too have not set a good example.
- It is observed that the news paper and electronic media frequently focus some of the occurrences which may adversely affect the mind of younger generation.

4. CAUSES OF MORAL DEGRADATION

Some specific causes, which result unrest, have been highlighted here:

4.1 Unattached family:

Very often, the authority of parents has been decreasing from the children and this autonomous life has become fashion among today's youth. Negligence to the children by their parents has been creating problem to fulfill their demand. Consequently the youth are being diverted by external force and engage themselves in Night club, Rocking, unwanted discussions and so many undesirable affairs. This sort of isolation, lack of love and affection from family has been endangering and spoiling their lives resulting unrest and agitation.

4.2 Attraction of change:

Advent of globalization in the form of modernization has spread over the younger generation of the society. Consequently, they are being influenced by it, losing their identity, tradition and cultural heritage. This change in the society has kept them away from conventional livelihood and they are being strongly affected by modernity for which they often been involving issues like moral degradation of society in particular.

4.3 Defective Education:

Another important aspect of youth degradation is related to defective system of education and regional disparity of education throughout India. Despite passing 60 years of Indian independence, there is lack of proper educational infrastructure from which they can learn properly; rather today's education is professional which never

teach moral perspectives of education that is very essential in forming personality of youth – the future citizen of a country. This sort of educational deprivation has created crisis of employment and being unemployed.

4.4 Policy Implementation approach

We seem to have only policy implementation approach, no creativity in framing or modifying the needed policy. The circulars from the state are only executed without a spiritual involvement in the process. Top administrators have to rethink and rebuild proper policies for managing better values.

4.5 Competitive society

Huge competition in society also leads to degradation of moral values. In this high competitive world, everyone wants to be on the top and this race has made an individual forgotten about his moral values. Excessive competition in every sphere has prompted people to use unethical practices.

4.6. Socio-Economic Conditions

Socio-economic conditions greatly influence moral behavior. People deprived of basic human needs such as food, clothing, health services, and sympathy become frustrated and value education is wasted on. If the society is just, free from discrimination of caste and race, if there is a just distribution of wealth, then an environment exists which promotes value education

4.7. Materialistic attitude

People are becoming more and more money-minded and materialistic. People are becoming greedier. They are busy in collecting money by one way or the other at the cost of values. They want to become rich overnight through illegal means or corrupt practices.

5. WHY WE NEED VALUE ORIENTED EDUCATION

- Holistic development of the child while addressing the head and the heart.
- Revisiting values and making everyone aware of eroding values.
- Creating balance between child and community.
- An education that connects the heart, head and hand.
- Inculcating the understanding of Interdependence between family, society, nation and the world.
- Bringing in a pro-active social conscience.
- Improvement of the quality of education.
- Harmony and peace within self.

6. VALUE ORIENTED EDUCATION-NEED OF THE HOUR

Our country is facing tremendous values crisis today and so many unsatisfactory occurrences have arisen due to crisis of value and character. What is the remedy of all these ills? Values bring quality and meaning to life and give a person his identity and character. The most valuable human possessions are health, harmony, happiness, wisdom and above all character reflecting ethical and human values. When these values are manifested in one's thoughts, speech and actions, he could be called an enlightened person. As we think sincerely and consciously we become more value conscious. Our actions and behavior reflect our ideas and feelings. It is to be injected into the minds of the students through the education system that "we do not work for name, fame, money, power and status, but for greater growth for cultivating values, for building up strong character and for wisdom so that our intrinsic value enhances". The main function of education is to development of an all round and well balanced personality of students. The prominent Indian educational thinker Swami Vivekananda observed, "Education is not the amount of information that is put in your brain and run riot there, we want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded by which one can stand on one's own feet". Hence after Independence, continual attempts have been made for inculcation of right values in the students of at different stages of education. The University Education commission, 1948 considered both philosophical as well as practical aspects of values and made certain valuable proposal for reforms in this respect. Ramamurti Committee (1990) also stressed, "Education must further provide a climate for the nurture of values both as a personalized set of values forming one's character and including necessarily social, cultural and national values, so as to have a context and meaning for actions and decisions and in order to enable the person to act.

7. MEASURES FOR MAKING EDUCATION VALUE ORIENTED

Education cannot be made value oriented simply value education as a subject of study or through lectures in the classrooms. The elements of education like teacher, students, parents and management should work cooperatively to inculcate values among students. In this regard we may suggest following ways to make education value oriented. To inculcate the desirable social, spiritual and moral values and to establish peace and harmony in the society and global peace at large, it is very essential that the value orientation is started at home itself. Family is said to be the eternal school of life.

8. CONCLUSION:

There is deep relationship between youth and moral values. If youths adopt all moral values and operate their life according to this, then they will become more responsible for performing their duty. After this nobody can misuse youths. In the modern globalized society, there have been continuous and radical changes in the field of behaviour and values of youth which reflect important and high esteem in the society where they live, if properly maintained and applied. Thus value education is essential to rejuvenate the moral degradation of youth to bring orderly sequence, security and progress of the youth with society. These impressions determine the positive behaviour to a given situation, which ultimately build the character, both individually and collectively. Therefore, the problems related to human value should be reestablished in a long lasting way so that moral degradation of youth in particular and society in general is checked.

“If wealth is lost nothing is lost”

“If health is lost something is lost”

“If character is lost everything is lost”

Awaking moral values in youth can reduce black marketing, adulteration, cheating, fraud and manipulation. Swami Vivekananda had struggle to awake moral values in youth .He said always, awake, arise and not stop till goal is achieved. It means awake your moral values by firm determination that you are one of great part of god and why are you doing immoral works .God has given power to earn honestly, then why are you earning by cheating. Self realization, self analysis are good technique to awake your moral values.

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