



**Values & Ethics In Education:
“Need Of The Day”**

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Abstract

One of the most potent things in our world is education. The knowledge which has created the miraculous state of our society also has the potential to destroy it, for e.g. with the knowledge we can develop a cure for cancer just as easily we can annihilate the world. If a student only get to learn skills and not responsibilities then the possibility of world being destroyed will be higher because when values and ethics and not taught to a student then our education system will bring out intelligent but corrupted and misguided individuals which was seen in the Enron sandal where the top management while committing the fraud dint realize the consequence and where penalized. One won't be doing such acts if one has an idea how stupid their actions would be if one thinks before acting.

Key words:-Education, Ethics and Values.



**VALUES & ETHICS IN EDUCATION:
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“The development of character in a young person is the foundation for a good system of values and ethics.”

Whether it may be personal or public life, in corporate offices, in professional bodies, in NGO or small and medium size businesses ethical behaviour has been a desirable feature. This behaviour is required for long-term survival and growth. Ethics and values are back into the limelight because of the recent corporate accounting scandals. The evidence of CEOs and top-level executives standing into courtrooms has raised public awareness and concern about ethical behavior in management and accounting. All shades of evil have found moorings in global society, resulting in its decadence, in foreign countries most institutions are now value deficient, this outlook is changing and ethics and values education has been adopted by many of the prestigious institutions like Harvard University as an essential ingredient of teaching and learning. Round the world people are hungry for knowledge of teaching, learning, values and ethics and are looking towards India for guidance and direction. So we Indians have a special responsibility. This mission can only be fulfilled if the students of today imbibe values and ethics during their formative years. Due to this the course in ethics and values at school and college level is becoming more important.

In today's knowledge economy, Education is perhaps the most critical sector. When one glance through critically into the role of education in the 21st century, one can conclude that our education system is surrounded by a number of problems. Lack of sense of values and ethics is the most important problem. Due to corruption in our education system the sole motto of inculcation of values is lost. If we want to bring cent percent literacy and superior education quality then we are required to settle the critical issues of values and ethics in the education system.

GANDHIAN VIEWS: - “The center of education is a child.”

Father of India – Mahatma Gandhi has given many innovative ideas on various aspect of education for the progress of the nation. His ideas on values and ethics are being very much realized by the nation in 21st century. Many educationist and leaders of our society feel that there is intent to take need fresh look on Gandhi's educational ideas. Gandhi greatly emphasized that education must be closely related to society not in abstraction but a particular society, a community of living people among whom the child moves about and has his being. Gandhi was of the view that through education mutual-bonding, freedom and discipline can be cultivated.



Meaning Of Ethics And Why Ethics.

In philosophy and religion both, Ethics has been one of the central concern, though at all levels the need for ethics is recognized. Ethics is defined as the science of morals. It means 'character' or 'manners'. Moral is the Latin word corresponding to the Greek "ethics" and it means "custom". Quality of person's character in terms of right and wrong, good and bad, beautiful and ugly and so on is pointed out. So we can say that ethical education aims at building the right quality of character. Ethics education is about recognizing the real power of one's innate ethical sense and how it influences our behavior.

The Goals Of Ethics In Education:- The primary goal of ethics in education is to make an individuals become actively involved in making conscious ethical decisions. The other goal of ethics in education is to motivate a student and make him understand morals and social responsibilities at their work place.

Stressing The Importance On Ethics. Ethical systems attempt to answer the question, "What ought I to do in the light of who I say I am?" **Unless** prime priority is given by educators, students will not grasp the importance of ethics. Educators should accept ethics as a teaching and research specialty. Universities has to play an very important role by emphasizing their faculties towards values and ethics teaching, such as discussing with students, conducting faculty development sessions in ethics. TV and films will also play an important role in promoting ethics and values by designing special programmes to bring healthy influence on young minds. Programmes, which are available from all over the universe, like Discovery channel, National Geographic channels can be made a part of curricular of education. A recent development in this step in NCERT has produced cassettes of community songs in different languages, to instill in children a spirit of unity and love for the country. In our education system more importance should be given to building character, strong fundamentals, honesty and accountability.

The ethical order of priority laid down by the Indian tradition is as under: -

- a. **Dharma** (righteousness) or the right path, which upholds the family and the social fabric.
- b. **Artha**, the pursuit and retention of wealth.
- c. **Karma**, the fulfillment of legitimate and socially sanctioned desires.
- d. **Moksha**, release and transcendence from mundane pursuits.

One's attitude to work was visualized to fall under one of the following heads:

- a. **Lokasangraha** (Public Good)



- b. *Kausalam* (Efficacy)
- c. *Vividha* (Innovation)
- d. *Jigyasa* (Learning)

Meaning Of “Values In Education”.

Confucius once said: "If a man carefully cultivates values in his conduct, he may still err a little but he won't be far from the standard of truth."

Values refer to substance and thoughts that we appreciate and believe enviable at times. They may be intangible traits, principles like fact, cheerfulness, harmony, inherent qualities or substance belongings. According to Mark Twain “Education consists mainly in what we have unlearned.” Education is a foundation stone on which the entire character and attitude of a person is built, It is the spectacle of a person through which life is seen and lived. Values in Education can be considered as a process which inculcates skill with responsibility and knowledge with character. It is through education that society seeks to preserve and promote its values.

Why Values?

Today the sole objective of education is of passing the examinations. So when we talk of values in education, we focus our attention on the effective objectives of education i.e. the development of social, honest, artistic and religious angles of an individual's traits. Today in our social and political life we are moving on in such a way that our long accepted values are in a stage of danger of erosion. There is an increased strain on our goals of democracy, secularism, socialism and professional ethics. The world today is sitting on the edge of nuclear triangle and we are in need of international peace and understanding. For tackling this what we need is a positive possible change in our very outlook, in our own values and that can be brought through education. To make prudent choices and to be imaginative in our mental processes, values and ethics in education is need of the day.

Actually there is no specific set of values which can be taught and some times values cannot be defined for more complex issues, for e.g. I am a vegetarian, I don't believe in killing living creatures, however my friend do not see anything wrong in eating meat as he feels that it is a part of nature. Neither my friend nor I am wrong; due to this it is difficult to teach a single set of values that is very accurate. It does not mean that education should only teach skills, in addition to skills, education should teach the fundamentals that create a person's values like compassion towards others, to take care



for others, to help the poor etc. When one learns this, one will not commit vices such as theft or lying because one will realize that it hurts other people and make them suffer. When the values of compassion is taught, we will hopefully prevent people from being detrimental to our society, so that we will not have to worry about misapplications of knowledge like nuclear attacks and our society will be even better. Though every student will not be affected when values of compassion is taught but it will definitely make a few people more considerate so that they realize not to unnecessarily hurt other people and also stop others for misapplications of knowledge.

Types Of Values. : - These are three-Universal, Cultural or ethnic and Individual or personal values.

Universal Values. The essence of human condition is revealed by universal values. These arises from the basic questions i.e. who am I? What is my essence? Is there anything in me that cannot be explained by environment, heredity and society? Universal values are not apparent but they should be felt and experienced like we go to see sunset at various places, experiencing delight and gratification while achieving good result, feeling on the top of the world when we win in any competition etc. .

Cultural Values. *If you see in any given situation only what everybody else can see, you can be said to be so much a representative of your culture that you are a victim of it.—S.I. Hayakawa*

Cultural values are the social values, which are point and place explicit like correct – incorrect, superior – inferior, tradition – conduct that can be used or tainted. Just like a pencil can serve the purpose of writing but so can an ink pen or ball point pen in the same way cultural values will serve a purpose in a meticulous circumstances. Cultural values are needed for maintaining societal order. They carry the advantage of becoming a source of insight into time and society like Jazz is an African-European music, The American Transcendentalist studied the Indian Vedas and Upanishads, writers like Carl Jung, Aldous Huxley were influenced by the Eastern part of the world, Father of India Gandhi drew inspiration from Tolstoy on the other hand Gandhiji became inspiration to Martin Luther king Jr.

Individual Values

That civilization perishes in which the individual thwarts the revelation of the universal.
—Rabindranath Tagore



Individuals values can also be called as personal values and they are impressionable subject to time specific and memory specific. People reacting differently to similar events is due to individual or personal values for e.g. a person may go into depression due to a crisis, while another may treat it as an challenge and be propelled into greater action. Individual values are reflected in individual relationships, commitment, goals and personal preferences. One will find differences in the meaning attributed to a common experience because individuals values are often colored by memories of the past for e.g. to one person children may denote bondage, to another they may denote happiness and strength.

If a student learns to consider the above values then they can come up with their own values, as they will be able to analyse the effect of their actions and do what is best for themselves and other people. Education should try to motivate both viewpoints so that a student can analyse the impact and decide which side they prefer. If teaching values can stop even one person from being motivated by only greed, it is worth any risk that it carries.

Role Of Educators:-

Schools, colleges and universities are such institutions that can maintain the well being of the society. They can be called as Knowledge curators, which are considered entryway to power that influence the societal and economic life all over the humankind. Today's student faces a diversity of multifarious situations for which they are not ready.

Adults can be considered as the starting point for incorporating the vales and ethics in education at school and college level. When we compare today's youth with our days we feel a moral decline for today's youth but that is our guidance that is reflected by the youth. It is our duty as a guardian or mentor to reveal the truthful behaviour and we should see that the values are properly cultivated in today's youth. In general teacher tends to limit education to instruction, and that too in academic subjects like accounting, economics etc. He has to go beyond it. To do this, he has to follow the Indian tradition and show the way to students, guide and instruct them, make himself available to answer questions and responsible for their cultural, physical development and development of emotional and aesthetic side of the personality.

Conclusion

“Ethics and Values Must Be Learned At Young Age.”

In this global knowledge world the most serious segment is proper education. If we want to bring cent percent literacy and superior education quality then we are required to settle



the critical issues of values and ethics in the education system. It is true that we have got excellent institutions today in education. The education edifice in India is one of the largest ones in the world, with a network of more than 1000 million institutions with 250 millions students enrolled at various levels. The number of students in India outnumbers the total population of united Germany, England and Canada taken together. During six decades of independence the education system has got deepened as well as widened. Our main focus should be to clean up the education system by applying certain set of principles so that who so ever passes through the system cultivates sound & healthy values. One should apply his knowledge with adequate thought process so that his actions become his strength, which will lead him to success.

To conclude we can say that as necessity is the mother of all inventions in the same way, ethics and values in education are needed for self development and progress. We can discover our moral principles through ethics and by proper application of moral principles we can equilibrium our societal lives. Technology and ethics can be considered as the two wheels of our life. Proper and smooth functioning of both is the essence of life. Ethics involves the study of values in the domain of human conduct. We are sure, India will be a global torchbearer in this field.

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