

Education for Transformation

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Abstract

Values form an important element of the personality of an individual. These values influence their thought and behavior in an unconscious manner. It has, therefore, now become essential that education should try to transform a human being into an asset who can become individuals of sterling character who can place service of society above service of the self.

To highlight the need of value inculcation among our young generation, author has tried to give a picture of the present day society and a remedy thereof in the form of value education so that this transformation can take lace effectively.

The word 'Education' is just like a diamond which when seen from different angles appears to be of different colour. In the narrow sense, it is a planned, organized and formalized process which is imparted at a particular place and at a definite time. It is also imparted by definite persons (teachers) to definite persons (students). The evaluation is done in terms of marks and grades score by them. The main aim of education, here, is to produce the literate man. Hence in modern time, education has generally become a means to pass the examination and attain a degree.

This is only the narrow sense for education. In its wider sense, life is education and education is life. It includes all experience one gains in one's life. It ends only with life. Hence Education should be Man-Making Education. In fact, education in the present day context is used as means for intellectual development and inculcation of spiritual and moral values is being totally neglected. If we have a look at our society today, the situation is very discouraging. Now-a-days though there are spectacular advances in science and technology, there can be no two opinions on the fact that there is an urgent need to sustain the value system in human relations. Integrity, honesty, uprightness and ethics have become rare commodities among the so called educated one. We are constantly victimizing erosion of values, the disruption of social fabric of the society and the breaking up of age old ties. The society seems to be bursting with violence and anger. Entire world is in turmoil. Ironically the conditions are more pathetic in India, the land of the Gita. In general, in spite of various means of modern and material life at their command, humanity at large is in a state of unhappiness. All of a sudden life seems to have become very cheap. Somewhere in our life, we seem to have forgotten the difference between right and wrong. We have discovered nuclear power. But do we have the ethical maturity to make judicious use of such powers. The answer to this question is not very positive at this moment. Our values have become distorted and we seem to be drifting towards grave social disorder. Students' indiscipline, senseless destruction of public property, increasing incidences of crime are few examples of deteriorating situation in present day.

Hence, extra efforts are needed to make nationality prevail for the future of mankind. We will have to recapture the spirit of the values cherished and held sacred in our land. Education will have to transform human being from a mere physical being to a spiritual being who can enter into the relation of life, mind and soul of humanity. We will have to educate the hearts of our young generation in addition to educating their heads. We will have to touch the heart and mind of our students in such a way that their entire life is transformed completely.

In India, education has always been regarded a source of illumination and power which transform a human being into a divine being. It has a long history of organized education in the Gurukuls. Education at that time aimed at developing the virtue of self-control, self-respect, love, co-operation sympathy etc. among the students. Other than this, considerable attention was paid to propagate and protect national culture. Objective of that education was to impart knowledge, skills, habits, attitudes and values necessary for an individual to perform one's responsibilities successfully as a citizen and development of innate talent power and the capacity to appreciate the splendors of life for a rewarding personal life.

It is a great tyranny that education of 20th century did not fail to teach human beings 3 R's i.e. reading, writing or arithmetic but failed to teach them to live together in peace and to harness the potential in individuals to its full development.

Knowledge for the sake of knowledge is not education. Real education provide the scope for developing the excellences that each child has within and which can be lighted up by giving him appropriate environment.

Strategies for transformation :

- a) Develop a culture of peace in all that we think and do. We will have to find out where the mankind has gone wrong. Education will have to give importance to co-operation rather than competition and curb the wrong use of power.
- b) Education should help the student to realize the ultimate goal of the life i.e. to live peacefully and harmoniously as a well adjusted personality.
- c) Education should develop in the children the right attitude towards life.
- d) Education should make efforts to develop a global mind and behavior shift from the way we currently think and interact.
- e) Teachers should be positive role models for children by showing them peaceful ways to thinking and behaving.
- f) Everyone i.e. families, colleagues, neighbours, classmates, government and all other should be involved in creating a culture of peace by making collaborative efforts.
- g) Teachers may establish procedures of meditation and reconciliation in the classrooms.
- h) Teacher should respect the differences and similarities among fellow beings.
- i) Teacher should adopt non-violence solutions to conflicts through meditations and conflict resolving strategies.
- j) Schools should function as 'zones of peace' where children can feel safe.

Ours is a multi-cultural society. It is necessary to bridge the gap between different cultures that inhabit the country and recognizing a common national identity. For this we will have to prepare the generation for an ambiguous course of life which is a big challenge. We will have to inculcate and nurture in them the qualities which may be helpful to them in observing events in their totality and synthesize and analyse this information to arrive at a decision. For this teachers will have to be prepared because teachers make a lasting impact in the lives of their students. Indeed teachers can only inspire students to unfold their creativity and infuse their thought pattern with a dignified set of values and principles. They are like the instruments who not only make students excel the academics and extra curricular activities but also shape their personality with high ethical and moral values. One has to be at peace with oneself. There can be no peace for turbulent mind. When mind is calm, we can turn it within to see the treasure of pure consciousness. No treasure on earth is equal to a slice of that tattva.

References

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International Journal Of Peace, Education And Development: Vol. 2 no.2&3, August and December Renu Publishers, New Delhi, India