

# Need of Value Education and a Teacher's Role

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

**Education without vision is waste, education without value is crime, and education without mission is life burden.**

Values are the guiding principles of life that contribute to the all round development of an individual. It is the part and parcel of the philosophy of nation and that of education system. They give a direction to life and thus bring joy, satisfaction and peace. Values add quality to life. Thus, we can say that any human activity, thought or idea, feeling, sentiment or emotion, which promotes self development of an individual, constitutes a value. The other corresponding function of a value is that it should also contribute to the welfare of the family, the community and the nation. Value system is the backbone of the society. Values may vary from one society to another and from time to time. But, every society abides by certain moral values, and these values are accepted by all the societies as *Global values*.

Value education means inculcating in the students, a sense of humanism, a deep concern for the well being of others and the nation. Value education teaches us to preserve whatever is good and worthwhile in what we have inherited from our culture. In ancient India, the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Epics manifested and upheld the values of Indian society. There the meaning of value is widely accepted as *Satyam, Shivam and Sundaram*. More importance was given to morality, honesty, duty, truth, friendship, brotherhood, etc. They were the themes of Indian culture and society.

Imparting value education and reforming the society were the only aims and objectives of the teachers of ancient age. But in the present scenario, due to manifold changes in various aspects of our civilization such as population explosion, advancement in science and technology, knowledge expansion, rapid industrialization, urbanization, mobilization, IT revolution, liberalization, privatization & globalization as well as the influence of western culture, present society has become highly dynamic. Growing global poverty, pollution, hunger, disease, unemployment, unsociability, caste system, child labour, gender inequality, ill-treatment of women, violence, disability, exploitation of natural resources and many such evils have caused value- crisis on the globe, adversely affecting the core human values such as honesty, sincerity, morality and humanity. To overcome the problems of the present era, inculcation of values among individuals and promotion of values in educational system, as well as society, is highly essential.

## 2. IMPORTANCE OF VALUE EDUCATION

In the context of social changes education is not only to impart information and to teach skills to the students but also to inculcate the values of humanism, democracy, socialism, secularism and national integration. This is necessary for the realisation of our national objectives of building a democratic and just social order based on equality, social justice, fraternity and freedom. We know that India was a very rich country in cultural heritage and spiritual aspects. But now it has become a nation of violence, terrorism, extremism, corruption etc. To remove all these from our society value oriented education is highly needed.

In the current times, Teachers concentrate on imparting technical education to their students so that the increasing needs of the information technology (IT) industry are met with the students. Success is perceived in terms of equipping students with scientific and technical knowledge rather than in developing human beings who possess a sound understanding of good human values. Education is not just about learning skills (how to) but also about the ability to decide on what (what

to do?) and why (why to do?). It should lead to the development of critical ability in students towards distinguishing between essence and form, or between what is of value and what is superficial in life. It should develop their understanding which is a pre-requisite for a movement from a rule based society to a relationship based society. Developing the right understanding about oneself and the rest of reality through self exploration and realization of the inherent co- existence, harmony and self-regulation at various levels of existence is seen to be the real basis of imbibing universal human values and ethical human conduct. This is what will affect transformation towards a holistic worldview (human consciousness) which happens to be the prime purpose of value education.

Values are a set of desirable behaviour which is good for the individual and also the society. In this respect we find the relevance of the saying- *Values are not taught, lectured about or professed, they are only demonstrated.* The parents and teachers make maximum impact on the personality of an individual in the formative years of life which remains all through the life.

In order to train students on importance of good human values, educational institutions such as school, colleges and universities need good teachers and mentors who can serve as role models. Training of teachers is an extremely important pre-requisite for implementation of any value education program in any institution. Just as for a course on engineering design, it is important that the teacher himself should be a good designer, it is even more important that a teacher involved in value education is himself a value driven person. Teachers of value education have necessarily to be role models for their students.

After attaining independence, no doubt, the nation made rapid development in all fields, but we lost our character and pride in our values. It is rightly said- *if wealth is lost, nothing is lost; if health is lost, something is lost; but, if character is lost, everything is lost.* This holds true not only for individuals, but also for the society. We can express the need of values as follows-

To guide the human beings in the right path, to inculcate the concept of *Universal Brotherhood* and to achieve the absolute values of *Truth, Goodness* and *Beauty*;

To give direction and firmness to life and bring joy, satisfaction and peace of life to preserve our culture and heritage and to develop morality and character;

To bring the behavioural changes towards positivism;

To promote the peace and harmony in the individuals and society;

To bring quality of life and sustainable development in the society.

Above all, the most important need is to inculcate the core values such as truth, righteousness, peace, love and non-violence among the people to make them good human beings in true sense.

Education should foster universal and eternal values, and be oriented towards the unity and integration of our people. It is therefore, essential to explore and identify the concrete devices for the incorporation of values in education. Educational institutions can inculcate value education through the following ways and means-

Cleanliness programme in the institution;

Community service programmes;

Social service programmes;

First-aid programmes;

Celebration of national days and festivals, dramas depicting values;

Student participation or self-government in institutions;

Silent meditation;

Observation of punctuality by all;

Equal treatment to all in the institutions;

Lecture or talks emphasizing on the unity of all religions, harmony and national integration;

Setting good examples of conduct and behaviour by the teachers which may be imbibed by the students in themselves.

### 3. DEVALUATION OF TEACHING VALUES

Unfortunately, today the 'personality' of the teachers has deteriorated. The society now, accords a low status to teachers; this profession has been highly depleted and demoralized owing to certain evils that have crept in this noble profession such as casteism, modernization, political influence, corruption and other unfair practices. Once upon a time, this institution was esteemed highly and considered as temple of learning (Gurukul), but has now become one more easy source of money making. In certain cases, the personality of the teachers has turned too dubious. They lack moral fibre and spiritual elegance and their behaviour has become highly suspicious, corrupt, degrading and disgusting. Some teachers relentlessly opt for this profession just for the sake of monetary benefits and to gain power and position, rather than for the integrity and sanctity of the profession. There was a time when a teacher was considered next to God. It is rightly said in Sanskrit-

*Guru Brahma, Guru Vishnu, Gurudevo Shri Maheswara*

*Guru Sakshat Param Brahma Tasmai Sri Guruwai Namah.*

We can say that the status of teachers has got devaluated due to poor quality of teaching, changing social attitudes or societal response towards teaching profession and professionalism in teaching.

In the modern era, we see a large number of teachers often making money by unfair means. They are unscrupulous and resort to unfair means for making fast dough through indifference in teaching and conducting private tuition classes for extra income. This has led to malpractices in examinations by students and, in some cases, by teachers also. Besides this, we find considerable number of teachers addicted to smoking, drinking liquor and gambling. Therefore, how can such teachers impart values to the students? It is a recognized fact that teachers with awful habits working in educational institutions, cannot reflect positive teaching values in the classroom.

While analyzing the factors responsible for devaluation of teaching values, it is found out that non-responsiveness and changing social attitude are the major factors responsible for the degradation of teaching values in the society. The other factors such as emphasis on western system of education, impact of modernization, absence of traditional Indian education system, bulk increase in the number of students, institutions & teachers were also found accountable.

We see that the teachers play a very important role in the society and they are considered as nation builders, personality developers, guides, etc. But in the modern era, there are number of factors which are responsible for degradation of the status of teachers, for their poor performance and for the decline in teaching values such as changing social attitude, professionalism, poor quality of teaching, political intervention in teachers' selection, ignoring of merit etc. We feel that the privatization has also to some extent degraded the quality of education because some institutions are run by the non-academics and these are profit oriented institutions. Importance should be given to religious-spiritual education as well as women education so that society as a whole may flourish with desirable value system. It is recommended there should be proper environment in the society which includes parents, teachers, educators as well as administrators for inculcating values i.e. moral, spiritual, religious, social, economic and cultural values, etc. among the students and youths.

The success of any educational system depends on the quality of the teachers which, in turn, depends on the effective teaching-learning process in a class room. Teachers' performance is the most crucial input in the field of education. Therefore, teachers should be aware of the fact that their role is of vital significance for societal development and change. They must make an effort to light a candle instead of cursing the darkness and sow the seeds of value education with a great hope that they would disseminate their fragrance towards the creation of a just and new society as they spurt and blossom.

### 4. ROLE OF RELIGIOUS BOOKS

Religious and Spiritual knowledge tends to nourish an attitude of respect towards values, morality and ethics so that an intellectual person applies his knowledge in creative fashion for his own and others' development. The religious and spiritual books should be taught in the educational institutions for rejuvenating the educational value system. Religious and spiritual books play an important role in inculcating educational values among the student engaged in higher education. The biggest challenge before our education system is to meet the crisis of social and moral values and character

of an Individual. It is opined that though India has always been known for sound social values and character of its people, the impact of western values has adversely affected the mindset of people which can be rectified only by imbibing our value oriented educational system. It seems that joint family system contribute to great extent towards fostering values. Teacher plays a very important role in transmitting cultural values in the minds of the students by organizing various activities, like celebrating cultural weeks, important festivals etc. Teacher should create awareness to protect national heritage, monuments, cultural heritage and so on.

One of the most urgent and crucial problems human beings are facing today is the degradation of environment. The objective of environmental education is that the individual and social groups should acquire awareness and knowledge, develop attitudes, skills and abilities and participate in solving real life environmental problems. It is the moral responsibility of the teachers to educate the students in this direction because, as we all know, wellbeing of the nation is directly linked with the protection and maintenance of healthy environment. We can say that values give direction to life and bring joy, satisfaction and peace to life. But there is great degradation and devaluation with respect to values among people in general and teachers in particular. There is also devaluation in various spheres of life such as political, social, philosophical, economic, educational, cultural, religious, administrative etc.

## 5. ROLE OF TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Teachers' role is very vital in moulding the future of a country and, as such, it is considered the noblest profession. Teachers are the ideals to their pupils. An educational institute should not be just confined to teaching and learning but it should be considered as a place where consciousness is aroused and illumined; soul is purified and strengthened. It is the place where the seeds of discipline, devotion and commitment are planted and fostered with deliberate efforts. A constructive companionship between teachers and students has to be developed. In a nutshell, a teacher in real sense is one who himself practices the human values. He should walk his talk to leave an ever lasting impression in the minds of students. Teaching is not a job; it is an attitude. Teacher is a source of information, a guide, a mentor, a surrogate parent, a motivator, all at the same time. Teaching is the only profession which always deals with the future. To be an ideal teacher, who can be a role model, one should ask himself three questions before taking up this noble profession.

*i) Do you love your subject?* Anyone who does not love his subject can never be a good teacher and cannot inspire his students.

*ii) Do you love your profession?* If one does not have the respect for his vocation, he can never have self-esteem of himself. Such teachers do not discharge confidence and assurance.

*iii) Can you love your students as intensely as your own children?* Anyone who cannot love his students as his own cannot become a great teacher. All the greatest Masters in the world have demonstrated this remarkable quality of loving their disciples unconditionally.

Confucius has outlined the ethics of teaching in three beautiful words.

Ren - which means an act of utmost love.

Yi - refers to moral uprightness.

Li - indicates etiquettes in personal and institutional life.

According to Confucian theory, only a person who is always a source of love, morally upright and whose behaviour not only in personal but also in the institutional life is perfect, is worthy of being a teacher.

House is the first learning environment for the child and parents are the first teachers. They not only guide the child in its progressive path but also demonstrate the appropriate behaviour by their actions. Normally we come across three categories of parents.

**a) Over possessive:** This situation normally prevails in unitary families. In these days of small families, the parents would have one or at best two children. They become highly concerned about these children, which is natural but they become over possessive, which is detrimental to the growth of the child. They would try to do everything for the child without allowing him to do or experiment something on his own. In this overflowing flood of concern, they pamper the child, overlook his omissions and start supporting him even when he needs correction.

**b) Indifferent:** This second type of parents is not much concerned about the child. It does not mean that they do not love the child. Either, they are illiterates or too busy persons. Some of them do not have the methods and tools to handle their children and some do not have the time to guide and manage the children.

**c) Overpowering:** These parents desire to bring up their children under 'total discipline'. They expect the child to be always immaculate and faultless in every action and situation. They cannot tolerate anything otherwise. They are very critical and keep on pointing the finger of accusation at the child. They take all decisions about the child and truly believe that the child cannot and should not take decisions.

The classification mentioned above is not necessarily a watertight compartment. These are the general types. The ideal is to have a good blend of all the above types. We believe that handling of a child by the parent should be with an iron hand in a velvet glove. Iron hand is too hard and harsh. It hurts. Velvet glove is too soft and is incapable of holding anything firmly and guide. Only an iron hand in a velvet glove can provide the necessary firm guidance without being unduly harsh.

We have seen many children who defy all systems and become too selfish. They normally come out from the family of over possessive parents. They are used to the pampering of the parents so much so that they expect the same thing from the world at large. They get hurt very quickly. Children coming out of the houses managed by the overpowering parents would become either oversensitive and introverts or totally immune to criticism. Those children who are not guided properly are left to fend themselves.

What a person becomes when he grows up is very largely determined by the upbringing. What the parents did is more important than what they said, because, the child learns by observing and not just by listening. An alcoholic or a smoker cannot advise his child not to drink or smoke etc., Parents have no options but to become role models.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The role of a teacher in the changing social scenario is becoming very challenging. In the earlier times teacher was the only source of information and commanded respect on this respect. Any one desirous of gaining knowledge had to bow down to him. Today, we have multiple information centres such as books, coaching centres, the audio visual aids and internet services. Thus teacher's role as the only source of information is marginalized. The society is becoming more materialistic and values appear to be pushed into the background. In the Vedic period wise man or a Rishi was an icon. Even the kings and the princes came down to his hermitage, sat at his feet to get knowledge. Before independence of India, our role models were Gandhi, Patel, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and other freedom fighters. It was the dream of every youngster to be a freedom fighter and every school in the country was a training ground for freedom fighting. All school campuses reverberated with the chanting sounds of *Vande Mataram*. After independence, unfortunately, the icon of the society has been a rich man. Everyone in the society is aspiring to become rich, as much as possible and as quickly as possible. Getting rich at any cost has been the motto. Invariably this process of getting rich instantly is at the cost of values.

Only an ideal teacher whose life itself is a beacon light of values can lead a society in the right direction. He has to demonstrate the essential values such as optimism, motivation, willingness to learn and teach, truth, non violence, never to speak and think ill of others, creativity and ability to demonstrate unaddressed love. Promotion of human values in the society depends on the promotion of good qualities among individuals. In every tradition and in every country the place of a teacher, not only in the institution but also in society, has been glorified. According to a Japanese saying- *A poor teacher tells, an average teacher teaches, a good teacher explains, an excellent teacher demonstrates and a great teacher inspires*. To inspire the students, a teacher should discharge twin roles - one to mould himself and other to mould others. A nation with atomic power is not a strong nation but a nation with people with strong character is indeed a strong nation. Therefore, for the sustainable human development as well as for the social growth, there is a need of value based education, spiritual education, ethical education, as well as need based education.

The teachers who teach the value education must first acquire and be master of the knowledge of moral and value education. If they are somehow lacking behind this standard then how can we expect the proper teaching of value education. So, in order to impart value education to students who are the hope for us to make a Swaccha Bharat, the instructors should first learn it and keep a moral character in his whole life. In this respect we find the relevance of the

Mahammedian saying that in order to prescribe others for giving up to take sweets, the person himself should first give up that habit. A person with moral character will be successful to teach the students to make them realized the practical utility of the saying-- *if wealth is lost, nothing is lost, if health is lost, something is lost; but, if character is lost, everything is lost*. Finally we can say that if the college teachers are able to follow those paths of the great teachers, definitely we can expect a harmonious, peaceful and prosperous India and it will certainly pave the way for inspiring the next generation teachers.

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