

## Value Based Education -- Need of the Day

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### Abstract:

*Future growth in any country depends on its youth. Unfortunately, youth in India is getting increasingly inclined towards violence, social evils and lack of respect towards world around them. We ourselves are to be blamed for this. Our existing environment including family system, education system and media including newspapers, T.V. etc is presenting them a skewed picture. Youth see that men with values are suffering in life. They are also getting swayed by modern sayings like, ' All is Well that Ends Well '. They care only about end results and give no importance to 'means'. Under these circumstances, value education is essentially required to provide motivation and guidance to our youngsters. Value education builds character which is beneficial for growth of both the individual youth and the society in general. It influences our decision making in life and helps us grow by building healthy relationships in society. People who become great statesmen, sports persons or business entrepreneurs have certain things in common. They are all vigilant about their surroundings. They all know how best to use what they have. They all believe in hard work and in doing things which are good for the society. Creation of such values in our youth is the end product of value Education. Recent crisis in 'values' in our youth has revived concern for value education in India. Concrete steps are now being taken by Indian society and we all must join this movement to see 'Shining India' in a very near future.*

*Keywords: healthy relationships, Righteous conduct, spiritual Education, internal cohesion, co-ordinated efforts.*

### I Introduction

#### **Knowledge without values is not only useless but is dangerous too for the society**

Students, the future saviours of our society, are getting increasingly inclined towards violence, social evil and lack of respect towards world around them. Today, education has a very limited purpose for the students. Their only aim is to get good marks in the examinations and to use their marks sheets for getting good jobs. They get mere bookish knowledge required for passing the examination and do not develop any value for upliftment of the society. In spite of high education, students today are losing morality. Their respect for teachers, parents, and society in general is vanishing. [2] Vision of our students has become defective. They only look towards their right but have no regard for their duties. Unemployment and underemployment is leading to frustration and unrest in our youth. Most of the problems today in our country are created not by the uneducated but by the educated youth.[2]

Seeing the acts of violence committed by young people all around us, we wonder if the parents and teachers have forgotten their duties towards present youth.[4] They are expected to teach the youngsters as to how to deal with various situations in life. But from the behavior of our youth, it can be inferred that they have not been properly taught the lessons on social living in their childhood. Otherwise, teenagers cannot become cold blooded murderers or the rapists or throw acid on another person's face. These crimes are increasing day by day by our present youth. This confirms that the parents and teachers to-day are neglecting the important duties of embedding social values in our teenagers. India is the motherland of many noble souls who had brought laurels to themselves and to their country all over The world. Unfortunately, we have forgotten the principles of spirituality and are taking to wrong paths. We see greed & violence everywhere. Everything is full of pollution these days. What to talk of polluted water and air, even the love in family is getting polluted. Values are those characteristics in human beings that provide them motivation and guidance throughout their lives. These values are not the property of any religion or any philosophy or any nation. These values are universal in nature and produce behavior which is beneficial both to the individual and to the society.[4] These are the essence of healthy relationships and are essential for growth in any country. These values influence our thoughts and actions and motivate us to progress on a right path. These values contribute towards all round development of society and the country. The prosperity of any country depends on its men of enlightenment and character.

Such Values like morality, righteous conduct, ethics, honesty, Prem, Ahimsa, brotherhood etc can be engraved in young minds through teaching of some specially crafted and socially important supplementary subjects like:

- Spiritual Education
- Environment protection Education
- Primary health Education

- Indian Culture & Spirituality
- Life stories of Enlightened soul in Indian History
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## II Whom To Blame For Degradation

The question arises as to why our youth is lacking 'values' today. The answer is simple and loud. Our present Education system, our family system and our present society, they all have misguided priorities. They all are, inadvertently, neglecting spiritual values.

Today we have hundreds of recognized universities and thousands of colleges in India which are producing lakhs of graduates every year. The Government pats its back by opening more and more of schools/colleges. It is not giving due attention to quality of education being imparted.[3] To-day students are taught that 'All is well that ends well' As such our youth today care only about the end results and give no importance to means. They are taught that everything is fair in love and war. As a result we find that our youth is not bothering much about laws of society. To-day, students acquire some high degrees and become egoistic in the society. The success of education is measured today with wealth and power acquired through education. None seems to be concerned about value creation through education.

Our children are getting deprived of value education in their early life also when their hearts are pure and brains are fully receptive. That is the time when the imparted education leaves permanent mark in the life of persons. Though value education is important at any stage of life, still its efficacy is much more when given in the early stages of life. Practically all schools in India have no interest in subject on spiritual education. They seem to be concerned only in teaching few languages and subjects of History, Geography & Science. Schools to-day feel pride in adopting computer based education and to be branded as smart schools. None wants to be branded 'Gurukul type' by adopting teaching in spiritual values.

Second blame goes to parents. Carried away by their blind love for their children, they blindly accept whatever their children do without bothering to correct them. Parents are, inadvertently, neglecting their responsibility of developing right attitudes and behaviour in their children. In the past, family was the first institution where children learnt about the culture and traditions of their nation through stories about great sages, saints and heroes of the past. Today, the only worry of the parents is to prepare their children for entry into some reputed school in their area. [2] Thirdly, our society is also equally responsible in spoiling its youth. Society respects only those persons who display their wealth and power. Persons with social values are being totally ignored. Our media and the cinema are always presenting us the stories which show that men with values are suffering in life. No one is caring to teach the excellence of Indian Culture and spirituality. Our representatives in municipal Corporations, State Assemblies and Parliament are supposed to put up a model role. But what they project is a clear picture of our degraded social values.

## III Role of Value Education

Value Education provides motivation and guidance to our youngsters. It builds character which is beneficial for growth of both the individual and the society in general.[2] It influences our decision-making in life and helps us to build healthy relationships in society. The prosperity of a country depends on its men of enlightenment and character. At present, education is merely job oriented. It may secure you a job but it can not guide you to lead your life.[3] Education must teach a person what life is and what is its goal. It must purify the heart and clarify the vision. It must promote virtues to raise the moral, spiritual and social standards of the educated. The problem and failure of managements is all because of prejudices, biases, subjectivity- all this is taken care by being appreciative of the prepositions of spirituality as taught by our great philosophers. There is need to stress on Indian culture and spirituality in our management courses. In uncertain situations where one does not know where the economy is headed, whether one would have a job or not to-morrow, one needs internal cohesion, external resilience and ability to operate beyond personal interests. All these can be derived from lessons in spirituality. When there is uncertainty and a lot of negativity around, then value education channelises energy into positive direction. It gives individuals a great sense of purpose and inculcates a sense of discipline.[5] People who become great statesmen, sports-person or successful business entrepreneurs have certain things in common. They all have firm faith in their culture and are all vigilant about their surroundings. They all know how best to use their energies. They all believe in hard-work and in doing things which are good for the society. Creation of such 'values' in our youth is the end product of value education.

Just before the start of 21<sup>st</sup> century, several important changes had occurred in the human life all over the world which redefined human ways of life and brought corresponding changes in social values.[1] Exponential developments in tele-communication and information technology has reduced the world into a global village and has thus highlighted wide disparities among people in different areas. This phenomenon of globalization has given rise to issues of justice, equality, freedom and human rights etc.

In last about half a century, the people have become highly materialistic. Every individual today is concerned about collecting lots of money and materialistic comforts. The world to-day is over-exploiting all natural resources without bothering about the own future generations. Deforestation, water and air pollution, excessive use of natural fuels and other

resources is result of this human greed. This has given rise to another social responsibility of ‘environment protection..’ Thus scope of value education to-day has widened to cover both the spiritual and the social values. These values are not cosmetic requirements of present human race. These are essential for peaceful living and sustainable growth in the world.

#### IV Concern for Value Education in India

Indian Education system during vedic period had given due importance to the teaching of ‘values’ to the children. Untiring efforts by some Indian sages and Seers of that time had developed priceless heritage of Indian culture that continued till the end of about 16<sup>th</sup> Century. After arrival of British Raj, the aim of education underwent a complete change. The British rulers needed cheap clerks to run this country. So they developed a system of education which could produce people to do clerical jobs for them and nothing more. British rulers were also responsible for demolishing Indian Centres of value education like Nalanda University etc [2]

Recent crisis in values that our country has been currently facing has revived the concern for value education. Government has projected this issue to be one of the priority in the national education. The national policy of 1986 has taken note of erosion of the essential values and accordingly has stressed on the need for readjustment in the curriculum in order to make education a forceful tool for developing social and moral value in our youth. [1] The national curriculum framework for school education 2000 has also given due stress for value education in schools. It has stressed that the school curriculum must contain components that may embed essential values in the fresh and pure minds of school children. This revival of interest in value education in recent years in our country has arisen from the growing realization that such values were earlier created by religious education but India, being a country of diverse culture, religions and creeds, cannot adopt any religious education. As such it has found the remedy by coining the idea of value education. Some more government constituted commissions and committees have recommended value education in different ways. However, the job oriented education system continues in more or less the colonial way since our Governments have still not developed vision and courage to completely overhaul our education system.

In Independent India, however, some enlightened souls like Sri SathyaSai Baba have taken upon themselves this important task of inculcating human values in our youth. A lot of infrastructure has already been created by them to inculcate values of Seva, controlled desires, Love and concern for the humanity particularly the downtrodden etc.[2]

Our premium management institutes have recently recognized the need of special spiritual courses to embed values like righteous conduct and ethics to help students get through challenging business environment. Indian institute of management, Kozhikode is starting a course call ‘Self incorporated’ for ‘Post Graduate Diploma in management’ This course draws on the psychological insights of spiritual books and transfers them to a management context. In Indian Institute of management, calcutta, there is spurt in interest among students for an, elective subject called ‘ Embedded leadership excellence’ which is based on spirituality. S.P. Jain Institute of management and Research, Mumbai has recently rolled out a compulsory credit course titled ‘The Science of Spirituality’ as part of its executive MBA ( Master of business administration ) programme for practicing managers. [5]

Things are on the move now and we must join this movement as responsible parents, teachers, students, social workers and Government planners in our own interest. It is not sufficient to introduce ‘ Value Education’ as a subject. We must also create a true value based environment in the schools/colleges and the society. Our co-ordinated efforts are bound to give us fruit during our own life span- fruit of shining India.

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