STUDYING THE ROLE AND NECESSITY OF VALUES TODAY

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ABSTRACT
Value is an essence of education and is the very need of the hour, while we watch society's morality gradually deteriorate. Programs for establishing principles in society must be developed. Education without ethics is like a flower without fragrance. Students need to recognise that character development is just as important as career development. Good character, morality and values in life are the most important factors that drive a person towards self-realization. This essay makes an attempt to examine the function and need of value in education, literature and art in society. Doing this, the paper goes into detail regarding the implications of developing value education.
KEYWORDS: *Values, Values in Society, Morals, Literature for Morality, Need of Values*

INTRODUCTION

In India, value-based education is actually in high demand right now. While we observe how society's morals are eroding day by day. It is essential to create programmes for instilling ideals in society (Ansary, Gorain & Saha, 2023). Due to the constant barrage of new technology, information explosion and violent news from the media, an individual is being affected vastly. Educational institutions must take the initiative to teach this new generation value-based spiritual knowledge in order to instil the value system in their bewildered brains and develop them into powerful leaders who uphold strong moral principles. Imbibing the virtues of excellent behaviour, self-confidence and high ideals would aid pupils in achieving a major position in society. Education without morals is similar to a flower without scent. Pupils need to understand that developing one's character is just as vital as developing one's career. The most significant factor that pushes a person towards self-realization is good character in life.

CONCEPT OF VALUES

The Latin word '*Valere*,' which means '*to be robust and vigorous*,' is the source of the English word '*value.*' Being a value entails having a particular value, which is the capacity to be a certain item. The value of an object or idea determines its desirability or usefulness to us and might lead to an urgent need for or engagement in something we consider to be of great value. Life is about making decisions. In the course of human existence, some things are seen as admirable, respectable, and deserving of praise, while other things entertain and please us but may not be regarded in the same way.

The idea of values is given from many perspectives:

a. A subject-object link is implied by the term '*value,*' which connects the thing to man.
b. Only labour and skill can give raw materials value, or utility.
c. Malinowski considered the forging of a harmonic balance between personal and social ideals to be a crucial component of value production. Each person has a duty to pursue gain in a way that benefits both himself and his society because they are the ones who create value.
d. Value is the complete amount of force that a material or spiritual thing utilises to help a subject achieve its goals as a means to an end. In general, there are four different categories of values: social, mental, moral, and intellectual. They are further divided into eight categories, including moral, national, professional, social, intellectual, and mental values. These principles have their roots in mythology, literature, the arts, culture, societal structure, educational ideas, and educational institutions.

ROLE OF MYTHOLOGY IN PROMOTING VALUE

According to academic studies, mythology is frequently defined as "*deeply valued stories that explain a society's existence and world order: those narratives of a society's creation, the society's origins and foundations, their god(s), their original heroes, mankind's connection to the 'divine,' and their narratives of eschatology.*" For the many, fundamental, and sacred stories that share the same themes, the same idea becomes a highly popular outline. "*Myth constructs a*

worldview for people. It serves as a looking glass through which life comes to order" (Pattanaik, 2003, p.34). In order to uphold the ideals and morals of the society, mythology plays certain functions and makes use of its sacred myths, art and rituals. The entire subcontinent used this approach to create mythology-related books, and it resulted in its own Sanskrit-language literature. The renowned Sanskrit master Kalidas' *Abhijnanam Shakuntalam* is one such masterpiece. The elite, literate, scholars and other members of a very small class of people had access to literature that contained mythology, therefore a significant portion of the general public was uninformed of these incidents and virtues (Adhikari & Saha, 2021a). The widespread application of the Rasas in artistic mediums is also seen in how values are derived. Every kind of art can use rasa, which stirs the reader or audience's emotions and helps them leave the world of the mortal to enter the world of spiritual and moral consciousness (Adhikari & Saha, 2022a). Forms of art are nothing more than the concretion of human imagination into a shape and structure, which unquestionably must be connected to other forms of art, particularly literature, which aids in the discovery of truth, morality, and builds up to the blending of cultures (Adhikari & Saha, 2021b; Saha, 2023).

ROLE OF EDUCATIONALISTS IN PROMOTING VALUE

Society not only plays the role of directing towards different value system, it also helps in accumulation and integration of the values through different generations (Gorain, 2023; Adhikari, 2023; Ansary, 2023). According to him, culture is an exercise in perfection, an effort to improve things over their current state, driven by a moral and social zeal for doing right (Adhikari & Saha, 2021c). In light of this, educationalists and educational institutions have a critical role to perform. True knowledge, in Vivekananda's opinion, is crucial for every person. Without moral principles, true knowledge cannot be attained. Thus, the advancement of moral principles is crucial to the discovery of accurate knowledge (Roy & Saha, 2022). Although Tagore fought against social ills like untouchability, superstition, and poverty, he did not believe that the West was the root of all evil. He appreciated Western ideas of human value, freedom, and democracy as well as Western science (Mondal & Gayen, 2021).
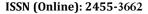
Talking about morality and values as a changing force in society has long been a priority for female educators and social reformers. Despite the difficulty of their path, they possessed incredible willpower. Ladies like Savitribai Phule, Tarabai Modak, Durgabai Deshmukh, Anutai Wagh, Pandita Ramabai, and Nawab Begum Sultan Kaikhusrau Jahan (Gorain & Sen, 2021) were those of them who, in addition to advocating for equality, made admirable efforts to educate and elevate women (Adhikari & Saha, 2021d; Hossain & Saha, 2013). The Montessori Method supports independent study that fosters values, self-assurance, and independent thought and action while promoting intellectual and social-emotional development (Adhikari & Saha, 2021e, 2021f). Women are no more innately submissive than males, according to Mary Wollstonecraft, who also emphasises the importance of ideals. She also contends that neither men nor women respect freedom unless they have

fought for it (Adhikari & Saha, 2022b; 2022c; 2023). Nel Noddings, an American philosopher, developed one of the first thorough conceptions of care and contended that compassion is the basis of morality and values (Adhikari & Saha, 2021g). Women left their comfort zones in order to project themselves, their art, and the societal challenges that still disproportionately affect women.

LITERATURE AND VALUES

As literature provides an abundant and extraordinarily diverse body of written content that addresses ongoing human challenges, it has been playing a crucial role in society. With literature, students can imaginatively enter other worlds, both familiar and distant, and develop understanding of themselves and others in rich social, cultural, and historical settings (Gorain, Nayek & Saha, 2022). This is why literature is crucial for fostering morals and a sense of human values. A new set of principles that examine society through the prism of empathy for women has been introduced by feminist approaches to writing (Adhikari & Saha, 2021h; 2021i). Many female authors are discussing the breakdown of society and how empathy and ideals can bring it back (Adhikari & Saha, 2021j) engagement in the new field is crucial for women to combine the ideals of independence (Adhikari & Saha, 2021k).

NEED FOR VALUE

The fact that existing methods of school education significantly contribute to children' uneven development is one of the most crucial arguments in favour of reorienting education towards values. They demonstrate a separation between the mind and the heart by putting all of the emphasis on the cognitive realm and completely ignoring the affective domain. Pupils are taught to relate to aggressive rivalry, facts that are disconnected from contexts, and a culture of extreme competition from day one. The issue of deteriorating values is multifaceted and results from a confluence of powerful societal forces, including terrorism, globalisation, materialism, consumerism, and risks to humanity from climatic change and environmental degradation. They have brought in fears, individualistic lifestyles, the acceleration of demands, the misuse of science and technology, pessimism, a sense of isolation, and other undesirable outcomes. The world's microcosms are found in schools (Gorain, Adhikari, Saha & Sen, 2021; Gorain, Saha, Maji & Sen, 2021; Mahanti, Mondal & Saha, 2016). At schools, the chaos of the outside world manifests in numerous ways. The way children and young people grow up in our nation has changed and is changing even more quickly. To inform us of what our own eyes and hearing tell us, scientific surveys are not necessary. The number of unhappy families has increased. Youngsters engage in violence and crime both inside and outside of school. Our kids have been engulfed by mass media in a way that is difficult for them to understand or evaluate. While it's important to foster in kids a questioning mindset and a capacity for critical thought, we find that many kids treat instructors with contempt and ask them questions out of conceit or a desire to challenge their authority. A hurry-up culture frequently lacks a sense of brotherhood and togetherness. Peers have a significant impact on them.

The socio-cultural environment has undergone a significant transformation today. Globalization denotes a pervasive culture. Today, practically the entire world is included in our cultural perspective. Less and less of our societies are monocultural. As a result, our world has become more complicated and diverse, and various civilizations have evolved to the point where it is no longer viable to consider adaptation to a homogeneous environment. The issue is rather one of adapting to a multi-cultural and extremely complex setting. Globalization may result in ruthless rivalry and the rejection of one's own priceless customs and culture.

A pressing societal issue is educating youngsters about the environment and the need to protect it (Saha & Maji, 2013; Saha, 2012). Environmental degradation has been a result of the careless use of the environment, ozone layer depletion, global warming, industrial pollution, deforestation, soil erosion, nuclear fallout brought on by overpopulation, new technological advancements, and lifestyle choices, among other things, that have been observed over the past century (Haldar, Roy, Gorain, Adhikari & Saha, 2022; Saha, Maji & Saha, 2012). The values of respect for the physical environment and the natural world, responsible use of environmental resources, awareness of the connection of humans and the environment, and living in peace with nature must all be fostered (Saha, 2013). Without consideration for the protection and sustainability of the environment, people's health cannot be sustained.

It seems obvious that science and technology will continue to advance rapidly in the decades to come, even while humans struggle to keep up with their immediate problems. Both positive and negative unexpected effects result from it. Values determine how science and technology should be applied. It is a moral and ethical obligation to use science and technology in a more sensible and humane way. Based on the concepts of fairness, goodness, constructive criticism, and wisdom to distinguish between the benefits and drawbacks of scientific and technical breakthroughs, values and attitudes can serve as a guide for individual behaviour (Roy & Saha, 2021).

The value and importance of social responsibility and social consciousness among students must be promoted, and education must be seen as a catalyst for this. This entails learning about oneself as a member of a family, neighbourhood, village, town, city, community, nation, and global society, as well as a gradual expansion of consciousness from the self to the other. The knowledge of one's allegiance to each of the aforementioned parties grows with each step. Students need to be instilled with a sense of obligation and responsibility towards their families, communities, societies, nations, etc. from an early age. In order to prevent pupils from growing up with a fixation with rights and neglecting duties and responsibilities, it is crucial to place a high priority on teaching them how to fulfil their obligations as responsible citizens.
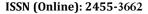
Most people agree that education must be the driving force behind fostering values. Yet, it is unclear how this will be accomplished in schools. While some organisations and institutions prefer to preserve values as a distinct subject, others believe that values should be incorporated into everyday classroom activities. The emphasis also shifts. While some place a strong emphasis on religion education, yoga, and meditation, others place a stronger emphasis on democratic and national principles (Saha, 2021; Saha, Sen & Adhikari, 2021; Khatun, Ansary, Adhikari, 2022). Several opinions exist on the goals of value education and the best way to offer it.

CONCLUSION

This study has successfully illustrated the beneficial influence of moral values in human existence and how these values are transmitted through many social agents, with art, literature, culture, and education serving as a key tool in fostering a person's acquisition of moral values. Moral values are a kind of legislation that is established by culture, society, and other variables to instruct people on how to behave or not in daily life. The environment that cultures are exposed to influences how their moral standards develop. Every civilization should make an effort to safeguard moral principles. It is crucial for us to uphold morally sound principles in our daily lives, including honesty, righteousness, decency and even self-decency.

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