

Values and Ethics in Higher Education: An Overview of Indian HEIs

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Abstract: Education is as essential as food and butter for life, the higher education is the backbone of the modern society. It has power to transform human beings into human resources. Higher education institutions are viewed by society as centers that are catalysts in transforming knowledge into wisdom. The role of higher educational institutions is very crucial for development of nation and to make civilized society. Hence the quality, values and ethics in HEIs matters more in bringing young population in to the facet of the society. Country like India has huge youth population and they are frontiers of the Make in India Campaign, which is the mission of Prime Minister of India- Shriman. Narendra Modiji. When India is attracting most of the foreign universities and having good place for them but mean while the quality and ethical values of HEIs in India is deteriorating. The present education system seems like factories which is producing many literate persons but they are unsuccessful in the struggle of life. In present scenario, education means how to earn money or job and the aspect of values and morals is completely neglected. This attitude has increased many perpetual problems in Indian education system. Corruption, privatization, absence of teacher, undue political interference is the probable causes of ethical deterioration of Indian education system. Hence an attempt has been made to analyze the values and ethics in Higher Education and the current scenario in Indian HEIs. Thus there is an urgent need to re-introduce value based education in the curriculum dealing specifically with human values, to redesign the fabric of Indian educational system. In India, it is necessary to increase ethical values, philosophical thinking, study, research and moral development in education system, as it has been well said that, the true philosophy of education lies in the combination of virtues, values and validity of human life.

Keywords: Ethics, Ethics in HEIs, Value Education.

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is as essential as food and butter for life, the higher education is the backbone of the modern society. It has power to transform human beings into human resources. Higher education institutions are viewed by society as centers that are catalysts in transforming knowledge into wisdom. This being society's expectation places a huge responsibility on universities to maintain the highest ethical standards in teaching, learning, evaluation and the conduct of research. The role of higher educational institutions is very crucial for development of nation and to make civilized society. Hence the quality in HEIs matters more in bringing young population in to the facet of the society. Country like India has huge youth population and they are frontiers of the Make in India Campaign, which is the mission of Prime Minister of India-Shriman. Narendra Modiji. When India is attracting most of the foreign universities and having good place for them but mean while the quality and ethical values of HEIs in India is deteriorating.

The issue of Ethics and Values has been raised by The then President of India, Mrs. Pratibha Patil, in her first address to the Indian parliament-2008 which states that "the education system needs to strengthen the values of ethics, secularism, democracy, inclusiveness and pluralism, these are the great values enshrined in our constitution and traditionally developed by our civilization. These values give strength and sustenance not only to our diverse multicultural society but also to our country".

II. PRESENT EDUCATION SYSTEM AND CAUSED OF ETHICAL DETERIORATION IN INDIA

The present education system seems like factories which is producing many literate persons but they are unsuccessful in the struggle of life. In present scenario, education means how to earn money or job and the aspect of values and morals is completely neglected. This attitude has increased many perpetual problems in Indian education system. Today most of the unsocial activities are being committed by well-educated new generation. The relationship between teacher and student lack confidence towards each other. Students lack humanitarian attitude towards other persons, family, society and the nation. Thus, there is greater urgency to think about ancient education system in India.

A. Privatization of Educational Institutes

Privatization of educational institutes is another major cause for the declining ethical values in education system. Privatization of education has emerged in several forms in the recent decade in India. Government allowed to opens self-financing private institutions with recognition, which may be termed as commercial private education institutions (Singh and Purohit, 2011). These institutions started courses on any discipline without basic infrastructure and qualified teaching faculties. They are appointing those teachers that are low salaried and far away from the standards. In this environment, teachers do not have any Job security, so that they always do as management desire and they are morally down in the dumps.

B. Corruption

Corruption in the education sector can be defined as “the systematic use of public office for private benefit, whose impact is significant on the availability and quality of educational goods and services as a consequence on access, quality or equity in education” (Hallak and Poisson, 2001). Corruption in education can include bribes and illegal fees for admission and examination; academic fraud; withholding teacher salaries; preferential promotion and placement; charging students for “tutoring” sessions to cover the curriculum needed to pass mandatory examinations which should have been taught in the classroom; teacher absenteeism; and illegal practices in textbook procurement, meal provision, and infrastructure (Patrinis and Ruthkagia, 2007).

C. Teachers' absenteeism

Teachers are the role models of students and in most rural communities; they are the most educated and respected personality. Teachers are the spreader of knowledge who helps developing pupils' understanding, attitudes, skills, learning, and core values (Patrinis and Ruthkagia, 2007). While simultaneously those teachers are mostly absent from classes providing negative role models for students. Education is now in the grasp of corruption because of high rate of teacher absenteeism. The UNESCO's International Institute of Educational Planning study on corruption in education state that there is 25% teacher absenteeism in India which is among the highest in the world. This greatly reduces the overall effectiveness of the school, diminishes pupils' achievements, damages the school's reputation, and induces pupil absenteeism (Bray, 2003).

D. Political Interference

Political interference is considered one of the most important causes for the declining ethical values in education system of India. The policy relating to recruitment, promotion and transfer of teachers in the education system are yet not formed in many states and thus the human resource management in education is not well organized in India. Those teachers who are very close to political leaders have records of misconduct and unethical behavior such as irregularity in class teaching, becoming absent from the school without taking leave. So the moral and ethical commitment of teachers has gradually decreased over the years due to political interference (Nuland and Khandelwal, 2001).

E. Unethical malpractices in HEIs.

1. Approval in most of the cases of new educational institutions are being given after the lip service to the mandatory provisions. 2. Large numbers of affiliations are being given without going into the academic requirements for the particular course/discipline. 3. No check or a monitoring mechanism in place so far as the selection of qualified faculty is concerned. 4. No check on the MOU's being signed by the private institute with foreign universities. The provisions laid down for the same are being openly flouted. 5. Provisions related to pay and allowances of the faculty are not strictly followed by the Management of the privately run institutes. 6. No correlation exists between the salary shown and salary disbursed to the staff and also no correlation between higher increment in salary and performance appraisal in many of the

institutions. 7. Corrupt practices used during exams and sometimes even the faculty and head of the institutions are also involved. 8. While selecting the faculty, lot of pressure of top management is exerted which results in compromising the quality of teaching. 9. Increasing fee structure on one or the other pretext under the garb of development charges by the institutes. 10. Not concerned with professional ethics such as punctuality, attendance of faculty and students, results achieved, overall development of student's personality, quality research work or projects undertaken. 11. Donations accepted while giving admissions to students as capitation fees and further no accounts kept for these donations.

F. Unethical practices by Teachers and the Students

1. Students disobey the code of conduct during day to day life in the college. 2. Attendance and regularity issues on the rise. 3. Teacher's commitment towards their profession particularly those teachers taking private home tuitions. 4. Internal assessment of teacher is another subject of debate which is being used as double weapon for and against the students by some of our teachers. 5. Teachers neglecting on the class attendance, class test and even internal assessment tests.

III. CONCLUSION

Education is not merely imparting knowledge in a particular faculty or subject or making one fit for securing jobs or doing well in exams, it should be training in logical thinking and should help the coming generations adjust to the available changing environment. The declining of ethical values in education system will give rise to unskilled professionals, undisciplined students. This trend needs to be addressed if India has to survive as a nation and acquire its due place in the world. Corruption, privatization, absence of teacher, undue political interference is the probable causes of ethical deterioration of Indian education system, As it has been well said that the true philosophy of education lies in the combination of Virtues, Values and Validity of human life. It is multi-dimensional implication. It also implies there is need to understand the criteria that can help in development of human beings. The big Missions, Aims and Objectives of many educational institutions with bold letters interspersed with high flown jargons remains only on the walls of these institutions in their chairman's, Directors', Principles' offices and are seldom preached, practices or implemented in true spirits. This is true not only in case govt. aided institutions but also in case of privately owned self-financial institutions as well.

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