

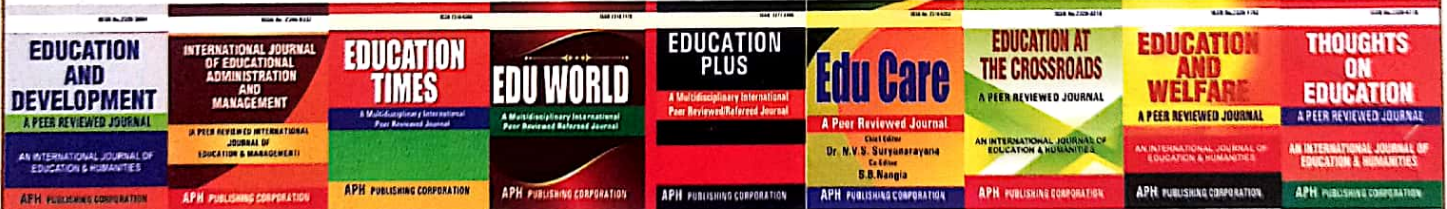


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Value System & Beliefs

Dr. Narendra Vasant Raghatate*

INTRODUCTION

Every one of us has certain ideas about what is good and bad, what is right and wrong. These ideas induce us to do certain things and prevent us from doing other things. They are called values. These Values have a strong place in our life. But as we observe there has been immense diversity of views as to what is good and bad, right and wrong in human character and conduct. These moral ideas change as social life (change in social life could be broadly traced to geographical, economical and cultural factors). Everyone and every society have certain values about what is desirable and undesirable. These values are learnt by the individual from the society. Values are the principals based on ethical philosophy and ideology. They govern and guide human life. Values in any society care for humanity for a person and for development of the person. They are concerned about groups; groups living society as a whole and more over about universe. The sense of values is the special features of human beings. Non-human animal life is rightly considered as the value neutral or amoral life. Only human life is either moral or immoral. For only man has the sense of moral discrimination. Values are operative in human beings only. A world without values is a world without meaning.

What values are?

According to dictionary –“*value is a relative worth, merit or importance*”. Genuine value is something that is Permanent. Something that is eternal. By being intangible, the object of value is guaranteed to preserve.

Where our children are learning these values?

It may be from parents, teachers, religious leaders, society, environment, television, movies, etc. A value is a relationship between a person and an environmental situation which evokes an appreciative response in the individual.

TYPES OF VALUES

The term is difficult to define because the experience described is personal and immediate. Just as hot or cold, green or red, sweet or sour need to be experienced if one is really to know them, so a value also must be experienced.

- Values are both- **Objective and Subjective**.
- **Objective Value**- there is something which makes it appealing to us, and our value judgment is in some sense a description of what we find.
- **Subjective Value**- which a thing seems to have arise from its satisfaction of some desire and interest.

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There is different type of values- Social values, Political values, Moral values, Educational values, Economical values, National values, Legal values.

- Above all these values there are certain universal values. Values may change from region to region, nation to nation, culture to culture and community to community.
- Moral values depends on various factors like culture, religion, tradition and certain established conventions What is morally good in one particular country may not be morally good in some other country. What is considered morally good in one religion may not be the same in some other religion? However, the universal values do not change under any kind of circumstances. Ex; Speaking the Truth is a universal virtue. So universal morality is acceptable in everywhere as it enjoys everlasting place in our lives. The world may get older to any extent; the universal moral values will never lose their importance and significance.

So what are these Intangible values? They are values that are internal in nature

- **These values are –SATYA (TRUTH), AHIMSA (NON-VIOLANCE), ASTHEYA (NON-STEALING), BRAMHACHARYA (VIRJIN), APARIGRAHA (SATISFACTION)**
- **Other than these above values -LOVE, SPIRITUALITY, FREEDOM, BROTHERHOOD, EQUALITY, JUSTICE, etc.**

Love

The value of universal is selfless love. Love, which is offered for the sake of itself, without expecting anything in return. It is selfless, without the involvement of the ego. The love that is fully accepting and never discriminating. True love does not need entitlement. It is the manifestation of the Creator, offered to the universe as a beautiful gift.

Spirituality

It is the value of spiritual evolution. It is the timeless principle that guides you forward seeking to reunite you to your Creator. Spirituality gives purpose to your life and the very reason for your existence. When spiritual evolution attunes you to God, you achieve permanent joy and peace in your life.

Freedom

The value of freedom is a fundamental necessity for all beings. We as spiritual beings, require the freedom of thought, the freedom of beliefs, the freedom of pursue our destiny, no matter what the destiny is. Freedom is our birthright, given to us to fulfill our destiny to evolve into something greater than ourselves

Purushartha

Human life without any one of the broad four values-

- **DHARMA-** moral values such as duties, virtues, etc;
- **ARTHA-**wealth and political values;
- **KAMA-**happiness and aesthetic joy;
- **MOKSHA-**liberation or true self-realization.

Other Values

- The values of love, kindness, gratitude, human dignity, labor, co-operation, sense of duty, responsibility, justice, etc. Serve as the special features of human nature and consequently of human life, both social and individual.
- Education is a process of inculcating values in the minds of educators. It can be a great instrument of the desirable social transformation through individual transformation.

TYPES OF VALUES

Individualistic Values-

The most inherent value of a person is individualistic which means valuing the self over anything else in the world. This is also the most natural value which is inherent in every animal in the world. The individualistic value support freedom as it believes that every person has the right to decide what is good for him.

Family Values

The concept of family has given rise to the family value where a family is considered to be the basic unit of the society instead of the individual. The family has right and power to control the other member of the family. In a family system, the members of the family divide their work. For ex.-father earns the livelihood and protect the family being the strongest member of the family. The mother takes care of the family by cooking food, cleaning house and rearing children. The entire system of family value is maintained by tradition and trust.

Professional Values

Every person has to join an organization to earn his livelihood and to contribute to the society. These organizations are designed to serve a specialized function of the society and thus need a set of value to keep all members of the organization motivated and united. Thus men develop a set of values due to his profession. Each profession has its own set of values which often contradict the value of another profession.

National Values

The National values are often codified in their laws that seek to grant quality and justice to all its citizens. There is wide diversity in these laws as the requirement of each country is different. The violation of national values is treated criminal acts which are punished by the State.

Moral Values

The disparity and injustice by law is largely reduced due to the prevalence of the moral values in the society which need not to be codified in the statute books. Yet the moral values are passed on from one generation to another by tradition. The moral values are often more powerful to keep the man on the right path than the legal enforcement.

Spiritual Values

The spiritual values are often attributed to God and called divine. The spiritual values include love, compassion, justice, truth, etc. It is the nature of the man to imbibe these values irrespective

of his religion, race, culture or nationality. These values are so universal that all human beings seem to understand it without being taught. The spiritual values unite all human beings in the world. The feeling of love and compassion cut across all barriers of religion, race and nationalities. The spiritual values cannot be eliminated from man and these are universal.

Aesthetic Values

Just like, -beauty, agony, sublime, etc.

UNDERSTANDING INDIAN VALUE SYSTEM

Generally we speak of acceptable and emulative value in life which contribute to and reflect the good character and conduct are formed in a person having good moral or virtues or ethics. In other words, the moral or ethical values are what we consider as value applicable to human beings. Just like, DHARMA (Swadharma, Sadharan dharma). Vedas is as much the source of Indian value system as the source of much of the traditional knowledge, practice and customs which reflects the imbibed values. Traditional values can sometimes sway us to do wrong thing parallel to our own personal beliefs. People, Places and things shape these values and cause us to surrender to situation that neither influence nor hold our interest. Beliefs are taught to a child in subtle ways such as just listening to the parents and their opinions from everything including politics, social problems, moral issues and even opinions about how others behave.....

Our greed for wealth and fame has transcended all the moral barriers and has reached the extent where we do not mind doing anything if our purpose is served.

The violence, the terrorism, the extremists' activities, the nexus between criminals and politicians has shaken the very foundation of our faith in moral values and no one can predict where we shall end up.

Universal human values are fast deteriorating and the result is that our society is becoming only materialistic having no regard for the age-old spiritual and ethical virtues like goodness, kindness, mercy, pity, sympathy, brotherhood, equality, justice and so on. All this is possible only if we in all sincerity add moral education to our present curriculum and take care that it is properly and effectively inculcated in them in such a manner that willingly on their own they will practice it in their day to day life.

MORAL VALUES FOR STUDENTS

When we speak of curriculum, we generally mean the subjects like Math, Science, Social Studies and Language courses. But we generally do not consider moral values as being part of the curriculum. We fail to realize that the neglect of teaching moral values in Schools and Colleges has resulted in many social and moral evils in society.

As parents, teachers and educators, it is our duty to see that moral values are taught in our Schools and Colleges in all seriousness with the spirit and enthusiasm of an evangelist.

TEACHING OF UNIVERSAL MORAL VALUES

While teaching of moral values, the stress should be more on the teaching of universal moral values which the students should follow in their personal and social life. They include unconditional love and kindness, honesty, dignity of labor, hard work, respect for the human being (Kant's categorical imperatives), co-operation, compassion (sympathy, empathy, kindness, care) and forgiveness, sense of accommodation and adjustment, consideration for others and developing good-will and understanding

towards all other members of society should be given prime importance. Democracy implies respect for every individual, respect for human dignity and respect for the opinion of every individual. The core democratic values are the fundamentals, beliefs and constitutional principles of our country which unites the people, the value which are express in the constitution.

Right to live, liberty, pursuit of happiness, respect for the common good, justice, equality, diversity, truth, sovereignty and patriotism constitute the democratic values.

In the era of globalization which promotes business and commerce all across the world and visualizes a boundary free trade, education and job opportunities, it is high necessary to introduce moral education in the school and college level curriculum to ensure the survival and substance of human progress. Now it has been realized that no nation can ever progress in isolation, the principal of co-operation and co-ordination among all the nations has to be adopted. Under such circumstances it is through the universalisation of moral values through education that we can overcome all the hurdles that may stand to arrest human progress and advancement.

As such values reflect a person's sense of right and wrong or what "ought" to be. "Equal rights for all", "Excellence deserves admiration" and "People should be respect and dignity" are representative of values.

Values tend to influence attitude and behavior. A personal value is absolute or relative ethical value, the assumption which can be the basic for ethical action. A value system is a set of consistent values and measures.

DISCUSSION

- Development of tradition and culture is a social phenomenon.
- Traditions are formed over a period of time and are developed from our family and society.
- Rituals and customs are developed according to the taste of the people and the climatic conditions. Therefore, they are preserved in the society for centuries.
- Culture is reflected from festivals, customs, sports and pastime.