

Role of Parents, Guardians and Teachers in Value Education

K.SURIYACHINNAVAR M.Sc.,M.Ed.,NET.,(Ph.D)

Assistant Professor,
Theni Kammavar Sangam College of Education,
Koduvilarpatti, Theni, Tamil Nadu, India.

Abstract

Future growth of any country depends on its youth. Unfortunately, youth in India is getting increasingly inclined towards violence, social evils and lack of respect towards world around them. People who become great statesmen, sports persons or business entrepreneurs have certain things in common. They are all vigilant about their surroundings. They all know how best to use what they have. They all believe in hard work and in doing things which are good for the society. Creation of such values in our youth is the end product of value Education.

The first school a child attends is his home and parents are the first Teacher. With the help of their conduct and behavior they induce an influence on their children. They play a major role in inculcating values in their children. Values are essential for a sound character and personality. But at times due to their sheer negligence a child lacks morally and ethically accepted values. The second major role is of a teacher. The teacher plays a very important role in the society and they are considered as nation builders, personality developers, guides, etc. But in the modern era, there are number of factors which are responsible for degradation of the status of teachers, for their poor performance and for the decline in the teaching values. This paper provides information about how Parents and teachers can inculcate these values in children and contribute in nation building. Finally, the paper emphasizes on teachers role in all spheres of society.

Keywords: Values, Value Education, Education, Parents, Teachers, Society.

Introduction

“The value concept... [is] able to unify the apparently diverse interests of all the sciences concerned with human behavior.” [Rokeach, 1973]

In our culturally plural society, education should foster universal and eternal values, oriented towards the unity and integration of our people. Such value education should help eliminate obscurantism, religious fanaticism, violence, superstition and fatalism. Apart from this combative role, value education has a profound positive content, based on our heritage, national goals, and universal perceptions. It should lay primary emphasis on this aspect.

National Policy on Education, 1986

Values enshrined in the Constitution of India point towards the principles of equality and Social justice and appreciation of cultural values of each other, dignity of all individuals, etc. Values such as equality, fraternity and justice can promote inclusivity where all members of the society feel included irrespective of their color, culture, economic or social background, caste, religion, gender or community. The culture of inclusivity is particularly relevant and important in the context of our society, nation and making education a right for all children. The aim of education thus can no longer be solely confined to learning of specific culture and its traditions but that of learning and appreciation of multi-culture.

- ‘Education for Values in Schools – A Framework’ by NCERT

At the beginning of the second decade in 21st century, the education of future citizens needs to be redressed so that a better balance is achieved between Academic Excellence, Human values and Oral Perceptions. Since World War II the world has been a witness to a continuous and steady deterioration of values in Moral Standards all over the world. Braun, developer of World War II rockets as saying: “If the world’s

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ethical standards fail to rise with the advance of our technological revolution, we shall perish”. The whole country is experiencing massive erosion values. Political and Economic Corruption, Scandals and Scams, Antisocial and Anti-national Activities, etc., are on the rise all over the country.

When we look at the Modern Society we can visualize that degrading Violence, Exploitation, Political Corruption and Terrorism, the Armaments Race, the production of nuclear bombs, the ever-increasing Terrorism, and the Corruption in public life etc., are increasing day by day and this indicates that humanity seems to have lost its values. The application of scientific and technological knowledge to the comforts of man has reduced him to a mechanical being, resulting in degeneration of the value system.

Meaning of Education

Education undoubtedly is one of the most powerful agencies molding the character and in determining the future of individuals and nations. Thus the whole realm of education is centered on the development of the moral aspect of man. Plato emphasized that educational effort should aim at the promotion of virtue. Herbert declared that the whole work of education, which is a long and complex training, should focus on one particular thing that could be summed up in the concept “Morality”.

The University Education Commission (1964-66) summarizes the Indian concept of education as follows; “Education according to Indian tradition is not merely a means of earning a living; nor is it only a nursery of thought or a school for citizenship. It is the initiation into a life of spirit, a training of human souls in pursuit of truth and the practice of virtue.”

Education has lost its true meaning. It has become a means for examination, employment and empowerment. It no longer leads to emancipation, ennoblement and evolution. The education has lost its very purpose. Instead of developing a person as a humble human being, it leads to superficial achievements. Although, it is emphasized that a holistic approach is adopted to impart education yet we can observe that the present education system promotes materialism and does not relate to inner self of an individual. The present education system is for money making rather than man making. It has become instrumental in promoting negative qualities like jealousy, hatred and rivalry instead of virtues like kindness, compassion and honesty. So, what is the purpose of education? Is it to make us rich, wiser, happier or to make us a better human being? Education is the transmission of civilization. Education is the fundamental method of social progress and reform.

“The first duty of the university is to teach wisdom, not trade; character, not technicalities” -Winston Churchill. Educated persons are those who can choose wisely and courageously under any circumstances. If they have the ability differentiate between good and bad, wisdom and foolishness, virtues and vulgarities, regardless of the academic degrees they have, then they are educated. Life-centered ethics have to be dealt with, to develop the will, to live a moral good life, to keep away from evil, to develop a spirit of sacrifice and an attitude of consideration for others. Education plays key role in making people aware of value environment. Positive attitude needs to be inculcated from childhood through parents and other members of the family and teachers. There is much psychological evidence that morality is learnt, and can be controlled and directed. Learning control impulses, moral rules and principles, is a valuable guide, to apply the principles to new situations. For Swami Vivekananda, the goal of education is “Man making”. It is making of the whole human being.

VALUES

‘Value’ comes from the Latin word ‘Valera’, which means to be of worth, to be strong. The dictionary gives the following meaning: relative worth utility or importance, degree of excellence, something intrinsically valuable. Value literally means something that has price, something precious, dear and worthwhile; hence something one is ready to suffer and sacrifice for; if necessary one is ready to die for it. Values are standards, rules, criteria, attitudes, guidelines, desirable ideas/beliefs and important things, which play a crucial role in shaping the life of individuals. Values give direction and firmness to life. They identify a person, giving him a name, a face and a character. Values means literally something that has a price, something precious, dear, worthwhile and hence something one is ready to suffer and sacrifice for, a reason to live and a reason to die for, if necessary, values give direction and firmness and bring to life the important dimensions of meaning. Hence they bring joy, satisfaction and peace to life.

Values are those standards or codes of conduct, which are conditioned by one’s cultural tenants, 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 or life. High

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values lead to objective, fair and correct decision and action and ensure the welfare of all concerned, while low value do exactly the opposite. Values are essential for the whole persons, recognizing that the individual is comprised of physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual dimensions.

Value is the relation between a person and an environmental situation, which evoke an appreciative response in their individual. The other complimentary function of value is, it should also contribute to the welfare of the larger social unit such as family, the community and the nation of which the individual is member.

Value system contains

- a set of beliefs about nature of man
- rules laying down what ought and what ought not to be done
- Motives that incline us to choose the right and wrong course.

The following ten basic themes may also form a part of Values Education.

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| ❖ <i>Think positive</i> | ❖ <i>Be your true self</i> |
| ❖ <i>Be compassionate and do no harm</i> | ❖ <i>Developing critical thinking</i> |
| ❖ <i>Discover inner peace</i> | ❖ <i>Resolve conflict non-violently</i> |
| ❖ <i>Learning to live together</i> | ❖ <i>Build peace in the community</i> |
| ❖ <i>Respect human dignity</i> | ❖ <i>Caring for the planet</i> |

It is important to remember that Values Education is not another subject. It performs two important functions in the curriculum. Firstly, it unifies all other subjects under a holistic vision of values. In the absence of such a holistic view the learning done in subjects tends to be fragmentary and remains superficial. Secondly, Values Education humanizes education.

Classification of Values

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| ✓ Personal Values: The principles and ideologies that a person follows in personal life. | ✓ Moral Values: Principles and directives, which enables us to follow the correct and right path. |
| ✓ Universal Values: Principles that all people across the planet are expected to adhere. | ✓ Spiritual Values: Principles, which gives directives to follow a faith in some philosophical thoughts. |
| ✓ Human Values: Principles and ideologies that is basic to human nature to make their life smooth and happy. | ✓ National Values: Principles, which encourage a person to imbibe the feelings of patriotism and national integration. |
| ✓ Religious Values: Persons believe in a particular thought which is a guide for reasoning between good and bad. | ✓ Social Values: Principles and ideologies, which encourage us to live together. |
| ✓ Civic Values: Principles, which guide in the dos and don'ts of the citizens. | ✓ Scientific values: Principles and directives which force us to test, analyze, verify inquire etc. |

Need for Human Values in the Society

Education is general and value education in particular occupies a prestigious place in the modern context of contemporary society. Education and values are inseparable. They are two sides of the same coin. Value oriented education has come into force to promote a sense of morality, aesthetic and intellectual knowledge among the students. Value education has the capacity to transform a diseased mind to a very young, fresh, innocent, healthy, natural and attentive mind. The transformed mind is capable of higher sensitivity and a high end level of perception. Sri Ramakrishna Pramahansa also stated that education is the process that tells us how to live life well; how to find happiness; how to make others happy; how to manage all kinds of people and happenings as well; and how to grow and succeed in the right manner.

Today there is deterioration of values in the society. The values have been neglected not only at the social level but at the national level also. In the educational programmes only mental developments have been stressed. In the modern age, the aim of education is all round development of personality. In the present educational system, provision has been made for intellectual education by giving importance to intellectual development. Thus to be successful in life, important human qualities along with intellectual development should be the aim of

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Value education. Value education is the positive effort towards bringing about a synthesis of different values in a human being. It is the teachers' role to foster human values through his teaching in the classroom and follow those values. To the youth of today, the classroom messages are love, safety, security, belonging and warmth. Einstein remarked once: “try not to become a man of success but try to become a man of values.”

Meaning of Value Education

Value Education, as it is generally used, refers to a wide range of learning and activities ranging from training in physical health, mental hygiene, etiquette and manners, appropriate social behavior, civic rights and duties to aesthetic and even religious training. It

also refer to social behavior, civic rights and duties to aesthetic and even religious training. Value education is simply a matter of developing appropriate behaviour and habits involving inculcation of certain virtues and habits. In opposition to such a conception, it is pointed out that value education has an essentially cognitive component in it and that this should not be ignored. There are three basic institutions that influence value education – the home, the church/religious institution and the school.

Today we are talking of value education, value based politics and value based society. All of us feel that the values are falling and nobody is respecting them. In an enthusiasm to point fingers at others we do not realize that we too have contributed to this fall. But, what are these values? Values are a set of desirable behavior by following which it is good for the individual and also the society. That exactly is the reason as to why values are not taught, lectured about or professed, they are only demonstrated. Two categories of people who make maximum impact on the personality of an individual in the formative years of life which remains all through the life are the parents and the teachers. Incidentally, it is this class of people who become role models - good or bad, without their consent or knowledge. Parents, teachers, family, school, environment, friends, society and religion– all these wield a great influence on the child. Academics and Co-curricular activities both help in teaching values. Meditation, Value Based Education, Music, Self-analysis, Positive affirmations and Resolutions help in improving our character. The suggestions and words spoken by the parents and others affect the character and good conduct of a child.

- Values are beliefs. But they are beliefs tied inextricably to emotion, not objective, cold ideas.
- Values are a motivational construct. They refer to the desirable goals people strive to Attain.
- Values transcend specific actions and situations. They are abstract goals. The abstract Nature of values distinguishes them from concepts like norms and attitudes, which Usually refer to specific actions, objects, or situations.
- Values guide the selection or evaluation of actions, policies, people, and events. That is, values serve as standards or criteria.
- Values are ordered by importance relative to one another. People's values form an Ordered system of value priorities that characterize them as individuals. This hierarchical feature of values also distinguishes them from norms and attitudes.

Each of the ten basic values can be characterized by describing its central motivational goal:

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| 1. Self-Direction. | 6. Security. |
| 2. Stimulation. | 7. Conformity. |
| 3. Hedonism. | 8. Tradition. |
| 4. Achievement. | 9. Benevolence. |
| 5. Power. | 10. Universalism. |

Role of Parents

Home is the first school for the child and parents are the first teachers. They not only guide the child in its progressive path but also demonstrate the appropriate behavior by their actions. It is the parents who with their conduct and behavior set an example for the children. Parents at times show a lot of concern for the children and instead of correcting, they start to pamper even for their improper behavior. It is actually detrimental for the growth of the child. Such Parents are very possessive.

Some of the parents are too strict with their children. They try to overpower their wards. They do not let the child enjoy the bliss of his innocence. They try to check him for whatever he does. Another class consists of those parents who are not much concerned about their children either due to lack of time or are not educated enough to guide their children. Whatever be the reason but it certainly affects the child's behavior. The parents handling of the children should be such that it could take care of all aspects and could provide firm guidance without being too strict. Extremities on the part of the parents either lead to introvert or oversensitive behavior

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or it may turn a child into dominant or aggressive person. A child reflects the impressions gathered by him in the initial stages of his life. If children are not guided properly may turn into problematic and complexed individuals.

Role of Teachers:

Teaching is not a job; it is an attitude. Teacher is a source of information, a guide, a mentor, a surrogate parent, a motivator, all at the same time. Teaching is the noble profession which deals with the future generation. To be an ideal teacher, one needs to be a role model. A good teacher loves his students. A teacher must have respect for his profession and remarkable quality to love his students unconditionally. The role of a teacher in the changing social scenario is becoming very challenging. In the earlier times teacher was the only source of information and commanded respect on this count. The society is becoming more materialistic and values appear to be pushed into the background. Consider the Vedic times when wise man or a Rishi was an icon. In the period of Mahabharata, the role models had changed. The heroes of this era were the brave warriors. Before independence of India, our role models were Gandhiji, Patel, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and other freedom fighters. After independence, unfortunately, the icon of the society is a rich man. The young generation desires to become rich without making efforts by stepping on an escalator. This eagerness makes them sacrifice anything, what to talk about values. The present society needs an awakening. This period of transition urgently requires the nurturing of values. It is the moral responsibility of the teacher to be the torch bearer and show the right path to coming generations.

Value system is the backbone of any society. Values may vary from one society to another and from time to time. Although every society follows some values and those values are identified as global values by all. A good teacher is someone who inspires the students and promotes their talents including the creativity and independent thinking. Teachers should understand the fact that every student has certain unique qualities and talents, which should be identified and nurtured.

Role of teacher in society

Teachers' role is very vital in molding the future of a country and, as such, it is considered the noblest profession. Teachers are the role models for their pupils. An educational institute should not be just confined to teaching and learning but it should be considered as a place where consciousness is aroused and illumined; soul is purified and strengthened. It is the place where the seeds of discipline, devotion and commitment are planted and fostered with deliberate efforts. A constructive companionship between teachers and students has to be developed. In a nutshell, a teacher in real sense is one who himself practices the human values. He should *not only preach but practice* to leave an ever lasting impression in the minds of students.

Teacher's position in present day society

“Guru Brahma, Guru Vishnu, Gurudevo Shri Maheswara Guru Sakshat Param Brahma Tasmai Sri Guruwai Namah”. Unfortunately, today the position of the teacher has deteriorated. The society now, accords a low status to teachers; this noble profession has been highly demoralized due to certain unfair practices. Once this profession was highly esteemed but now has become the easy source of earning money. It is also found that the teachers lack morality and spirituality in their behavior which is degrading and disgusting. Some teachers relentlessly opt for this profession just for the sake of monetary benefits and to gain power and position, rather than for the integrity and sanctity of the profession. There was a time when a teacher was considered next to God. In a nutshell it can be concluded that the status of teachers has got devaluated due to poor quality of teaching, changing social attitudes or societal response towards teaching profession and professionalism in teaching. In the ancient times when *Gurukul* system was prevalent, teachers were considered as ‘*Gurus*’ or ‘*Mentors*’ but today they are regarded as masters which connotes negative authoritative sense in the minds of the students. Besides this, we find considerable number of teachers addicted to smoking, drinking liquor and gambling. Therefore, how can such teachers impart values to the students? They must make an effort to light a candle instead of cursing the darkness and sow the seeds of value education with a great hope that they would disseminate their fragrance towards the creation of a just and new society as they spurt and blossom.

Conclusion

To conclude this can be safely said that as a general rule value orientation is integral to all stages of upbringing, formal education, and interaction between individuals and social

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groups. Values are thus inseparable from life of the individual. It permeates the whole life, since education is an essential requirement, the aims of education, content and methodology is viewed in terms of value development. Values and development are used interchangeably. Human development cannot be conceived in the absence of values.

The teacher plays a very important role in the society and they are considered as nation builders, personality developers, guides, etc. But in the modern era, there are number of factors which are responsible for degradation of the status of teachers, for their poor performance and for the decline in the teaching values such as changing social attitude, professionalism, poor quality of teaching, non-responsiveness and low level of accountability, political intervention in teachers during selection, ignoring of merit etc, the privatization has degraded the quality of education because these institutions are run by the non-academicians and these are profit oriented institutions. Importance should be given to religious/spiritual education as well as women education so that society as a whole may flourish with desirable value system. The social, economic, cultural and human values play a very important role in the overall development of society and help in achieving the socialistic pattern of the society. It is recommended there should be congenial conditioning or proper environment in the society which includes parents, teachers, educators as well as administrators for inculcating values i.e. moral, spiritual, religious, social, economic and cultural values, etc. among the students/ youths. Promotion of human values in the society depends on the promotion of good qualities among individuals. In every tradition and in every country the place of a teacher, not only in the institution but also in society, has been glorified. According to a Japanese saying, a poor teacher tells, an average teacher teaches, a good teacher explains, an excellent teacher demonstrates and a great teacher inspires. To inspire the students, a teacher should discharge twin roles - one to mould himself and other to mould others.

In a nutshell it can be concluded that education without vision is waste, education without value is crime, and education without mission is a life burden. A nation with atomic power is not a strong nation but a nation with people with strong character is indeed a strong nation. Therefore, for the sustainable human development as well as for the social growth, there is a need of value based education, spiritual education, ethical education, as well as need based education. India has always been known for sound social values and character of its people, the impact of western values has adversely affected the mindset of people which can be rectified only by imbibing our value oriented educational system, which is of-course a big challenge. The challenge has to be met by collective introspections. In brief, the values are the guiding principles of life which are conducive for all round development to give direction and peace to life.

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