



VALUE EDUCATION IN INDIA: ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN THE 21ST **CENTURY**

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ABSTRACT

Values are the ideas and beliefs that the members of a society hold. These are considered ethical compass that controls and guides the behavior of individuals. With the rapid changes in society and technological advancement, some of these important aspects of human life are overlooked. Inculcating values among the new generation is one of them. For bringing about the all-round development of the country as well as of the individuals, it is necessary to inculcate human, and moral values among students. Then only we can hope for a peaceful society. Value education is considered as the strategy to inculcate values among students. In this paper, an attempt has been made to analyze the significance of value education in the present-day scenario and how these are implemented in India. It has also been attempted in this paper to suggest some strategies to promote value education. The study is completely based on secondary sources of data like journals, research articles, books, etc.

Keywords: Values, Value Education, Education, etc.

Introduction:

“Education is not limited to the imparting of information or training of skills. It has to give the educated a proper sense of values.”- Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan.

Education is considered as an adventure within the individual. It is a never-ending process that aims for the betterment of humankind. It encompasses every aspect of a human being and nourishes all these to accelerate his living. It enables the individual to understand Truth, Beauty, and Goodness. Considering from the philosophical point of view education can be considered as the process of self-development. It helps an individual to identify his self and his relation to others in the world. Through education, a child will be able to develop himself freely and at the same time exercise his values in the real sense. “The role of Education in understanding and appreciating the self in relation to others and the Divine self



itself encapsulates the essence of values." (Chakrabarti, 2016). It is through education that values become meaningful and purposeful. Different philosophers, educationists, and other spiritual leaders have emphasized the role of education for ‘character building’, ‘development of integrated personality’ etc. for the betterment of the individual as well as the society. Thus, the development of values has long been emphasized in the Indian civilization and cultural heritage. The concern for value education can be seen in the various educational policies adopted by the government of India from time to time. The very first effort in this regard was taken by the Secondary Education Commission of India (1952-53), where ‘character building’ was stated as the significant goal of education. It was stated there that- “The supreme end of the educative process should be the training of the character and personality of students in such a way that they will be able to realize their full potentialities and contribute to the well-being of the society.” (Secondary Education Commission, 1952-53).

Objectives of the paper: The main objectives of this paper are as follows:

- To summarize our knowledge of value education
- To study the significance of value education in the 21st century
- To suggest measures to promote value education

Methodology adopted: The study is mainly based on secondary sources of data like books, journals, reports of various commissions, websites, etc.

Concept of Value and Value Education:

The word ‘value’ was first coined by Friedrich Nietzsche in the year 1880. Etymologically the term ‘value’ is derived from the Latin word ‘valere’ which means precious, dearness, and worthwhile. It also means to be strong and vigorous. However, now values refer to the bundle of good and positive qualities which are essential for individuals to become civilized beings. These values have become an essential part of human life which helps them to distinguish between right and wrong, good and bad. Thus, these can be considered as the guiding principles of human life. Values cannot be considered as skills or knowledge. These are beliefs and convictions. According to Radhakamal Mukherjee, “Values may be defined as socially approved desires and goals that are internalized through the



process of conditioning, learning or socialization that become subjective preferences, standards, and aspirations.”

Value education has been a significant part of the Indian education system since the time of the Vedic period. Both value and education are interrelated. The development of values among students is considered as an integral part of our education system from the primary level of education to the level of higher education. On the other hand, the main function of education is to bring all-round development to the human being and the society. This development is based on certain values like socio-cultural, ethical, and spiritual values which determine the actions of humans in a particular society. Thus, value education is a holistic approach to personal and societal transformation. The main function of value education is to develop proper attitudes, values, emotions, and proper behaviour among students. Through value education a sense of discrimination between good and evil, based on values, can be developed among students. The process of value development is influenced by various factors like family, peers, school, community, media, and the ethics of the particular society. It promotes the all-round development of the students’ personalities covering aesthetic, intellectual, cultural, political, social, economic, and emotional aspects. Value education has been defined by different educationists in different ways-

According to C. V. Good —” Value-education is the aggregate of all the process by means of which a person develops abilities, attitudes and other forms of behaviour of the positive values in the society in which he lives.” Hence, value education moulds an individual’s conduct and behaviour.

Dr. M.T. Ramji has mentioned in his book” Value Oriented School Education” that with the rapid industrialization and technological advancement in modern India, it is important to provide value education to the students which is based on our rich cultural heritage, i.e. courage, truth, universal love, respect for all religions, the dignity of labour, purity, courtesy, etc.



Value Education in India:

From ancient times, value education has received great impetus in our Indian society. In the Gurukul system of education, the disciples were taught not only the skills of reading and archery but also the knowledge of the philosophy of life. However, the British in the later period, did not give much emphasis on morals or value education. The various educational policies and commissions with time, were seen emphasizing the value of education. The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE-1943-46) gave importance to spiritual and moral education. The Indian Education Commission of 1964-66 also emphasised imparting moral, social and spiritual values at all levels of education. Likewise, UNESCO (1972), also felt that it is the responsibility of the education system to promote values for world peace and international understanding. It organized a summit “Values in Education” in 1998 to encourage schools to review value education curricula. The National Policy on Education, 1986 also emphasized the re-evaluation of the curriculum to make education a strong tool for inculcation of moral, social, and spiritual values. The National Curriculum Framework (2005) has stated the vision of integrating values in every aspect of schooling. Now, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 also stresses including ethical reasoning, traditional Indian values, and all other human and constitutional values like *ahimsa*, *swachchata*, *sacrifice*, *tolerance*, *diversity*, *righteous conduct*, *gender sensitivity*, *respect for elders*, *respect for all*, etc.

Why do we need ‘value education’ in this present society?

With the technological advancements, many changes have been brought in the society, i.e. social, cultural, moral, mental, emotional, etc. People are found struggling while balancing their lives through the ongoing changes in society as well as in their personal lives. They are found to be rejecting the existing value system of the society which results in chaos in the society. Moreover, ethical values and leadership qualities of the people are being lost. Our whole education system is giving undue importance to literacy only. Education is not only a process of getting a certificate or degree. It is much more than that. This responsibility of education is being lost in the process of attaining literacy only. People are getting an education only to earn money and attain material prosperity. People are becoming more self-centric or individualistic. The sense of belongingness, sacrifice, tolerance, etc. is being lost.



In this circumstance, education can take the lead. And, through value education, we can create a peaceful, harmonious society in the country.

Significance of Value Education:

In the 21st century, value education is considered the most significant weapon to establish humanity and peace in the world. Its significance can be understood from the following points:

- ❖ **All round development of child's personality:** The first and foremost importance of value education is the all-round development of a child's personality. Value education is significant because it helps the child to become more responsible for their behaviour with others. They learn to become disciplined and punctual in their day-to-day activities. It not only develops their ability to make their own decisions but also develops a positive attitude towards life and everything. Thus, value education is significant for the mental, social, emotional and social development of the students' personality.
- ❖ **Inculcation of good manners and behaviour:** In today's world, it is necessary to have good manners and behaviours. Through value education, students can be taught or they can be inculcated with good behaviour, manners kindness etc.
- ❖ **Development of responsible and cooperative citizenship:** Through value education individuals are taught to live cooperatively in a society. It develops a sense of patriotism and unity among the people.
- ❖ **Establishment of a peaceful society:** Value education is significant for establishing a peaceful society where individuals are educated with the knowledge or values of respecting every member of the society. They develop a sense of tolerance for the different religions of a country.
- ❖ **Development of Empathy:** In today's materialistic and technological world, people should have a sense of empathy to live cordially in a society. It is necessary to develop empathy, the ability to feel the pain of others, to establish a peaceful society.
- ❖ **To combat violence and dishonesty in society:** The present-day students are more exposed to violence, dishonesty etc, due to the extension of various social media. Overcoming problems like cheating in examinations, bullying, etc. can also be possible with the help of value education.



- ❖ **Preparing the students for future roles in society:** Value education will enable the students to attain their future goals and become responsible citizens of the country. It provides a positive direction to the students for attaining their goals in life. It also teaches them to live beneficially for them and also for the people around them.
- ❖ **Understand life in a better way:** Value education enables the students to understand life from different perspectives and thus, understand life in a better way. They become more sensible and responsible.
- ❖ **Building relationships with family and others:** In present-day society, along with other values, the family values and norms are also being neglected by the younger generations. In such situations, value education can help students to understand the importance of family in life and build a good relationship with family members and they also learn to respect relationships with others. This is very much needed in our present-day society.
- ❖ **Positive attitude towards life:** Recently suicide cases among students are rapidly rising. This is a burning problem in our education system. We all know that education prepares us for life. But something is missing which is creating such suicide incidents in our educational field. Value education is considered significant in dealing with such serious issues. Value education can develop a positive attitude in the minds of the students towards life. Through value education, students understand what is right and what is wrong. They understand the purpose of life. They can make decisions for themselves and deal with any situation intelligently.
- ❖ **Build a teacher-student relationship:** Value education teaches students to respect their teachers and their studies. They learn to respect their duties, i.e. to study. In today's world, where artificial intelligence has been trying to overtake the position of the teachers, it is through value education, that the students can be taught to build a cordial relationship with their teachers. Because we believe that AI can provide data and information to the students, but to influence the students' lives, it is possible only by a teacher. In the world of technological advancement, it is necessary to build humanity, compassion, empathy, kindness, etc. in the students through value education.
- ❖ **Inculcate emotional and social intelligence:** In this present self-centric society, we need to build a generation that cares for others and helps others. Value education



promotes critical and mindful thinking among students. And, thus promote a society, where people are trained not only in intellectual intelligence but also with emotional and social intelligence. These are considered the basic requirements for building a mindful society.

Suggestions:

Considering all these significances mentioned above, it is necessary to take proper steps to promote value education. To promote value education in our education system, first of all, value education needs to be considered as a ‘core business’ and it should be given priority. The educational leaders and staff must provide full support to the implementation of value education. Values should be taught explicitly, i.e. in the classroom and outside the classroom.

Apart from these, the following approaches can be considered while teaching value education-Direct Approach, Integrated Approach and Holistic Approach. In the Direct approach, value education should be imparted in a planned manner. There should be structured lessons which will include topics like honesty, justice, trust, respect, etc. The methods like roleplay, discussion, drama, etc, should be adopted in this approach.

In the Integrated approach, the teaching of values should be combined with other subjects. Here, the teachers can give examples of various scientific inventions in society and ask the students about the good and bad effects of those inventions. The opinions of the students will reflect their thinking capacities and it will enable them to understand the effects of good and bad in society.

In the holistic approach, the teaching of values should be integrated into all aspects of educational institutions. In this approach, attention must be paid to the emotional and social development of the students. It should aim at promoting harmonious relationships between students, teachers, parents and the community. Students should be encouraged to develop good and helpful behaviour with everyone they meet.

And, lastly, the process of imparting value education should be well organized and well monitored. It should be reviewed regularly to make to process successful and effective.



Conclusion:

With the advent of science and technological advancement, human lives have become easier. Along with that, people are becoming more self-centric and materialistic which has given rise to diverse problems in society like murder, war, intolerance, dishonesty, etc. With the increase in material prosperity, people are becoming less concerned with human values. The social norms, cultural norms and even the personal norms are disturbed by the absence or negligence of values in human life. It is the sole responsibility of our education system to promote value education so that we can establish a society, where people can live happily, cooperatively and most importantly peacefully. With the progress in society, the young generations are most affected by it. Along with technological, and material prosperity, individuals should prosper with values like kindness, humanity, empathy, tolerance, trust, respect, responsibility, etc. With that only we can hope for a prosperous nation.

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