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Factors Responsible for Value Crisis and Need for Value Education During Adolescence Period

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Abstract

Today, globally, a generation of adolescents has shown serious tendencies towards drug abuse, family instability, suicide, crimes, general insecurity, unhappiness, selfishness and other destructive forces. This is a clear indication of the degenerating process of human society. It is unfortunate that making a fast buck has become the philosophy of life of the modern generation as most of them seem to hold firmly the view that the extent of one's happiness is directly proportionate to the extent of one's wealth, possessions and status. All these can be attributed to the changes that have taken place in the value systems, the aspirations and the problems they face in today's materialistic and highly competitive world as competition has become fierce abetted by parents, teacher and society.

The future of the Society can be decided if the values to be inculcated and developed in the young generation are in desirable direction. So in present era there is a strong need of value education in adolescents for preventing the deterioration of the society as well as the nation. The only effective anti-dote to this cancerous malaise is value-based system of education. It is not too late and before it is so, conscious efforts must be made to impart value-oriented education.

Introduction

"Civilization is not built with brick and mortar, steel and machinery, it is built with men and women, their spiritual quality and moral character."

The world at present is passing through a great crisis with many problems in changing trends,

which is marked by tremendous scientific and technological advancement. This era is marked by the explosion of aspirations for achieving material goals. These in turn have brought about a corresponding decline in human's moral, spiritual and ethical values creating many problems, making a negative impact in human minds and thought patterns. All sections of the population are becoming increasingly materialistic, artificial and self-centered. These are nothing but manifestation of violence of one form or the other. In short materialization is the key word among new attitudes to life and living. As a result, there is frustration and insecurity which have led to exploitation and violence. Hence, material advancement has also brought about tension, conflict, competition, social distance, alienation and rivalries. Delinquency among children all over the world has reached such an alarming proportion as to become a cause of concern. The changes in lifestyles, family patterns and environment as a result of industrialization and urbanization have contributed to the growth of delinquency rates.

Now-a-days newspapers, magazines, and other media are flooded with reports of crimes, murder, agitation and eve-teasing. Disputes between parents and children, teachers and students, husband, wife and in-laws are not rare anymore. Incidents of violence, destruction, killing each other in the name of insurgency, strikes and lock-out are becoming more and more common. All these occurrences indicate deterioration in our environment, ethical standards, moral and social values. The occurrence of different scams and scandals in recent years is a pointer to this fact.

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Factor responsible for value crisis in the present scenario

1. Explosion of knowledge in science and technology

India is a fast developing country in the world and many renowned economists and analysts have predicted that India will be a superpower country in 20 years overtaking many developed countries. Such rapid technological changes and advancement through science and technology have benefitted mankind tremendously. The explosion in science and technology has created many job opportunities in many sectors and helped to establish many industries. It also provides the country with good defense mechanisms, and raised the living standards of people with an increase in their per capita income during the last decade.

But as every aspect has merits and demerits, it also has some demerits or disadvantage. Dhull and Punia (2006) have rightly opined that science and technology produces a variety of materialistic things but it is incapable of producing human-beings who have humanity, tolerance, new ideas, and desire for search for truth. Also they give rise to aversion, dehumanization and thrust society into many problems. It is true that without science, we cannot survive. Science has great importance for us but it is considered that many a time it goes beyond the expected value system. Science does not teach us values, it does not lay emphasis on social living. We human beings cannot live aloof. We need a society and that society requires some norms and values. In the absence of this value system, its existence can never be smooth and progressive. Hence, the rapid scientific advances and growth of the material world have led to environmental degradation, social imbalance and weapons of mass destruction.

2. Breakdown of Joint Family System.

Due to rapid industrialization and urbanization, there is fragmentation of the joint family system which used to be a source of values as family influences one's values and helps contribute to the transmission of culture and values from older

generation to younger generation. Before, the family in India was often understood as an ideal unit with the inbuilt system of strong coping mechanism. Great importance was attached to the joint family structure in India. Roles, responsibilities, control and distribution of resources are strictly determined by the age, gender and generation in an Indian family, (Baradha 2008). But now-a-days nuclear families are on the increase. It provides little or no opportunity for contact and interaction between older and younger generation. Children are taken care of by media and maids. Parents pamper their kids with modern equipment and play things and money in the name of pocket money as a substitute for love and care. On the other hand young people are also less inclined to look after their parents and grandparents. As a result of this, the entire fabric of the society is engulfed in a value crisis situation giving rise to numerous social problems.

3. Present education system.

Education is a very important tool for all societies, to bring all round development and also to ensure the fullest development of its citizen's personality. It can play a very effective role in development process.

Bhatia (2006) stated that the present education system is drifting towards western ethos, which ignores the polishing and development of the inner instrument of the man-his mind, and worse, it ignores the innate divinity, the self within and focuses only on the body, mind and intellect. This lack of focus on developing the powers of concentration of the mind and ignorance of the need for unfolding the inner perfection, peace and happiness of the self is therefore directly responsible for the lowering of our character and values.

Chandramani (2008) also expressed: "the modern educational centers for value enquiry in all fields and for generating new ideas to meet the value challenges of today and tomorrow are instead becoming mere centers for conducting examinations and awarding degrees. Every institution must aim at character formation and

develop value of human sensitivity in the youth. Developing value consciousness has been the theme in the traditional Indian concept at education

4. Greed as a result of complicated and complex life in the present day

Today, man is not at peace in spite of tremendous scientific and technological achievement. There is great explosion of desire for achieving material goals. As a result there is tremendous frustration and insecurity which have led to exploitation and violence. Needs, when they are magnified, turn into greed resulting in insatiable hunger. Excessive desire is the root cause of various problems that humanity is facing. Greed inculcates irrationality and power hunger in human psycho. It also disturbs the peace of mind and misguides people on the path of immorality (Tuli, 2004).

Greed has increased making many people insecure leading to many crimes and violence like dissipation, corruption, exploitation, disparities, hatred etc. Stealing and looting are also becoming very common. This has brought in friction and unhappiness in society.

What is Value

Values are those standards or codes of conduct which are conditioned by one's cultural tenets, guided by conscience, according to which one is supposed to conduct himself and shape his life pattern by integrating his beliefs, ideas and attitudes with a view to realize, the cherished ideals and aims of life. High value leads to objective, fair and correct decision, actions and ensures the welfare of all concerned. Chandramani(2008), stated values are the very core of our behaviour, the motive force of our lives. Values are determinants of all kinds of behaviour. It is the humanistic approach to values that bring in human well being and human excellence.

Meaning of value

- Values are traits or qualities that are considered worthwhile

- Values are regarded desirable, important and held in high esteem by a particular society in which a person lives
- Values are the guiding principles of life which are conducive to all round development
- Values are norms, which hold and sustain life and society and establish a symbiotic and interdependent relationship between humankind and ecosystem
- Values give meaning and strength to a person's character by occupying a central place in his life

Significance of values

- Values reflect
 - One's personal attitudes and judgment.
 - Decision and choices
 - Behaviour and relationships
 - Dreams and visions
- Values give direction and firmness to life
- Values bring joy, satisfaction and peace in life

Five Universal Human Values

The five universal human values are righteous conduct, truth, peace, non-violence and love which are derived from the five domains of personality. The five personality domains are physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual and psychic.

Personality Domains	Five Universal Human Values
● Physical	● Righteous Conduct
● Intellectual	● Truth
● Emotional	● Peace
● Spiritual	● Non-violence
● Psychic	● Love

Characteristic of Universal Human Value

- Focus on inner sustainability
- Conditions for a sustainable mind

- Focus on spiritual world (inner world)
- Internally in a consistent systems approach with educational material to spread the concept
- Coherent with spiritual system
- Starts at individual level
- Focus on problems preventing rather than problems solving
- Concept is stable over time

Education and Value

Education is by far the best means for improving society and securing a better future for mankind. Swami Prajnanananda stated in the book "Ideal of Education" that "Education is the background of all nations. Proper education alone can build the character of a nation, and awaken the consciousness of nationality and freedom. Nation's ideal, nation's morality and sense of duty depends upon education. It is education that enables a man to be a 'real and perfect man' Thus education is essential for all round development of child. Gandhiji also mentioned that, "real education did not consist in packing the brain with information, facts and figures or in passing examinations by reading prescribed number of books, but by developing right character and bringing about desirable changes in the behaviour pattern of the learners."

As such, through the process of education we can develop in the learners such knowledge, skills, ideas, attitudes, interests and values that are desirable for him to live as a useful member of the society or citizen of the country. Hence, education and values are interdependent and inseparable. Education leads to inculcation of values and the cherished values of society, provide direction to the educative process, as the ancient Sanskrit verse say,

Vidya dadati Vinayam; Vidayad yati Patratam; Patravad dhanam aapneti; Dhanad dharman tatah Sukham. (Education develops a disciplined mind; Disciplined mind leads to worthiness; Worthiness brings prosperity; and Prosperity enables a person to lead a dutiful life

and ultimately gain happiness)

Education should aim at developing certain personal and social values along with other cognitive aspects simultaneously and harmoniously.

What is value education?

Value Education is a process of interacting with the total human being with a view, to develop capacities of reflective thinking and independent judgment. It is not a process of direct inculcation of a body of predetermined 'right' values in the learners by authoritarian instruction, but it is a process of helping the individuals to think freely and critically, to act responsibly with courage and conviction.

Value education means:

- Inculcation of sense of humanism, a deep concern for the well-being of others and the nation
- Developing the social, moral, aesthetic and spiritual sides of a person
- Teaching to preserve whatever is good and worthwhile which we have inherited from our culture
- Helping to accept and respect the attitudes and behaviour of those who differ from us
- Process of interaction with the total human beings with a view to developing capacities with reflective thinking and independent judgement on issues that are of critical concern to oneself and to humanity
- Process of helping individuals to think freely and critically, to act responsibly and with courage and conviction
- It does not mean value imposition

Objectives of value education

- Promote in children basic and fundamental qualities such as truthfulness, co-operation, love and compassion, peace and non-violence, courage, equality, justice, dignity of

labour, common brotherhood of man and scientific temper

- Train children to become responsible citizens in their personal and social life
- Enable them to understand and appreciate the national goals of socialism, secularism and democracy and to contribute to their realization
- Enable them to become open and considerate in their thoughts and behaviour and help to remove prejudices based on religion, language, caste or sex
- Help them to understand and appreciate themselves and continually strive for their inner development, thus moving towards the goal of self-actualization
- Develop proper attitude towards:
 - I. Oneself and fellow beings
 - II. One's own country
 - III. People of other countries, leading to international understanding
 - IV. Life and environment
 - V. All religions

Significance of values in adolescence

The future of societies depends on their success in providing pathways whereby young people develop and prepare themselves to be contributing adults to their communities. When these pathways are well-marked, stable, supported by the community and inviting to adolescents, a society can be confident that new generations will join the ranks of adulthood well-prepared. When these paths are hazardous, unpredictable, uninviting, or ill-fitted to the demands of adulthood in the society, the future is insecure, both for adolescents and for society.

Adolescence refers to a period in which a person is no longer a child and not yet an adult. This is a period of rapid growth and a time of extensive personality reorganization. It is a time of considerable changes in physical stature, physiological and endocrine changes, changes in patterns of thinking, attitude, relationships and moral standard. It is a time of acquiring new skills,

attaining mastery over environment, learning to handle new responsibilities and gaining control over emotions and thoughts. The period of adolescence is also characterized by several kinds of high risk behaviour like substance abuse and anti-social behaviour. Pастey and Aminbhavi (2006) stated that adolescence is a time of rapid development of discovering one's real self, defining personal values and finding one's vocational and social direction. Adolescence is accompanied by some stress, related to school, family and peers, and this stress can at times be difficult to manage (Patil, 2003).

Indian child is the child of two cultures, Indian and Western. Adolescents are internalizing contradictory and conflicting world views, lifestyles and modes of relationships with others. Caught between agrarian tradition, ethos, and the industrial Western ethos, the Indian identity has been fragmented. Moreover, we see today disintegration in society. One of the reasons for disintegration is conflicting values, beliefs and ideals. There is a clash between the old and new beliefs and ideas.

Development and transmission of moral values in the case of adolescents are important concerns of the present-day Indian society as well as the educational institute. The problem becomes complex not only because of conflicting values but also because of the lack of value based education system which can be a source and vehicles of such values as it can influence one's values and help in the transmission of culture. It is essential to check the development of undesirable, anti-social and antidemocratic values in the adolescents. If values are good, life will be peaceful and useful. If values are undesirable, life will be burdensome and unwanted.

Role of universities and educational institutes

"Intellectual education influences the head and valued based education influences the heart"

"The first duty of the university is to teach wisdom, not trade; character, not technicalities."—
Winston Churchill

The aim of education is to impart knowledge,

to inculcate skills to fit people for work in adult life and above all to help young people develop as full human beings, equipped to lead the good life. In this task values play a major role.

Value crisis is a global phenomenon of our times as rapid scientific growth and technological advancements have threatened our age old moral standards. Hence, the first step in the direction of changing the world is to take needed steps for radical change in the human consciousness. One of the most important means to achieve this end is value education. This will help human beings to conduct themselves in the more desirable directions and to shape their life patterns by strengthening their beliefs and by integrating facts, ideas, attitudes and actions. The value based education can only boost the morality and cultivate the feeling of nationalism to fight against all kinds of fanatics, violence, disharmony and corruption.

Thus it is practice of human values by every individual which can establish world peace. Sri Sathya Sai Baba has rightly said:

"If there is righteousness in heart, there is beauty in character. If there is beauty in character, there is harmony at home. If there is harmony at home, there is order in the Nation. If there is order in the Nation, there is peace in the world".

Conclusion

The neglect of Value Education has created vagueness and indiscipline in the minds of the people. We have now a society where everyman by and large is for himself. The vicious circle needs to be broken and broken fast. We must take care of today for a better tomorrow. Unless better and responsible citizens are created through value education, the fate of mankind on this globe is uncertain. Value education during adolescence is necessary to save the human civilization by creating a healthy environment at any cost. Thus, value education is the most essential instrument to create a world of peace, freedom and justice for the betterment of humanity.

"For a better world Live with Values We are the Builders Lets us build a Better World".

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