Importance Of Spiritual, Moral And Ethical Values For The Students Of 21st Century

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Abstract

Values play a very significant role in students' life. Students are considered as the backbone of any nation. Hence, values are necessary for them in developing positive and desirable character that tends to embrace essential human qualities. One of the major emerging issues of the 21st century is the degradation of values among students. Several potent factors are responsible for erosion of values among them that hampers their overall progress abruptly. Therefore, it is imperative to study the importance of spiritual, moral, and ethical values for the students in order to understand their role in guiding their behavior and establishing a fair, healthy, and conducive atmosphere in the society. Moreover, these values help to bring enough consciousness as well as positivity among students and help to prepare them to be an efficient citizen for the welfare of the nation. Thus, the present paper aims to explore the concept of spiritual, moral, and ethical values, their importance for the students of 21st century, causes of value degradation and necessary suggestive measures for effective value inculcation among students.

Keywords: Spiritual Value, Moral Value, Ethical Value, Importance of Values in 21st century, Cause of Value Degradation, Suggestive Measures

Introduction

Values are the important guiding principles of human life. Values are the fundamental beliefs that govern individuals' behavior and actions. It helps the individuals to take right decision about what is wrong or right, good, or bad. It represents socially desirable code of conduct. Values are the shared conceptions about anything that is regarded as proper or improper, desirable, or undesirable in the society. Individuals learn the core values of the society from family, school, neighbor, friends, peer-group, religious and other organization, books, media and other sources. Various literatures have given emphasis upon the importance of human values. In Mahabharata, the importance of truth that is Satyam is brought out in the following slokas:

"Satyameveswaro Loke Satyaddharma Pratishtitaha

Satya Moolani Sarvani Satyam Nasti Param Padam."

Values differ from person to person and from one society to another society. It represents the judgmental aspects that reflects person's thoughts, ideas, behaviors, beliefs. Values are mainly stem from social and cultural mores. The **Kothari Commission** also known as **National Education Commission 1964** provide necessary suggestions to upgrade the quality of the then existing education system of the country. The commission also laid stress upon the formation of proper character of the students and their adequate inculcation of moral and spiritual values through appropriate strategies at all levels of education.

Definition of Value

T.W. Hippie defined value as "Values are conscious or unconscious motivators and justifiers of the actions and judgement".

H. M. Johnson defined value as "Values are general standards and may be regarded as higher order norms."

According to the sociologist **Durkheim**, values are important in regulating the disruptive passions of individuals.

Concept of Spiritual, Moral and Ethical Values

- ▪ **Spiritual Value:**

    These are the integrative values based on faith of the individual. These values help in spiritual growth and development of the individual. Such as integrity, honesty, goodness, mannerism, simplicity, truthfulness.

    M. Imomnazarov defined spirituality as "Spirituality is the divine light in the human heart." According to him, spirituality appears as light of truth that continues to reflect in the human heart which represents the mirror of human soul.

    T. Mahmudov defined spirituality to be a concept embracing a certain degree of individuals' physical, mental, moral perspectives, spiritual maturity and also their views about the world.

    A. Erkaev believed spirituality to be an important integral unity of various original qualities and attributes of human beings that represents the essence of socio-cultural being. These include qualities like honesty, conscience, justice, kindness, patriotism, love of beauty, righteous, pleasure, loyalty.

    According to **Vedanta,** the human soul constitutes of fives Koshas namely:

    a. **Annamaya**

    b. **Pranamaya**

    c. **Manomaya**

    d. **Vigyanamaya**

    e. **Anandmaya**

It is believed that when individual goes beyond the bondage of any of these five koshas, it is possible to attain higher and deeper level of knowledge by him. Such knowledge tends to facilitate individual's performance in any social and religious affairs and also in the development of different human values. Therefore, spirituality enables all to develop adequate awareness about the necessity of core essential values.

- **Moral Value**:

  These values help individuals to take right decisions based on mainly ethics. These represents some principles but not any rule. Moral values moderate actions and decisions of individuals. Such as honesty, loyalty, compassion, responsibility.

  In the words of **Aristotle**, moral value means a disposition that enable individual to behave in a proper and right way. According to him, moral values are certain virtues that acted as a mean existing between the extremes of deficiency and excess which constitute the vices.

  The word **'morality'** is derived from the Latin word **'moralis'** meaning customs, character, and manner. **(Earle, 1992:178).** According to **Sternberg (1994:938)**, moral values are concerned with good or right things in people's relationship with each other. **Carol K. Sigelman** believed that moral values constitute of three basic components. These are:

  a. **An Affective or Emotional Component** (feelings of individual about good or bad, vice and virtues)

  b. **A Cognitive Component** (Individuals conceptualization about how to behave in a right manner)

  c. **A Behavioural Component** (reflecting right or wrong behaviour of the individuals)

  According to **Socrates**, morality is associated with thought of the individual. Moral values are the virtues of knowing about what refers to good and thereby putting that proper knowledge in actual practice.

- **Ethical Values**:

  The word **'ethics** has been derived from the Greek word **'ethos'** meaning character or conduct. Ethical values are the values that govern actions and decisions based on the functions of individuals' moral beliefs. These values reflect an individual sense of good or bad, right, or wrong.

  According to **Dewey**, the core subject-matter of ethics is to pint out what is good and right in conduct of an individual.

  G. E. Moore considers supreme good as subject-matter of ethics.

  Mackenzie opined ethics to be a general study of ideals that are involved in human life.

  In the words of **Muirhead**, Ethics is not only concerned with the individuals' temporal behaviour but also it forms the basis of their legal decision.

Importance of Values in 21st century

1. **Integrating healthy social relationships effectively:** This may help students to develop effective and controlled communication strategies. Healthy social relationships help students to reduce stress, anxiety and depression and thereby tends to support better mental health.

2. **Building up society for better living and peaceful co-existence:** Values are necessary in order to maintain peace in the society. Values enable students to develop certain human qualities so that they can able to bring and maintain stability and integrity in the society by resolving various conflicts.

3. **Development of culture and its desirable traits:** This may be possible through proper inculcation of values among the students so that they can actively take part in different cultural activities. Hence, a culturally rich society may be established that tends to enhance the quality of life and well-being of all community members.

4. **Improving personality of individuals to a great extent:** Values help to develop proper personality of the students to a huge extent. Good communication skills, interpersonal skills, discipline, confidence, good sense of humor and other essential qualities make students more efficient in any activities, strengthen their existing knowledge and potentialities.

5. **Assessing individuals' action as well as attitude within the society:** Values aim to regulate students' action and behavior in a controlled way. This help students in their process of socialization effectively.

6. **Establishing desirable socially accepted norms:** Values govern students' ways of behaving with others in society and thereby enable them to follow the socially accepted norms that are considered desirable as well appropriate in any society.

7. **Increasing motivation of the students in any productive activity:** Due to the lack of sufficient motivation, students often perform poorly in may activities. Proper value inculcation is necessary to bring motivation of the students so that they can adjust, adapt and accommodate effectively for the wellbeing of all in the society.

8. **Affecting students' perceptions greatly:** By influencing perceptions of the students, values determine a students' potentialities to function productively. Values also enable students to tackle their needs and problems purposefully.

9. **Controlling the improper attitude and behavior of the individuals:** values are required to control the disruptive behavior of the students within the society. Both the formal and non-formal organizations must inculcate necessary values among the students so that they may understand their role and responsibility as a member of the society.

10. **Enabling individual to interact with others harmoniously and reducing social problem:** Fostering values tends to facilitate students to develop good interpersonal skills that enable them to interact with others effectively. Students with proper values may also able to reduce various forms of social problems that destroy the harmony and integrity in the society.

Causes of value degradation among students

1. **Disoriented and disorganized family structure** fails to infuse values among the children. Families exhibiting such character often develop poor bond with their children and hence, children display disorganized behavior and unhealthy attitude.

2. **Lack of consciousness and ignorance** among parents regarding proper development of values within children. These are responsible for poor value development among students.

3. **Adverse influence of social media** among the students are also responsible for value deterioration in present days. Social media by promoting negative experiences hamper necessary value inculcation among the students. excessive use of social media may possess an increased risk for more erosion of values among students as it tends to enhance anxiety, stress, depression, identity crisis within students.

4. **Improper parental attitude and behavior** affects value inculcation among children. Unhealthy attitude, poor bonding, low affection by parents towards children may also hinders fostering of essential human values among them.

5. **Faulty education system** fails to inculcate proper values among students. defective system of education at various level may termed to be another major factor that hampers value development among the students. In the contemporary situation, emphasis must be given more on learner-centered approach.

6. **Lack of appropriate curriculum** of the prevailing education system at all levels. The present curriculum must include value-based education so that both the teachers and students may get conscious about the necessity of core values for peaceful existence within the society.

7. **Presence of gender-bias, violence, greed, class conflict, isolation, unrest, antisocial behavior, dirty politics and various sorts of corruptions** within the society. Presence of such unethical practices greatly affect the process of value development among the students and therefore, students are becoming more prone to lead more disturbed and unhealthy living conditions.

8. **Modernization and materialistic way of living** hamper the development of proper values. In present times, individuals prefer to adopt the traits of modernization and often feel satisfied in leading materialistic way of living. Such life-style fails to inculcate essential core human values effectively within individuals specially among the students. Hence, students are becoming arrogant, desperate, dishonest, indiscipline in their attitude and behavior.

9. **Privatization of educational institutions**: Most of the educational institutions are becoming profit-making organizations that tend to transform education into business. Hence, they are least bothered regarding the development of proper values among students.

10. **Lack of positive learning environment**: Positive and healthy learning environment also enable students to learn values from the schools and other formal agencies of learning. Lack of such condition hampers fostering of values among them and therefore, students are not able to develop various essential life skills properly.

11. **Lack of discipline, identity crisis and arrogance**: These are also responsible for degeneration of values among the students of 21st century. As a result of these, students fail to adequately adjust and function productively within the society.

12. **Rapid rate of unfavorable economic change**: In present times, due to the rapid economic fluctuations, the education system also gets adversely affected. Such situation leads to the privatization of the educational institutions that holds profit-making attitude instead of taking care of the long-term development of the academic institutions.

Suggestive Measures

1. **Proper guidance and control** of children by parents is extremely needed in order to curb their disapproving attitude.

2. **Increasing awareness** about the importance of values among the parents is required so that they may foster necessary human values to their children at very early stage of socialization.

3. **Introducing value-based education** in to the formal education curriculum is said to be one of the important steps that may help in value development among the students. such education may address the present needs and problems of the students and help them in molding as well as directing their way of action and decision to desirable one.

4. **Adopting effective teaching strategies** by the teachers to encourage positive learning environment. The teachers must follow innovative teaching practices to ensure overall development of the students and ultimately help them in value inculcation.

5. **Increasing motivation** of students in curricular and co-curricular activities at various level of education is needed. Increased motivation helps students to acquire necessary knowledge and skills to perform any function in productive manner.

6. **Establishing healthy and congenial teacher-pupil relationships** are necessary for inculcation of values among students.

7. Teachers at various level of education must play a **role-model** to foster values among students.

8. **Democratic way of learning** is needed to be encouraged in the classroom. Such learning atmosphere instills skills such as cooperation, collaboration, acceptance, loyalty, honesty etc.

9. **Schools must conduct suitable programmes** where students can participate actively with others. Such programmes may foster values among students effectively.

10. **Developing moral, spiritual, and ethical values** through various formal and non-formal agencies are required.

11. **Removing various forms of discriminations**, violence, injustice from the society so that these may not hamper students' academic performance and wellbeing of the society.

12. **Control of political organizations** is necessary because their influence on the society creates unnecessary conflicts, chaos, tension, discrimination, violence. Prevalence of such negative aspects hamper proper development of essential human values among the students of 21st century.

Conclusion

It is necessary to develop spiritual, moral, and ethical values for the students of 21st century so that they can perform better in various productive activities in their life. Spirituality is a powerful guiding force that enables individuals towards spiritual form of purification as well as ascension. This helps to enrich the inner soul of individual and thereby strengthens various qualities and potentialities to a great extent. Various existing socio-economic conditions of the society and spiritual state of the man forms the basis for the emergence and proper development of different values. Hence, values do not develop spontaneously. Values are needed for the progress of a nation, for its social, economic, cultural spiritual development. All these are necessary for the nations' civilization. The list of important human core values of Indian culture has been provided by **Shobha Kulkarni** in **Bodhavachanas:**

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Satyam Vad|

Dharmam Char|

MatrudevoBhav|

PitrudevoBhav|

AacharyadevoBhav|

AtithidevoBhav|

SwaddhyayanmaPramadah|

ShraddhayaDeyam|

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By enhancing value development, students may develop essential human qualities and desirable life-skills that enable them to adjust and accommodate effectively for peaceful living. This also enable the students to create positive atmosphere for both morality and humanity. Fostering necessary values among students also help them to prosper academically as well as professionally to a great extent. Therefore, it is necessary to adopt constructive approaches for inculcation of values among students so that they may imbibe the most adorable and important human values properly.

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