

GLOBAL JOURNAL OF ENGINEERING SCIENCE AND RESEARCHES TOWARDS BETTER SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT THROUGH VALUE BASED EDUCATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS: PROBLEMS AND APPROACHES

Archana Nath¹, Ajit Kumar Behura², Kanak Tara³ and Ritesh Kumar⁴

¹Research Scholar, Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad-826004

²Professor, Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad-826004,

³SRF, Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad-826004

⁴Scientist, CSIR-Central Institute of Mining & Fuel Research, Dhanbad-826015

ABSTRACT

In recent years many researchers, educationists and social reformers have expressed their views regarding major improvements to be incorporated in the education system, be it at the primary and secondary school levels or at the higher educational institutions. In this regard primary effort should be taken in developing a pool of quality teachers that can be an asset for the society. It is also a basic necessity that our education system should provide for inculcation of values. There should be harmonious blend of both materialistic and non-materialistic aspect for the development of sound personality and progress as well as prosperity of the country.

A normal educational course in general should comprise of three things viz. imparting information and knowledge, developing skills and inculcating values. However, present scenario in Indian condition present a very dismal picture. Today's education is geared mainly to the first process, with little emphasis on the second and very minimal emphasis on the third. Training of young minds on values has taken a back seat in Indian society. Our society is going through crisis of character as well as role models in public life. To build a society with good character and citizenship, it is important that value based education is given due importance in higher education institutions. Such approaches will allow the existence of better social environment and make this society worth living opposite to what we find in the present time owing to the absence of human values in the society.

Keywords- Education, value, value based, higher education institutions, India .

I. INTRODUCTION

The people who shared values and are responsible for the wisdom and knowledge of today are our ancestors. Without the help of our grandfathers and grandmothers, we would not have our land, our heritage and our language. Their love and teachings have brought us to this point in our lives. However, today our society is going through the crises situation due to lack of values and quality in education. Today's educational system lacks strong programmes of values and culture.

Value, Education, Value Education and Value Based Education

Let us now first understand the term value, education, value education and value-based education. Then we shall analyze the situation in Indian context. As per the Oxford English Dictionary *values* may be defined as “worth, utility, desirability and the qualities on which these depend”. Eminent sociologist Prof. R. K. Mukherjee^[1] defined value as “socially approved desires and goals that are internalized through the process of conditioning, learning or socialization and that become subjective preferences, standards and aspirations”. However, *Value* in its simple term can be understood as “the principle, standard, or quality considered worthwhile or desirable”. Values are guiding principles, or standards of behaviour which are regarded desirable, important and held in high esteem by a particular society in which a person lives. Values shape our relationships, our behaviours, our choices, and our sense of who we are. The more positive our values are the most positive our actions become. This is one of the reasons why value education is being taught or included in both elementary and secondary levels as well as in higher education institution because it plays a great role for students' becoming successful in their own choice of careers. Values serve as an anchor to a person who dreams successfully in life.

Education is basically a sort of training that imparts knowledge and skills by which one stands on one's own feet. The purpose of education is to educate individuals within society, to prepare and qualify them for work in economy as well as to integrate people into society and teach them values and morals of society. Role of education is means of socializing individuals and to keep society smoothing and remain stable. Education in society prepares youngsters for adulthood so that they may form the next generation of leaders. It will yield strong families and strong communities.

Value education is defined as “educating the young people to harmonize every aspect of his being viz. spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and psychological so as to develop his personality in a holistic manner”. Value

education means inculcating in the young people a sense of humanism, a deep concern for the well being of others and the nation. This can be accomplished only when we instill in the young people a deep feeling of commitment to values that would build this country and bring back to the people pride in work that brings order, security and assured progress.

Value education is the process that gives young people an initiation into values, giving knowledge of the rules needed to function in this mode of relating to other people, and to seek the development in the student a grasp of certain underlying principles, together with the ability to apply these rules intelligently, and to have the settled disposition to do so. Value education is important to help everyone in improving the value system that he/she holds and put them to use. Once, we understand our values in life, we can examine and control the various choices we make in our lives. It's our duty to uphold the various types of values in life such as cultural values, universal values, personal values and social values. Thus, value education is always essential to shape a student's life and to give him an opportunity of performing himself on the global stage. The need for value education among the parents, children, teachers etc, is constantly increasing as we continue to witness increasing violent activities, behavioral disorder and lack of unity in society.

Value based education may be defined as the study of moral and ethical values that makes us a perfect person. It is also identified with knowledge that illuminates mind and soul. The importance of value based education is manifold like it builds positive character, strengthens students' self esteem and helps student exercise ethical judgment and social responsibilities. Advocates of value based education argue that educating young minds about values is more important than just teaching them algebra, biology, or even literature. Mahatma Gandhi once said that education not only moulds the new generation but also reflects a society's fundamental assumptions about itself and the individuals that compose it. His views are reflected in the following:

"The real difficulty is that people have no idea of what education truly is. We assess the value of education in the same manner as we assess the value of land or of shares in the stock-exchange market. We want to provide only such education as would enable the student to earn more. We hardly give any thought to the improvement of the character of the educated. The girls, we say, do not have to earn; so why should they be educated? As long as such ideas persist there is no hope of our ever knowing the true value of education".

Types of Values

Moral, spiritual and religious values are the three values that are very much in discussion whenever the talk of value education and its implementation takes place especially in a developing country like India. Adoption of moral, spiritual and religious values in the education system is the only way to get out of the situation of crisis of value and its degradation in our country. These three values inculcated in our education system, making it a value based education, can bring transformation in the life of youth, the country's future human force. The value based education will help in training the young in the entire realm of values like physical, emotional, intellectual, aesthetic, democratic, scientific, social, moral, spiritual and imaginative.

Values, Culture and Society

Values in education are like what virtues make of a human being. Value education in India from the ancient times has held a prime place of importance. From the gurukul stage the child not only learnt skills of reading and archery but more the philosophy of life in relation with its impermanence. Hence, education in India was born of this vision to achieve one's experience in the absolute as a spark of the divine and in this process practice of one's duty accompanies the acquisition of knowledge. In the modern school system value education was termed moral education or moral science.

Value education is not a new subject or field in the Indian situation. It was prevailing for a long time in Indian culture. People pay attention to civilization and not to culture. When culture and civilization go on improving side by side there is no meaning in writing pages and pages about what value education is. At present people have forgotten values and they are following only meaningless civilized way of living. Civilization spreads without any difficulty but culture cannot. Therefore there arises a cultural lag between the two, i.e., material culture and non-material culture. Therefore in order to bring the two fields of material culture and non-material culture together, value education is a bridge between the two for both educated and illiterates. Ignorance can be removed easily by imparting value education in and outside the boundaries of any nation.

With changing times man's outlook on life too has undergone a tremendous change. Science and technology have brought major changes in human life. The importance given to material prosperity and acquisition of power has led to disharmony, violence to destruction and knowledge to disillusionment. Violence, crime, bloodshed, racial segregation, casteism, communalism, threat of a nuclear war and a chemical war have become serious problems at the global level. In India, today, the great ideals enshrined in its constitution are threatened by various forces like sectarianism,

communalism and religious fanaticism, etc. Realizing this crisis that has arisen in national life, educationists are stressing the need for the provision of value education in schools and higher education institutions.

Importance of Value in Education

The importance of value in education is manifold. Value in education holds its significance in academic, professional, social and individual life. In academic life besides the training of intellect it includes the refinement of heart and the discipline of the spirit. It brings out all that is unique in individual helping him to establish the right practice of ethics in the field of education. In professional life, a student emerges as a tolerant, humble, honest and dedicated person. At the same time such student is also a hard striver that helps him to make world a better place. In social life, student comes out as a truth seeker, develops good listening skill, is able to communicate well and emerges as more ethical leaders for the society. In their individual life, student emerges as a humble human being, practices the religious values, education and ethics in their lives and think for the mankind instead of being selfish.

In the present situation and for better future value based education instead of value education needs to be introduced in the curriculum. This will make our society and the world at large a healthier place to live in.

Value in Education in Indian Context

Education has always been the foundation of any society and in the recent times it has assumed greater importance. Education, in fact, is not only the mirror of society it is also a factor influencing the development of the society. Education must help youth to develop themselves as persons. Now the talk of quality education or value based education has started. It is merely because education over the last decades has lowered in quality. Quality education should not be regarded as a process of consumption but as a process of interaction between teachers and students then only the purpose of education will be fulfilled. Value based education will help individual in understanding oneself, management of self, decision making and personality development.

II. PROBLEMS OF CRISIS IN VALUE IN EDUCATION^[4,5,6,7]

In today's world our human values are being discarded. In such a situation it is very important for someone to lay down basic principles for us so that we may lead a brightened life. No matter the stepping stones of success hit us hard we on the basis of these principles can guide our life. Thus value education completes this need very easily with an impact on the young minds making the world a better place to live in.

We have shifted to market oriented society where we have been valuing and giving importance to materialistic achievement more. This has resulted in the degradation in our character, feelings for our society and human values. Value based education approach can be seen as an attempt towards re-grooming our society with human values.

Crisis in Value in Education in General

In the area of education the debates over values are prominent. That is the reason why we have started talking more on imparting values in education or rather we are moving to value based education. Now the educators and others associated with the implementation of better education in the society have started to recognize that the crisis in value is real and significant. Failure to address it now will inevitably produce significant human misery. It took basically a generation for widespread social and political recognition of the reality and implications of the crises of value in education. The world as a whole is struggling with the repercussions which have occurred due to degradation of value in society as a result of faulty education system.

Crisis in Value in Education in Indian Situation

India has the third largest higher education system in the world, next only to USA and China, catering to about 10 million students through 0.5 million teachers and more than 16000 higher education institutions^[2,3]. In spite of this for the last one and a half decade higher education in India has been facing crisis, crisis of value will be more appropriate word to use here. Punctuality, honesty, integrity, sincerity, etc. are some of the intrinsic value which a youth in a university must develop. In the present time one can find such things missing in the youth.

The following are the problems that are being faced by higher education in the present time.

1. The higher education is focusing too much on research overlooking teaching.
2. There is minimum interaction between teachers and students outside classroom.
3. The education curriculum is not appropriate.
4. There is disciplinary fragmentation and academic separations
5. More emphasis is being given to science and technology ignoring humanity completely.
6. Knowledge is not able to provide people real power.
7. The higher education institution of today is just like a money-making house and lacks in value.

Higher education has certain role to play and the most important of all is to prepare the youth of today as a good citizen of the country. The higher education should help the youth of today to overcome physical, mental, social, moral, national and international crisis. Value should be given due importance in order to overcome the crisis situation. Value based education can be used as a tool for overcoming crisis.

Root Cause of the Problem

The present education system is based more on materialistic gain. Though one will find more education being imparted now than what it was two to three decades before, but values are lacking and this has given birth to more greed, selfishness, poverty and lack of sincerity and integrity in the society. The present day education system laid more stress on examination, employment and empowerment and lack in emancipation, ennoblement and evolution. Thus, the present crisis in values in society can be attributed to five key factors such as

1. Non-existence of gurukulasampredaya
2. Non-existence of joint family system
3. Absence of holistic approach and an imbalanced growth of knowledge
4. Misdirected educational system
5. Education directed more towards money-making than man-making or human development holistically.

III. APPROACHES TOWARDS SOLVING THE CRISIS^[8,9,10,11,12]

Crisis in value in the society is being faced not only in India but all over world. It is high time now that we think of something innovative in the education system which can help us in reviving values in the society. Value based education in the higher education institutions needs to be implemented and followed strictly in order to come out of the crisis situation.

Value Based Education and Social Environment

If we wish to begin value based education in our society we need to change our societal set up a bit. This require at the first stage understanding the urgency of introducing value based education seeing the value crisis that the country and the world alike are going through and the indiscipline and inhuman behavior that has become the regular affairs.

Value based education is that form of education that will stress more in the acquisition of living values by learners. As entire education will be value based it will help inculcate universal and ethical values such as compassion, courage, honesty, tolerance and truthfulness. This will further help in nurturing balanced individuals thus creating a humane society. Values are what promote human beings to personhood. There are three basic institutions that influence value education – the home, the church/religious institution and the school.

Teachers and Values

A teacher should maintain professional ethics because through this he/she is able to provide quality education and do some justice to the profession in general and the society in particular. Students learn values from what we are than what we say. They even pick up hidden and unintended values too. A teacher is like a substitute mother for student. If a teacher becomes role model for students then it can bring revolution in the society. As a role model teacher has to perform multi-task in moulding students into a perfect citizen of the country.

Values cannot be forced, even if conveyed with good intentions. No real integration or internalization of a value can be achieved unless the learner agrees with it. Role model quality and communication from the teachers and parents alike is the key to influencing the youth. This is one that we lack in the present time, but it can be developed with the cooperation of all. In value based education system, more stressed will be paid to value based education than mere education based on curriculum. Teacher has to play a major role in influencing the youth in following the value based education as quite a good number of hours students are either around or with the teachers daily.

Teacher has an important role in inculcating moral values in youth. Teachers should make youth understand that each person is responsible for their own choices and actions. All gains and pains begin somewhere with our choices. We can change our destinies with the choices we make. Teachers should make them understand that moral values are not God given but is simply the basic discipline that each Human needs to keep to be good individuals in the society. Teachers also play an important role in nation building. Teachers contribute in the development of human resources.

Value Based Education Implementation

So, value education is not simply the heart of education, but also the education of the heart. Value based education in the present context will be another new tool available with us to shape our future youth into a perfect human being full

of values. Value based education will become a necessary component for holistic education. The concerned educationist, decision makers and the professionals in the field of education must now act realizing that mere teaching about values will not serve the purpose of building a better society but we have to keep learning how to value, how to bring knowledge into the deeper level of understanding and insights. The holistic learning experience will help in the internalization of values by the learner and translating them into their behaviour.

A total learning process is therefore envisaged. It is therefore, a time for decision makers and professionals in the field of education to lead in the total effort of designing and implementing new and more effective ways of preparing the future citizens and future leaders into the creation of better societies. The priority should be to translate the valuable lessons from spiritual texts — *the Bible, Koran*, and to transform the growing culture of violence, greed and intolerance into one of peaceful co-existence.

Value based education implementation in higher education institution is a big challenge for us. Implementation of value based education requires changes in the educational curricula. The emphasis now needs to be turned to value based from simple education of today. The challenge to value based education involves implementation of five levels of education, viz. information, knowledge, wisdom, intuition and revelation. The first four have so far been neglected in the present education system. Implementation of value based education requires equal efforts from parents and teachers by serving as a role model in the society.

Implementation of value based education requires initiatives from the government, teachers, parents and students alike. All four have to work together. Three approaches to value education can be summed up as teaching core values, teaching core values with the curriculum subjects and teaching core values with role models.

Teaching Strategies for Value Based Education

The higher education system in India has grown in a remarkable way, particularly in the post- independence period, to become one of the largest systems of its kind in the world. However, the system has many issues of concern at present, These issues are important for the country, as it is now engaged in the use of higher education as a powerful tool to build a knowledge-based information society of the 21st Century. Of late we have not been paying heed to the degrading values in the society as a result of loopholes in the current education system. The cry for reform in education has started. In the words of Dr. Abdul Kalam “The Role of higher education may range from primary objectives, such as employability, enhancing the earning potential, seeking and advancing knowledge and wisdom, research and experimentation to more serious secondary objectives like attaining mental and spiritual growth, engaging in quest for the unknown, facilitating better lifestyle, and developing scientific outlook.”

The following strategies, as enumerated below, if followed can help us in proper implementation of value based education and overcoming the value crisis.

1. Selection of quality teachers in higher education institutions which can acts as a role model for the youth.
2. Introduction of spiritual education in the study curriculum for transforming the youth for self-actualization and towards holistic growth
3. Teaching in higher education institutions should cover larger section of the society thus developing a large pool of knowledgeable lot that will grow in both mind and heart, and learn the special virtues of life.
4. Teaching should help youth to develop intrinsic values like punctuality, honesty, integrity and sincerity and
5. Above all, the government should keep strict watch on the functioning of higher educational institutions towards the attainment of value based education in the society.

IV. CONCLUSION

This article has discussed at length the value based education and their need in our society in the present time. Several serious societal realities not only in India but in almost every country of the world have shaken and impelled conscientious philosophers, educationists, public leaders and spiritual masters to lay stress on the momentous need for imparting value based education. Today, for proper personality development not value education, value based education is needed.

Education being an integral part of every individual's life in society, the right type of value-based education should be offered in the right type of environment to the students in Indian colleges. These higher education institutions should focus on value based education for development of a knowledge-based society, so that quality education will bring more accolades to their students and the higher education institutions themselves. This will ensure that students grow in both mind and heart, and learn the special virtues of life. This may change people's attitudes from one of only gaining an education for a particular job and the basic skills that are needed to make a living. In the present day, in any society,

there is an urge toward the spirit of coexistence, tolerance, and mutual respect among individuals. Placing the highest priority and focus on value-based education will greatly achieve those traits among the younger generation. As a role model for society, teachers of these schools have to be alert, agile, and sensitive to these educational needs and should act as harbingers of change. They have a tremendous responsibility to create an intellectual environment conducive to modern education learning so that these higher education institutions become models in imparting value based education.

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