

# VALUE CLARIFICATION IN EDUCATION

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## ABSTRACT

*"It's not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are."-Roy Disney*

*Values are influenced by family, individual experience, religious aspects and society.*

*Individual's value can be defined as what that person holds to be right or good. Value clarification will provide an opportunity for a person to reflect on personal, moral dilemmas and allow for values to be analyzed and clarified.*

*Value clarification teaches that behavior is not morally good or evil, rather wise or foolish actions that can vary according to time, place, and circumstances. Value clarification has to be a rational process. Important aspect of value clarification in education is moral development of a child. Moral development of a child can be achieved through various techniques which are discussed in detail in this article.*

*Children in schools with value confusion are usually underachievers not only education but in every aspect. Teachers play an important role in molding the students to be the effective citizens of a society. To ensure such improvement among value confused students, value clarification in education becomes essential. Value clarification in education helps children in decision making, self-exploring, freedom of thought and action, tolerant and confident.*

**Key words:** *Value Clarification, Value clarification as exercise, Value clarification as therapy.*

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## INTRODUCTION:

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**VALUE CLARIFICATION:**

Values reflect our attitudes and what we believe about everything. Value clarification helps an individual to relate their thoughts and their feelings which results in awareness of their own values. The object of the values clarification strategy is not to teach specific values ,but to make students aware of their own personally held values and of the way in which their values compare to those of friends,adults,different groups in society,and even other societies in other times. It is hoped that, as this awarness increases, students will reconsier and perhaps modify poorly founded values while, at the same time, hold more confidently values which stand the test of review and comparison.

**NEED FOR VALUE CLARIFICATION:**

Value clarification as an integral part of our education system helps children to identify their core personality and it directs them in right path to choose the type of person they want to be. Value clarification provides a role model for the students not for outer world but within themselves. It provides an insight on one’s own personality

When students are clarified about their values, they will have the opportunity to strengthen it and integrate their value system into wholeness. Clarification in values extremely helps children to create goals, setting priorities and in managing time.

**VALUE CLARIFICATION AS EXERCISE:**

Value clarification is usually provided by the therapists, but in schools we can use experienced teachers who are familiar with counseling the students. Sometimes children may find it difficult to determine or to identify their core value, for such instances the teacher may make use of worksheets and brainstorming activities.

Though values clarification activities take a variety of forms, there are certain basic procedures that should be followed when using the strategy:

- The teacher begins the lesson with “opening up” activities which focus on low risk issues.
- The activities require student to indicate their position on an issue in an overt and explicit manner.
- The teacher accepts student responses without judgement or evaluation and discourages any attempts by students to challenge or mock each other’s position.
- The students should be asked to explain or provide reasons for holding a specific value position. This is the clarification aspect of the strategy.
- The activities should whenever possible, be related to issues that have historical import or are related to current social or political concerns.

It will assist the students in the process of better understanding about their thoughts, feelings and behavior.

**WORKSHEET FOR VALUE CLARIFICATION:**

Worksheets play an important role in identifying the inner values which one respects the most. In value clarification in education it helps the students who find it difficult to identify their values.

Worksheets has to be planned according to the need for that situation, it should suit the characteristic type of the value confused child.

A model of a worksheet for value clarification is given as follows:

**WORKSHEET:**

Rate the following topics by which you value the most:

Friendship

Anger

Pride

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Kindness  
 Pity  
 Family  
 School  
 Punctuality  
 Honesty  
 Fear  
 Courage  
 Stealing  
 Reading  
 Singing  
 Jealous  
 Health  
 Wealth

**BRAINSTORMING:**

We know brainstorming is an effective method in problem solving. We can use brainstorming as a method in clarifying the values of a student. An example of brainstorming in clarifying values as follows.

1. When will you do your homework?
2. What are the other activities you do while reading?
3. What are the steps you take to keep you clean?
4. To whom you used to play with?
5. What is your favourite hobby?

Like the above given examples, Worksheet and Brainstorming questions, Sharing in small groups and Warmup exercises also help the counselor to clarify the values of his students.

**VALUE CLARIFICATION AS THERAPY:**

Value clarification itself is a tool in psychotherapy technique that can often help us to realize our personal values. In schools, students who didn't identify or realize his own values show a poor progress in his academic as well as co-curricular activities. Often value confusion leads to poor behavioral aspects which results in anxiety, stress and depression.

Value clarification assists students to know more about themselves and to assign a reasonable goal. In most of the times value clarification among higher secondary students helps them to choose their career based on their values despite all other odds and confusions.

Value clarification can be used by itself or as an integrated technique with other counseling methods. The therapist should focus on all the aspects of the value confused persons. He must ask good clarifying questions to make them realize their values.

**CONCLUSION:**

When we expect good values among school students it is necessary for them to have a clear picture of their own values. As the prime hope of the peaceful and prosperous future world, today's children need to be clarified about their values.

Value clarification help students to identify more clearly what it is the value in specific situations, and it help them to realize that others may hold different but equally acceptable values. In shaping the behavioral

aspects of children, education and environment of the schools play a vital role. So, it is inevitable to impart Value Clarification in education.

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