



Value Education: A Need of the Hour

DR. MANISH R. RAVAL

Assistant Professor,
G. D. Modi College of Arts, Palanpur
Gujarat (India)

Abstract:

Indian higher education system is widely recognized and respected across the globe. We had only 20 universities and 695 colleges during the time of independence. Today we have 785 universities and more than 38,000 colleges. We are creating higher education opportunities for the youth of nation but value education is in air. Value – education has become recently a very important need of the hour. Education is not merely expected to enhance knowledge and provide information but to make our students good citizens. NAAC guidelines also emphasize the inculcation of values among our students. We have value for everything in this material world but no value for values. Values are common to all just like truth is common to all. There are spiritual and moral values. The information and communication revolution have changed our lives but cannot prevent the breakdown in moral and spiritual values. We see the value based education was interwoven with the process of teaching in Gurukul in the Vedic period. The aim of education should be to train student to understand values and to appreciate human virtue.

Keywords: Education, Moral values, Significance of values, Spiritual values, Value -education

At the time of independence we had only 20 universities and 695 colleges. Today we have 785 universities and more than 38,000 colleges. Out of total colleges, 37% to Arts, Humanities, Commerce and Management, 16% Engineering and Technology, 4% Education, 4% Medicine, 2% Law, 0.5% Agriculture, 0.1% Veterinary and 1% others. Indian Higher Education, despite its limitations is widely recognized and respected across the globe. Most of the Indian universities are represented in most of the Universities of the world in terms of both the faculty as well as students. Indian Higher Education System is one of the largest systems in the world. The major wealth of the India is its youth (18-40 years of age) which covers almost 80 crore, 62% of the total population (127 crore, male 65.6 crore and female 61.4 crore). Only seven percent of the population in the 18-24 age groups has access to higher education. India will need 1500 universities to attain Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 18 percent by 2015. This is a key observation made by the National knowledge commission (NKC) in its note the Prime Minister on higher education.

No doubt we are creating higher education opportunities for the youth of nation. Though in the present system of educational pyramid, value education is in the air. We need to redefine the concept of Education. Value-education has become recently a very important need of the hour. With the advent of technology, it is some time felt that we have forgotten our old values. Without inculcation of values in our education system, we are creating intelligent, dynamic but valueless citizens leading to a moral collapse of society or civilization. Education is not merely expected to enhance knowledge and provide information but is also to build the character of students and make them good citizens. Even we see in guideline of NAAC the inculcation of values is given importance.

The seers of Vedic Age experience that man is basically divine and the goal of human life is to attain this divinity through a value based life. Values are guiding principles that shape our conduct and behavior. A system of values signifies an ideal and moral code of conduct that shape one's vision of life. Value-education is virtually going to emerge as a new science for inspiring human values in our

scientific and technological society. Education is the most important factor in society that is capable of transforming it. But the present education system is sometime not able to inculcate basic values of life in our youth with. We see the anarchy in the society- children don't obey their parents, students do not respect and trust their teachers, people have lost faith in the administration. We have value for everything in this material world but no value for values. Even human- relations are weighed in terms of gains and lose. The reason for this seems to be that, there is a growing conflict between the materialistic and spiritual view of life. We do not see moral upbringing. So, the youth lacks the seeds of moral values in him/ her.

Values are common to all, just like truth is common to all. There are spiritual values and moral values. Spiritual values are for individual upliftment and moral values are for the upliftment for both man and society. Here Teachers play very important part in inculcating the spiritual as well as the moral values such as truth, passionate response to human suffering, sacrifice, universal brotherhood, and respect for all religious, fearlessness, non- violence, peace etc. It has to give "the educated a proper sense of values" wrote Radhakrishnan. Later on they join administration, industry, commerce and other important fields of society. In the absence of moral value, the knowledge may harm to self and society.

Today the world faces some grave issues like violence, terrorism, poverty, hunger, environment decay, increase in juvenile crime, etc. It is true that advances in science and technology, particularly the information and communication revolution have changed our lives. But it is also failed to prevent the breakdowns in moral and spiritual values. It is needed very urgently to put more and result-oriented emphasis for the inculcation of values among students in higher education for the real growth of human life. It has been said "Man may be made better not as a consequences of education but during the process of education". By inculcating moral values among students, we can make them the finest human being of the nation.

Today we have forgotten elementary values like truth, goodness and beauty. Human being cannot live on love and fresh air. Wealth is needed in our daily life. We should instill the moral values in our students. The aim of any educational institution is not to teach its students the techniques of bread winning. It should foster an individual spiritual growth by transmission and inculcation of ethical values. An individual is always guided by his tolerance, love for fellow human being and humanity.

The main objective of education should be to equip the students to apprehend the values and develop in them sensitiveness of the soul to human needs. Every activity of human being is related to value. Values are the essence of the education system. To solve the problems of the scientific and technological age, we must put more emphasis on inculcation and promotion of values among youth in education. Education has been considered as an important tool for fostering values. During the present time, teaching community can inculcate and foster values and strengthen the ideal of 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam'. It is quite imperative to learn values and to decide what is moral and right. Values help persons to lead their life in a right direction. It is earnest responsibility of all of us to be role model for young generation as teachers, parents and guardians. Value education is more effective when it is caught rather than taught. In present time, every stakeholder of education should understand the significance of moral values such as honesty, righteousness, faithfulness, brotherhood, non - violence, peace, etc. In short we cannot understand life without understanding values.

We see the value- based education interwoven with the process of teaching in Gurukuls in the Vedic period and formed an integral part of Indian Education System. Though, it sometime not seen the present education system which only promotes competition and quantitative performance over qualitative development of students. We should civilize the human heart; habituate the students to right emotions and good moral, mental and physical habits. Values are the essence of the education system.

It is high time to discuss such an important issue which is mostly ignored by the stakeholders of education. It is felt that we are losing something noble and important. The trouble is that “the world is too much with us.” Simple living and high thinking have almost disappeared. The question is: how do we cope with this alarming situation? Parents and teachers should encourage their children and students to cooperate rather than to compete. The functions of the teachers are those of a philosopher, a guide and a friend. The aim of education should be to train student to understand values and to appreciate human virtues. Actually, we have lost our sight to see the actual purpose of our lives. Unless we control or correct the situation, we would no longer be considered as a pious land of culture and wisdom.

“We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded and by which one can stand on one’s feet. Education is not an amount of information that is put into your brain and runs riot there, undigested all your life. We must have life-building, man-making, character-making, assimilation of ideas.”-Swami Vivekananda

References

1. Beena Shah (2008). Technology, Values and Quality Education: A New Paradigm. University News, 46 (22), June p.4.
2. Jagannath K. Dange (2016). Quality and Quantity in Higher Education: Bridging the Gaps. University News, 54(01), January p.3
3. Mushahi Hussain and Kiran Lata Dangwal (2015). Value Enhancement in Technological Era. University News, 53 (44), November p. 3, 4.
4. Pankaj Mittal (2015). Need for Value-based Education System. University News, 53 (34), August: p. 4.
5. Rani Dhawan (2010). Value Education: Listening to the Voice of conscience. University News, 48(50), December p.18, 19.
6. Regeneration of Ethical Values. (2007). University News, 45 (29), July p. 21-23.
7. Swami Jitātma (2003). Value Education. Published by Shri. Ramakrishna Ashrama, Rajkot.