

DIMINISHING OF MORAL VALUES AMONG INDIAN YOUTHS

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Abstract: Future of a nation rests on the shoulders of youths. Youths are considered the driving force and power engine to the nation. At present there is a diminishing trend of moral values among our new generations. Moral values are the worthy ideals or principles that one follows to distinguish the right from the wrong. Moral values are something that teaches us good virtues like honesty, truthfulness, kindness, integrity, helpfulness, compassion, respectful, love, respect for others, hard work, co-operation, forgiveness etc. But now a day's youth are adversely diverted towards different immoral activities, therefore, its everyone's duty to find out the solution of this crucial problems which depends on the hands of the young generations.

Key Words: *Moral values, diminishing, young generations immoral activities, integrity.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Increasing and accelerating socio-economic and technological changes in recent years have brought along some social problems since values could not be transferred to new generations adequately in our country. Most of the increasing social problems in our country are at home, towns and villages, cities are closely related to values. Various social violence and intolerance in India are problems related of lack of moral values. Such social violences in India is due to the diminish of moral values among the youths of the country. Reviving the importance of moral values is the most important factor for uplifting the society, integrity of the nation. Value is such a code of conduct or the incorporation of virtue following which; the man develops his personality and springs up being powerful and trustworthy in society. Values are guiding principles, or standard of behavior which are regarded desirable, important and held in high esteem by a particular society in which a person lives. The importance of values and morals are the code we live by in a civil and just society. Our values and morals are the reflection of our spirituality, character, Moral values are the basic of our goodness and if we use them, they give us unexplainable joy. Our Indian culture is recognized worldwide unique because it has blossomed values. In the Hindu's perception there are four primordial embodiments – *Dharma, Artha, Kam and Moksha* and five practices - *Satya, Ahinsha, Astava, Aparigrah and Brahamacharya* (Pallavi. G. 2016).

Diminishing of ethical and moral values among the younger generation is a major issue in India. In the past moral values and graciousness were prominent in most youngsters. Today's youths are the future of the tomorrow. Majority of the youth learn respect, courtesy, consideration, decency, honesty and righteousness from very young age. Morality means, honesty, of character, fairness in attitude. However, these moral values are slowly diminishing over the years as most of the youngsters are adversely diverted towards different immoral activities, more inclined towards use of internet, politics, corruption issues which not only affects the present Indian society but also ruins the future generations.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

Objectives of the paper is to understand the moral values among Indian youths, secondly to understand the factors affecting diminishing the moral values, thirdly, to know the consequences of moral values and find the remedies to reduce the diminishing of moral values among Indian youngsters.

3. METHODOLOGY:

The study is qualitative based, various secondary information have been collected from various publications, reports, books, journals, internet and website are also consulted for the purpose.

4. CONCEPT OF YOUTH:

The United Nations General Assembly officially gives the definition in 1999 for the International Youth Years and refers to youth as “all persons falling between the age of 15 and 20-24 inclusive”. The term youth is defined by sociologist as a transition between “childhood and adulthood” (Rocle, et, al, 2004). Youths are the engine room of society. They are the divers of any developmental trend and activity in society and major determinants of the extent of growth and development in any society. Youths are very energetic and are always willing to go the extra mile need to be achieved what they believe in and hold on to. The Oxford Advance Learners' Dictionary defines youths as “the time of life when a person is young especially the time before a child becomes an adult”. The Inter Government Organization

for Economic Cooperation and Development defines youth as “those between 15 and 29 years of age”. (OECD family database, 2018)

5. VALUES:

The word value reflects the importance, worth desirability and the respect something gets in return (Soykan, O.N. 2007). As a sociological concept, values refer to similarities and shared demands. Social values are moral beliefs and principles that are accepted by the majority so as to ensure the continuity of a society (Ergil, D. 1984). Values signals not only what is there but what should be there in a society in form of moral imperatives (Incleses, 1964). Values are accepted as truthful opinions and criteria set for what is expected by a society. Values are linked to beliefs and attitudes and guide human behavior (Rennie, 2007). Morals, values and ethics are strongly attached to society, spirituality and culture (UNESCO, 1991). In the context of Science, three particular domains of values are present in Society: the values associated with education, values of Science and values of Science Education. These three values remain in close proximity and interact or overlap with one another (Hilderbrand, 2007). Morality values and ethics are always connected and interrelated to society, and attached to societal culture, which are constantly influenced by politics (Witz, 1994). Value comes from the Latin word “Valere”, which means to be worth, to be strong. Dictionary meaning of values are relative worth utility or importance, degree of excellence, something intrinsically valuable. Values are those standards or codes of conduct which are conditioned by one’s cultural tenant guided by conscience, according to which one is supposed to conduct himself and shape his life pattern by integrating his beliefs, ideas and attitudes with a view to realize the cherished ideals and aims of life. According to Dewey, “Value”, means primarily to prize to esteem, to appraise and to estimate. It means the act of achieving something, holding it and also the act of passing judgement upon the nature and amounts of values as compared with something else.

Moral values refer to objects that human beings under desirable and worthy of pursuit in their thoughts, feeling and action. This may be heart like truthfulness, happiness, peace, justice. In either case they function as ideals and standards that govern human actions. Moral values are the essential building blocks of our character and nature and the sum total of our character (Lalitha, P.R. 2001). Values are characteristics that are important or useful for humanity or something that perfects human beings in accordance with their essence or abstract culture regarding basic problems that are very important and valuable in human life or human ethics for a whole person that is related to morals, which is related correctly and wrong people or groups (Hersan Alwi et al, 2002). Morality is derived from the word “Mores”, which means “Manners” or “Morals”. Morality is “an accepted code of human conduct in a society”. Morality entails “having laws that will regulate dealings of men who can choose to abide by these laws because they know it, it is good sense to do so. Being moral or being morally conscious means adapting standards or principles to guide one’s action and conduct in society. Moral values include truthfulness, patience, freedom, respect of human, honesty, integrity, hard work, responsibility, respect tolerance, loyalty, public spiritedness, fairness and equality.

5. FUNCTIONS OF VALUES:

Values in social system always take part at the beginning of activities inside and at the end of the process because they are the powers which begin in the world of consciousness and conscience. Human beings and societies exist together with their values. Physical wealth of a society is also based on the perception, belief and values that the society has. Those cultural codes are road maps in the way to determine the routes of an individual and the society. As a result, in almost every society people take values seriously, sacrifice their interest, struggle for them and even they die for them. Functions of values can be elaborated as to show the ways of thinking and behaving ideally, values are used for means in judging, to make people focus on useful and important culture objects, to play a role as a guide to adopt and realize social role, to perform as a social control and restraint tools and to provide solidarity.

6. MORAL VALUES FOR YOUTH IN THE CHANGING SOCIETY:

“Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he shall not depart from it”. This saying is as important for a child as it is for the youths. Development continues to take place and societies rapidly move with latest development trends; it is very important for the youths to hold on to the moral values taught them in their childhood. Bernard Shaw writes, “the reasonable man adapts himself to the world: the unreasonable men persist in trying to adopt the world himself: therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man”. Youth of today can make a difference in their society by standing out of the crowd and upholding moral values in a morally bankrupt society. With the development of societies, values continuously change according to the changing moral scenario, which has brought in an increased wave of moral depravity and moral negligence in present day societies. Today youths have to face a lot of problems. They are violence, exploitation, corruption in public life, terrorism, political corruption is increasing day by day. Man has been transformed to a mechanical machine due to application of scientific and technological inventions which adds comforts to their life, resulting in degradation of the moral value system. Almost all the contemporary societies have witnessed fall in moral values and an increased interest in pleasure, comfort and amusement. Moral decline results

in indiscipline at all levels in societies and its consequential effects are observed in lack of accountability to our work. Our readiness to fraud, cheat and misuse, lack of self-esteem and respect for human life and involving in corruption. Values by youth held and pursued today include; dishonesty, disrespectful to life, intolerance, lack of cooperation, disrespect to others, profit oriented relationship, abuse of human dignity, loss of pride in hard work, an increase in the pursuit of injustice and other crimes all with the aim to acquire maximum wealth. In the modern world, people feel honor in telling lies in involving fraud activities and unfair means. They usually found involved in many criminal activities. Lacking integrity in inter-communication and have barefaced abuse of the laws and the human rights in the order of the day.

7. REASONS/FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEMINISHING OF MORAL VALUES:

- Childhood control: During adolescences child starts to become self-ruled. These rules and regulations may sometime flexible and vice-versa based on reactions towards his childhood environment.
- Influence of nuclear family and materialistic way of life is also another factor of diminishing factor of moral values among the youths. In a nuclear family especially where both the parents are working, have less time to share time with their children. The feeling of the children is unattended and child minds are diverted towards viewing. T.V., peer group and bad habits.
- Peer group influence: Children now a day's pass more time together in groups discuss among them with frankness and seek support, guidance and advice, so they, readily prefer to accept views of peer groups.
- Incapability of parents to control over their children and autonomy of children are increasing rapidly. The young youths are diverted towards night clubs, unwanted discussions etc.
- Double and sub-standard of morality set by society based on gender is also the cause of diminishing of moral values among youth. Some activities support the social system for such degradation for example going to example market alone, laughing in public place and preference of boys.
- Rise of maturity of the youths, sense of shame and atonement is increasing on finding himself committing anything wrong. As such, situation is repeating youth feels dejected in his environment and become the victim of solitude, unhappy life and inferiority complex and keeps himself apart from realities of life.
- Modernization and distraction from identity, tradition and cultural heritage.
- Over influence of mass media, print media, internet, T.V, websites, cinemas, role models play an important role in having and shaping the personalities of the youth. Many of them are not only neutralize violence but often glorify it. There is so much violence and unwanted scenes in all these entertainment avenues and if a majority if the youth watches these, the impact of the same on the next generation cannot be positive.
- Defective education system, our education system fails to impart moral and ethical values among the youths.
- Lacking of curriculum activities based on moral values.
- Dirty politics, most of the political parties have a tendency to capture youth to strengthen and developed their structures. All the political parties have been fulfilling their own interest by involving them into different movements with the assurance of employment and numerous greed and promise. Being inspired by those, the youth is being adversely affected and the society being polluted by an unstable situation.
- Unhappy life, influence of entertainment means, undesirable films, obscene novels, heroism, desire to get rich soon etc. hasten moral degradation among youths.
- Economic change:As the economic is moving at a such fast pace rewarding the materialistic and money minded.
- Lack of academic syllabus related to human values.

8. CONSEQUENCES OF MORAL DIMINISHING AMONG INDIAN YOUTHS:

The moral degradation in our society has reached such a level that calls for concern. Youth in India is getting increasingly inclined towards violence, social evils and lack of respect towards elder and teachers which can break down social harmony as well as national integration, kidnapping, murdered, robbery and crisis have become a serious matter in India. They engage in all sorts of anti-social behavior injuries to the society. Moral values are found in the religion, culture and traditions, yet our youths, for a reason or the other are not the religious. They consider culture outdated and our traditions barbaric. The creative mind of youth is diverted towards unsocial activities such as smoking in public places, misconduct in classes, drug addiction, misbehavior in household and juvenile delinquency to name of few. Social values are uprooted by commencing anti-social activities so regional movement, conflict, bias, enmity etc. take leading role over all down fail of the society. The alarming percentage of criminality and anti-social behavior increase in India with the change in social structure and individual motives. Invention of new modes of scam and frauds are being emerged which denotes that youth are tending to get more interested into easy way of attending wealth, power and fame etc. giving least consideration to human values. It promotes identity crisis and relationship with individuals or group who already perceived the association as morally deficient.

9. REMEDIES TO REDUCE MORAL DEGRADATION AMONG INDIAN YOUTHS

- Governmental control over media.
- Reforms in Educational policies.
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- Proper guidance to the children and youngsters.
- Coping up with values of the past.
- Improvement in social structures.
- Ideological change.
- Peaceful atmosphere.
- Economic reforms.
- Steps to develop moral value through formal and non-formal methods.
- Political organizations should direct younger generation towards positive way.
- NGO's and social associations voluntarily should strengthen the youths.

10. CONCLUSION:

Youths are major determinants of the level of development in any society. In the modern civilization ethical and moral values are degenerating. Youths are the major work force of all the society with the help of which all the societies get the position of self-sustained. Youths must be disciplined self-acquaint with the knowledge and they must act as the purveyors of the destiny and progress of the society. Youths must be committed to imbibe and upload the moral values because these values will shape their thought and actions. Moral orientation of youths needs to be strengthened to build up a moral and harmonious society. Youths can be the agents of social change by accepting to live by moral codes and conduct.

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