

# The Role of Social Values in Shaping 21st Century Education

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**Abstract:** *In this study, the discussion revolved around social values and their implementation in school settings from both global and national viewpoints. The study also delved into the structural and functional aspects related to this topic. It proposed a constructive approach to teaching these values and elucidated the interconnection between these concepts. Social values epitomize the preferred modes of thinking and behavior within a society. The widening disparity between the desired norms of an ideal society and the realities of the actual world is seen as a precursor to various social issues. Therefore, it is crucial for the values of the real world to align with those of the ideal world. Grasping and articulating the intricate nature of these values on national and global scales and justifying them in a positive manner are deemed vital prerequisites for fostering a harmonious society and world.*

**Key Words:** *Social Values, Implementation, Global and National Viewpoint Society.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

In recent years have seen a rapid increase in socio-economic and technological changes, which have led to various social issues arising from the inadequate transfer of values to new generations in many societies. These social problems manifest themselves prominently in homes and schools and are closely tied to values. Social violence and intolerance, for example, are direct consequences of these values. To prevent and mitigate such disruptions to social order, it is essential to implement an effective values education process. Instances of global and social unrest highlight the lack of adequate values education among those responsible for these issues. Teaching values is a critical component of social control mechanisms and serves as a practical solution to current and potential social and global challenges.

**VALUE:** Value is a reflection of the importance, worth, desirability, and respect something receives. In sociology, values denote similarities and shared demands. Social values are moral beliefs and principles accepted by the majority to ensure society's continuity. Values also indicate not what exists but what should exist as moral imperatives in a society. They are viewed as truthful opinions and criteria set for societal expectations. Shared values refer to enjoying similar things and finding the same things beautiful. Collective consciousness, identified by sociologists, and the objective soul, as philosophers call it, fall under the realm of common values. It is evident that society is essential for biological, psychological, and sociological value. Language, religion, morals, arts, and traditions only emerge in society, forming the accepted core of a community. Human beings, starting as organisms, develop societal dreams, ideals, norms, morals, arts, and religion as they grow into an identity from a seed. Ethos, referred to by anthropologists and sociologists, signifies a society's values derived from a Greek term denoting common behaviors.

Values in society serve as both a standard and a benchmark, reflecting and inspiring societal beliefs. They play a crucial role in guiding individuals towards ideal behaviors and ways of thinking. Values are the moral compass that influences our perceptions of right and wrong and shapes our responses to various situations. Humans evaluate their surroundings and knowledge based on their core values, which in turn influence their understanding of concepts like life, the universe, and the value of knowledge. The continuity of values in the 21st century is especially vital due to the rapid technological advancements and globalization shaping our world. Establishing a solid foundation for values education is essential in a time where values are constantly evolving and being redefined.

**VALUE HIERARCHY:** Some values, like hard work, productivity, and honesty, hold more significance in social life than others. Individuals gradually attain their desires, creating a hierarchical structure of values. Success is not achieved through one or two values, but rather a combination of values. Values take on a hierarchical form in our cognitive world. Foundational values lie at the bottom, with higher values forming a hierarchy above them. At the pinnacle are ultimate values such as religious unity, societal democracy, family monogamy, and social justice, all interacting within a given society. Across societies, these higher values are crucial indicators of continuity and well-being. In the value hierarchy, elevated values are vital across various domains, with principles like justice extending into areas like economics, politics, and familial dynamics. It is imperative that the hierarchy of values collaborates for the betterment of society.

**VALUES CATEGORIZATION:** Values can be classified based on their content (aesthetic, scientific, educational, economic, political, and social values), scope (societal, national, and global values), and mode of exchange (modern and traditional values). In this context, we will emphasize the categorization of values according to their scope due to their significant impact on their evolving role in society and globally.

## **2. VALUES BASED ON THEIR BREADTH :**

**VALUES IN SOCIETY:** Societal values are the standards commonly shared by the majority of a society, aimed at creating a better society. These values govern and structure daily life, including virtues such as honesty, diligence, helpfulness, and modesty. Sociologically, true values are typically specific to a particular society, making them unique to that group at a given time (Doğan, 2011). While societal values are crucial, individual values are equally significant. Individual values represent the qualities that individuals believe make them exceptional or motivate them. According to Alex Law and Michael Weitz, individual values are described as "inspirational powers" (Bacanlı, 2011).

**VALUES OF THE NATION:** National values are essential for the unity and survival of a nation. For instance, Turks consider the flag's sacredness, love for the country, and the country's indivisibility as crucial national values. These values are vital for a nation's existence globally. National values unite us domestically while distinguishing us from others globally. Societal values and national values are not in conflict; instead, they complement each other. Consequently, no societal value can go against the constitutional system based on national values.

**GLOBAL VALUES:** Global values represent the shared values across all societies. While traditional values vary between societies and evolve over time, globalization introduces new aspects to modern societies that fundamentally align with traditional values. As a result, perceptions of virtues, morals, community bonds, trust, loyalty, transparency, privacy, love, acceptance, respect, and fear may undergo changes or decline due to the impacts of globalization. Key global values that influence societal values include knowledge, competitive culture, productivity, quality, democracy, human rights, free market economy, and individualism. The individual value holds particular significance in the contemporary era characterized by a knowledge-driven society. Unlike societal values, global values are not relative but universal, contingent on societal preferences. Societies may choose to engage in the global domain or remain within the societal sphere, raising the challenge of how traditional societies rooted in conventional values can transcend their inherent limitations. It is essential to acknowledge that science and technology also represent values. D. McClelland suggests that the transition of Western societies to industrialization hinges on the "achieving personality," while E. Hagen attributes it to the "innovative/creative personality." Therefore, a society's ability to cultivate and showcase individuals embodying achievement and innovation/creativity can illuminate its path forward.

**VALUES FUNCTION:** Values are crucial in social systems, influencing the beginning, progression, and conclusion of activities. They are the driving forces rooted in consciousness and conscience. Values are integral to the existence of human beings and societies, shaping the societal wealth based on perceptions, beliefs, and values held. Cultural codes act as navigational tools, determining the paths of individuals and societies. Across societies, people prioritize values, making sacrifices, engaging in struggles, and even risking their lives for them. The functions of values include guiding ideal thinking and behavior, serving as criteria for judgment, directing attention to culturally significant objects, facilitating the adoption and fulfillment of social roles, acting as tools for social control and restraint, and fostering solidarity (Fichter, 1990).

## **3. EDUCATION AND VALUE EDUCATION :**

**EDUCATION:** Societies rely on education for their survival, development, and continuity. Educational institutions play a vital role in shaping individuals and preparing them for life by imparting essential knowledge, skills, and values.

Education serves various functions for society: transmitting cultural values, fostering desirable behaviors, and fostering cultural and scientific innovation. Additionally, education aims to enhance social progress and encourage continued learning and exploration. The primary goal of educational institutions is not only to educate but also to instill essential human values in students.

**VALUES EDUCATION:** Humans are beings who possess and create values and must coexist harmoniously. Life's purpose extends beyond material desires to personal and spiritual growth. Manly Hall emphasizes the importance of ethical values, while Theodore Roosevelt underscores the significance of moral education. Values education aims to instill values that manifest in behavior through direct experience and emotional connection. A nurturing environment that allows for free will is essential for values education. Education focused on coercion rather than self-discovery yields individuals who prioritize others' expectations over their own. Education should cultivate individuality and self-assurance to foster creativity and prevent hindered social development. Overemphasis on socialization impedes knowledge creation and stifles confidence and innovation, which are crucial for positive social progress. Active participation in society is encouraged through the teaching and internalization of values.

Variables such as learners, teachers, school environment, family, society, and surroundings play a crucial role in shaping individuals' values. Education is the key to ensuring that individuals develop a value-based personality. It is essential to instill values in individuals' minds for the continuity and future of society. This task is accomplished through education (Koenig, 2000). The advice of British Education Philosopher A. Whitehead to educators is significant: "Do not try to teach everything to a child, but teach what you do teach very well so that the child can grasp the concepts of learning and thinking" (Whitehead, 1959). Educational institutions aim not only to impart knowledge but also to help learners acquire the values that define humanity. Schools strive to help students internalize both explicit and implicit values, enforce disciplinary rules, enhance moral values, and positively influence their characters. Values represent the aspirations and ideals that a society seeks to achieve, with education being the primary institution for realizing these ideals. Halil Fikret Kanad emphasized that education's dynamic and creative nature is essential in shaping societal ideals. According to Kanad (1942), societies lacking ideals cannot attain happiness. Education is the cornerstone of building a values-based society, fostering an informed population, and preserving national identity. Value education serves to unify individuals within a society, distinguishing them from other communities while promoting shared preferences and behaviors (Bacanli, 2011).

Societies that do not consider their values and pass them on to members during socialization cannot progress. Education systems that overlook the motivating aspect of values fall short of their goals. Imposing artificial or unfamiliar values on individuals can have dire consequences for a society. Recent global events prompting questions like "Where is humanity?" have underscored the importance of teaching values. Societies expect children to adopt national values alongside universal ones to ensure continuity. Determining which values to instill, incorporating social, national, and global values, and adapting teaching methods to different learner levels are key aspects of value education. The formative years of childhood are crucial for instilling lasting values, while trying to impose values on adolescents may backfire. Collaboration among family, school, religion, and media is essential to effectively teach values and ensure a comprehensive value education program.

#### **4. CONCLUSION :**

Values serve as social standards; fundamental beliefs that help distinguish right from wrong for human beings. By providing balance and meaning in life, values allow individuals to coexist within society. While values are not innate, they are acquired and passed down through observation and interaction, highlighting the role of schools in values education. Society is constantly evolving and changing due to its dynamic nature. These changes lead to new needs, events, and issues over time, some positive and some negative. Positive changes should be sustained and extended, while negative changes should be transformed into positive ones, a task achievable through value education. Likewise, the most effective and economical method of preventing social problems, safeguarding the social framework, and enhancing it is through value education. To deliver impactful value education, a comprehensive approach is essential.

Education requires a planned and intentional approach. To instill important values necessary for prosperity, teachers must possess a solid background, skills, and pedagogical abilities. Values are the foundation of every culture, essential for social cohesion and unity. Without values, a culture risks disintegration and loss of identity. Thus, values play a crucial role in social life, preceding human actions, institutions, and norms. Value education involves teaching valuable lessons that are essential for children's development, as they primarily learn from their surroundings and adult behaviors.

Dysfunction in values leads to increased social problems, as societal issues arise from discrepancies between ideal values and reality. Social problems stem from inconsistencies between societal values and actual behavior. Value education imparts principles guiding people's choices, ensuring that society functions based on approved principles and values. Cultures must evolve through shared values to promote a peaceful world. Value education serves as a foundation for fostering better individuals, societies, and global communities.

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