

A STUDY ON IMPORTANCE OF VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

¹Dr. Srikanth T

¹Associate Professor,

¹Department of History,

¹Govt. First Grade College, Malur, India

Abstract : Modern higher education is giving too prominence to syllabus and preparing students for getting job. Values are deteriorating among students in the globalization context. India has rich culture and heritage which once upon a time was very famous for its values and education throughout the world. But now material aims are only leading our students. Mere knowledge is not enough for building the nation. However, value based education is important to improve societal values and over all development of the country. Values improve humanity, peace and harmony among citizens. In this context, this paper highlights the importance of values in higher education which are equally important in sustainable development. Role of teachers, parents and society as a whole is given prominence in cultivating values among students.

IndexTerms- *humanity, peace and harmony*

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is a process of all round development of an individual-physical, intellectual, emotional, social, moral and spiritual and so on. It attempt towards human learning. Knowledge is light which guides the learning process is a systematic that leads life from falsity to truth and from ignorance to wisdom. Education aims at improvement of better living in the society. Education prepares man to face the challenges of various stages of life for betterment of his welfare. It is a systematic attempt towards human learning and acquiring knowledge.

Since ages education plays a predominant role in India to form its rich culture and heritage. Indian rich value based education system gave her recognition throughout the world since civilization. However, higher education in India has never been a mere transformation of information and techniques from books. It was a light to lead human life. It had rich values and culture which passed on through various generations. Value education has occupied a very important place in Indian education system.

These days in the context of globalization values are deteriorating in higher education replaced by job oriented education. Crime rates of all sorts are increasing in the society which is alarming us. Sincerity, integrity, patriotism, respect towards elders and other good values are declining among students. Modern students are least bothered about society and nation building.

In this context value based education has become the pivot for modern nation building with strong foundation of societal development. Values and value education has become a concern for parents, teachers and society at large. For the development of any society or nation, values play a very important role. Because values are guide us to shape our attitude, behavior, conduct and harmonic relationship with the society.

II. VALUES AND ITS IMPORTANCE

Values are virtues, ideals and qualities on which actions and beliefs are based. Values however are not acquired. Examples for values are mercy, love, kind, peace, happiness, compassion as well as the positive moral qualities such as tolerance, responsibility, respect, simplicity, honest and compassion. These can be described as a system of personality traits which are in harmony with inner behavior of an individual and in accordance with the societal approved values. These include beliefs, moral attitudes, philosophies of life, political ideologies etc. which are important for sustainable development which is the priority of world at present.

Rousseau has said "back to nature" but now time has come to say "back to basic Values". Values and higher education are inseparable. They are the part and parcel of education system. Hence aims of higher education is not only giving modern required education, but also imparting values along with, for betterment of the society.

Mere education in globalization context does not have value based education system. A terrorist, criminal and a thief all may be educated. But their activities are anti-social and endanger society's well-being. They use their education emotively for destruction of the society. But if these persons learn positive and negative values of their study, they may well understand the value of life and then they may disassociate themselves from destructive activities.

From time to time in India, various eminent scholars and committees stressed for value based education. In 1948 in Radhakrishnan Commission Report focused on our own cultural heritage. The Constitution in 1950 in its Preamble defined goals of education with equality which became the guiding factor. In 1972 Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, GOI in its paper titled, "Education in the 5th Five Year Plan 1974-79" has pointed out that transformation of the educational system has become necessity of present day with a view to cultivating the basic values of humanism, democracy, socialism and secularism.

However, there is a huge gap between the policy and practice. There is a criticism that quality education with value orientation is only on pages but not in practice. Modern education has confined itself with just syllabus and job oriented and not imparting values which are required for overall development of the nation. Globalization has prepared modern education that students get ready for jobs.

However, a man is judged by the actions what he performs for his betterment and also to his society. If he uses his educational skills only for his betterment that is a disguise. This may help him in getting some temporary benefit in the society but overall he loses the meaning of his own life that makes him feel isolated and disappointed. The purpose of education is self-affirmation and not self-negation. It is the process of removing the self-negating ideologies in order of self-affirmation. For these inculcating values in higher education is very essential. Role of Values in Indian Higher Education:

India is rich in its multi-religious, multi-lingual and multi-cultural structures. Education is the back bone to build strong nation in all aspects. For the survival of democracy also education is very important. Value based education is required for harmony and peace among citizens of all sex, caste and religion. If there is harmony and peace, the communities and the nation can progress. If there is internal conflict within the communities, it will affect the progress of the country. Value based higher education is occupied with the interest of the welfare of nation and society and is open to any who is fit to understand that, by getting higher education, they have some positively responsible roll to the nation.

Values guide us in the proper way of doing our duties as per our capacity and choice to make the life of an individual and community's collective life meaningful. Values are necessary for developing the human personality in all its dimensions- intellectual, physical, social ethical and moral. Value orientation is integral to all stages of upbringing, formal education, interaction between individuals and social groups. There should be balance between academic excellence, human values, job-oriented skill development and sustainable development.

Here, we can also note that with the changing demands and aspirations of the society, education environment is also changed a lot. However, modern education is merely focusing on syllabus, getting job, monetary rewards and so on. This in turn decline values among students which in future endanger country's overall development. It may even lead to increasing crime rates and conflicts between human beings.

Values in education are important to prepare our students who are future citizens of this country to think broad minded and do their duties sincerely. As we know, India is rich in its culture and heritage, with vast knowledge, wisdom and philosophy of values want citizens with high ethics. To prepare our future generation higher education with values play an important role. In a changed context of scientific and technological advancements, entire system of education needs to be redefined, reorganized, reshaped and recharged. Now at the threshold of the new millennium, it is a challenge before educationists to draw a program to prepare a student to understand, adopt and adhere to values for rich, satisfactory and meaningful individual and social life.

Without value education, the higher education will become lopsided and we all crave for responsible citizens for the state. Without values the corruption becomes uncontrolled and the economy is crippled. Hence, if sustainable development is the prime objective of all the individuals across the nations, then the pre-condition would be introduction of Value-Education in Higher Education Institute.

According to UGC (2003) 'the need of the hour is to inculcate human values in the students of HEIS, like quest for peace, adherence to truth and right to conduct, non-violence, compassion, tolerance, love for all living beings, respect for the Motherland and the glory of its culture and traditions in order to promote societal and responsible citizenship".

Educational institutions should give more importance to value based education rather than preparing the students to get more marks in examinations. Values should mould individual personality. Education should lead us in a right path. Here, we can also say that more knowledge and skills without humanity is waste.

Swami Vivekananda says "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 own feet". Values cultivates some of the qualities among students like caring for others, concern for the welfare of the society and nation, concern for the environment, cultural heritage, self-reliance, social responsibility, peace of mind, equality, justice, truth etc. Higher Education in the present era of LPG is stimulated by economic consideration without any reference to age old human values that separate man from animals. Severe competitions to achieve material success made man mechanical results in increasing the feeling of insecurity, distrust, lack of fellow feeling, lack of honor for human values etc. leading to discontent and maladjustment in personal and social life and finally leading to crimes and depressions. Earlier we found Gurukula education system wherein students with much obedience were learning and were also doing service taught them how to lead life with any challenges. However, currently we have more than 730 universities in Indi teaching different subjects with more focus on materialistic knowledge making our students to get ready for job. In olden days Indian universities excel in imparting life skills in whole world like Nalanda and Takshashila. Our Indian culture was recognize worldwide unique because of its blossomed values.

Now as generations are pass on, Indian education system is deviated away from its history and culture, while crime and violence have spread to all spheres of life. Doubtless, the scientific discoveries have given rise to genuine optimism materialistic accomplishments, but the problems of inequity, conflicts, poverty, apathy and anxiety are on the rise. What we need now for our students are morality, faith, human rights development, self-development, leadership and personality development.

In India, importance of value education has been realized since independence. Many committees, great people like Mahatma Gandhi, Tagore etc. and UNESCO, NCERT all tried and tried hard to change the higher education system with values incorporated.

However, our modern education is undergoing radical changes. In the present era of globalization, when pressure of competitions becomes enormous in society, the material education often welcomes different degrees of demoralizations both in public and private life. So the students who are the future citizens have to be trained to respond to and adjust with these social changes satisfactorily by equipping them with desirable skills and values. The main reasons for degradation of human values in higher education are lack of learning positive atmosphere, lack of academic syllabus related to human values and lack of extracurricular activities based on human values. The result of this degradation of values is changing the world materialistic. Now, the time has come to re incorporate the values in higher education so that we can again revive our glorious Indian culture back.

III. SUGGESTIONS

Following are the suggestions of the paper to improve our higher education system where in values play predominant role.

1. Our education system should try to focus more and more on quality upgradation along with more application and practices.
2. Education must teach life skills so that students should be ready to face any challenges.
3. It must promote virtues to raise the moral, spiritual and social values.
4. Morning meetings, prayers, literary works, discussions over social problems and other cultural activities are to be increased.
5. Birthdays of legends and great personalities should be celebrated along with their ideas, teachings and thought.
6. Adequate awareness is to be generated among the adults through various mass media and organizations.
7. It is very essential that moral awareness is promoted to orient the progress in science and technology towards the welfare of mankind.
8. Discipline, moral education, physical exercises should be compulsorily the part of day to day education system.
9. Human beings should not be treated as commodity that can be disposed of when they cannot help the material cause.
10. Education should teach students democratic values and human rights.
11. Appreciating pupil's new ideas, innovations to improve the society.
12. Giving less directions, commands or orders to students and instead creating an environment where students should think independently.
13. Adopting creative models of teaching
14. Providing adequate opportunities to pupils to observe, to ask questions and experience things.
15. Organizing group projects and group discussions.
16. Encouraging folk songs and dances and native performances.
17. Role-plays constitute another important model for inculcating values among very young students. These plays allow students to place themselves in the position of others which can develop student's values like co-operation, good manners.
18. Social service programs are also very helpful to inculcate many values like tolerance, co-operation etc.
19. There is a need for producing literature especially designed for value orientation of education.
20. Special teacher - orientation programs should be organized to train teachers in the effective methods of development of values among students and teachers.
21. Celebrating National Days
22. Celebrating Festivals
23. Organizing camps
24. Re thinking about multidisciplinary perspectives.
25. Policy makers have also equal responsibilities to implement proper education which give equally importance to modern teaching and ancient values.
26. Developing qualities among students like love towards environment, society and fellow human beings
27. Along with modern teaching aids ancient ways of teaching aids can also be merged in teaching.
28. Encouraging gardening, afforestation and planting programs among students.

IV. CONCLUSION

India is rich in cultural heritage and is a country with an ancient civilization so well known for its well defined system of education. Education is perceived as a Mere academic knowledge means of ensuring the future well-being of student's. without deep rooting of moral and spiritual values will only fashion lop-sided personalities which may become rich in material possession, but will remain poor in self-understanding, peace and social concerns. Education is a methodical effort towards learning basic facts about humanity. Today we have entered into 21st century and our country is somewhere lost under the influence of western culture. Knowledge without values is not only useless but is dangerous too for the society. Modern education has become material based system with soft skills, technology and science. However, our students are not learning values of peace, harmony, life skills, humanity, commitment towards society and nation. Hence, our higher education needs value based syllabus and curriculum so that country can develop in all spheres of life. Values are important for over all development.

REFERENCES

- [1] www.bhu.ac.in
- [2] www.oecd.org
- [3] www.gyanamamritum.wordpress.com
- [4] www.soegra.com
- [5] http://mpira.ub.uni-muenchen.de