

Values and Education

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Abstract

Today, life is at fast pace and becoming complex at the same time. The norms of family, society, professions etc. are being constantly metamorphosed according to the time. To inculcate an altruist as well as balanced persona in the students, it is detrimental in today's competitive yet humane world. Therefore, it is imperative that we must make serious effort to inculcate values and ethics not only in children but also in adults. To define, values are the principles that lay a solid foundation for a well civilized society. These can be embedded in the personality of the individuals through education, which is an important medium of laying foundation of an individual's life. In this article, we have tried to specify the importance of ethics and values and the need and ways of education to promote ethical values in individuals.

Introduction-

Education has for its object the formation of character.

- **Herbert Spencer**

It is of firm belief that education makes a man perfect in its attire and helps in grasping meaningful experiences in life. In today's modernized world, we witness many value fluctuations in individual. This is true that there have been many changes influencing our mind set and even our value patterns but the variety of situation is that there has been an encumbrance in the way to ethical patterns of life. This lag can only be unravelled with infusing values through education. Moreover, ethics in life are to help in answering problems about what is right or ought to be done, as human beings have an innate ethical sense that urges them to make predictable choices. Although most people believe that their actions are guided by logic and reason, reason often acts only as a mechanism to justify those choices. Education is about recognizing the real power of one's innate ethical sense and how it influences our behaviour. There have been many Indian philosophers who valued the role of education to metamorphize individual to a humane personality. Taking the example of Indian Legendary philosophers like Mahatma Gandhi, Sri Aurobindo Ghosh, Rabindranath Tagore and many more, all of them have stressed the importance of values and the role of education in composed as well as balanced personality. Moreover, behaviour is always expected to be one that reflects the ambivert nature of a person. This is best acknowledged by Johann Wollang Goethe when he said that, 'Behaviour is a mirror in which everyone shows his image.'

"The highest education is that which does not merely give us information, but makes our life in harmony with all existence."

- **Rabindranath
Tagore**

In light of this, values for man serves as a motivating force behind his actions which are indeed reflection of his/her thoughts. The foreground is that the value scale which sets the priorities for values must be unequivocal, i.e. to say designing a hierarchical pattern of need based values as well as those which are absolute and hard to attain, that is self-actualization. In our context, the aim of attaining self-actualization is foremost and our teaching learning has to work in this direction of creating humane and at the same time individuals who continuously thrive to be self-actualized.

Utility of values in education-

1. building of human beings with strength and power
2. promoting personality development and social cohesion
3. development of vocational efficiency
4. adjustment with environment and its modification
5. promoting national integration and its modification
6. empathize each other
7. understand the dynamics and realm of life
8. enhance self awareness
9. be humane in times of stress
10. understand their existence and purpose in this world
11. respect elders and become a strong support for them

Understanding this and looking at the present situation, it is appalling to know that the modern society especially the third world including India is worried about what is called as value crisis. There are many signals that indicate the slow deterioration of values-

1. impurity of mind
2. lack of moral courage
3. biased decisions in life
4. extreme and nefarious behaviour
5. self-centeredness
6. lack of empathizing nature
7. increasing incidents of violent behaviour
8. lack of respect for elders

As an educator we cannot ignore these facts. Therefore, the importance of values and education is oh higher need. We move forward to view education as an important tool that encompasses the various methodologies and techniques of teaching and designing activities for the better understanding of the concepts, chalking out problems of the students, giving remedial at times and so on. With this, the foreground responsibility comes on the teachers.

Role of Teachers

1. Teachers should encourage pupils to consider the moral values, thereby developing knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable them to develop as reflective thinkers.
2. Infusing different methods like storytelling, project method and even problem solving method. The aim is to indulge students in the practice of introspection.

3. Transacting curriculum in classes and schools also needs the inputs of teachers that focus on values embedded teaching activities.
4. Activities that provide encouragement to basic human values like providing real life situations, emphasizing on educational and interactive games and most importantly understanding child psychology.
5. Teachers themselves need to be role models for the students.
6. Conduct role plays so that students understand the emotions and feelings of the character they play.
7. Show documentaries of legendary philosophers and other personalities like Mother Teresa and help them to reflect on them.
8. Through curricular subjects, teacher should develop important values in an integrated approach. A moral lesson from a poetry/story in English subjects and link it to any topic from Environmental Sciences. Likewise conceptual clarity can be given to the students.
9. Academic activities will inculcate Scientific, Social, Economic, Utilitarian, Cultural, Moral, Intellectual etc.
10. The hidden curriculum, institutional climate, personality of the teacher and functioning of institution transmits ethical values.
11. Conduct inter-house competitions of debates and discussions on themes of values, for example, care of old citizens etc.
12. Teachers should ask the students to organize a program like quiz and for this to work in cooperative manner, letting them understand the importance of the small gestures of thanks, appreciation etc.

Conclusion

The best thing is to let the students pursue that to which their natural desire for competition freely inclines them. It is well said by Confucius "Choice, not chance Determines destiny". They must learn self-control to overcome the challenges in life and prove they to be audacious in their approach to life.

Therefore ethical values can be provided by creating a congenial environment and training students for selfless as well as unsullied services to humankind.

References

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