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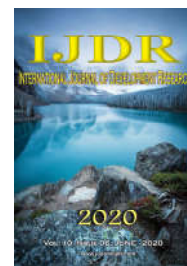
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RESEARCH ARTICLE

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AN AXIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE OF EDUCATION IN INDIAN SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

In this modern era education has great impact on every aspect of human life. It is an essential human virtue and without it, man is only a slave, a reasoning savage. One of the major functions of education is to humanize the humanity and is enables to develop the total personality of the person. The Kothari Commission has pointed out the vital need for inculcation of values in education. Inculcation of proper social, moral and spiritual values in the pupils is essential to meet the challenges posed by the modern age science and technology. But, nowadays, more emphasis is unduly laid on knowledge – based and information – oriented education which takes care only of the intellectual development of the child. The present study intends to highlight the importance of value education in the present education system.

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INTRODUCTION

Values are essential for positive human behavior and they form the core of educational goals and objectives. It is important for character building and these values should be inculcated in to the minds of the kids of an early age itself. Education touches and transforms all spheres of human life. It is a training in values in order to change both the individual as well as the society. Education is an act that has a formative effect on the mind character and physical ability of an individual. But in our present school and higher education curriculum ore emphasis is laid upon information oriented education, which takes care solely the intellectual development of the aspirant. Consequently the physical, emotional, social and spiritual, faculties not properly formed and developed. It is very important to impart value based education in each stage of education.

What are Values ?

Values are like the oil that helps to keep the machine of human society running smoothly. They are great ideals, principles and priorities cherished by the people. They are part and parcel of the philosophy of a nation and its educational system. Value literally means something that has a price, something precious, dear and worthwhile, hence something, one is ready to suffer and sacrifice for.

In other words, values are a set of principles or standards of behavior. Inculcation of proper social, moral and spiritual values in the pupils is essential to meet the challenges of the modern age of science and technology. Values shape our relationships and behaviours. They reflect ones personal attitudes and judgements, decisions and choices, behavior and relationships, dreams and vision. They influence our thoughts, feelings and actions. They guide us to do the right things. The more one becomes adopt in a value based living, the more positive and productive becomes his/her presence in society. Values in general, could be classified broadly under five headings. They are personal, social, moral, spiritual and behavioural. They are the guiding principles or standards of behavior which are regarded desirable, important and held in high esteem by a particular society in which a person lives. They give direction and firmness to life and bring joy, satisfaction and peace to existence. They bring added quality to life. Our values and morals are a reflection of our spirituality and character.

Why Value Education is Indispensable ?

Value based education is the need of the hour. Through value education we aim to develop the social, moral, aesthetic and spiritual sides of a person which are often undermined in formal education. Value education teaches us to preserve whatever is good and worthwhile in what we have inherited from our culture. It helps us to tolerate and respect the attitude and behavior of

those who differ from us. Value education does not mean value imposition or indoctrination. It is inculcating in the children a sense of humanism, a deep concern for the well-being of others and the nation. The importance of value education has been pointed out by great educationalists. Mahatma Gandhi, the exponent of Basic Education stressed the need for value oriented education at school curriculum and he was a living example of the basic principles in life that is Truth, Beauty and Goodness. He wanted that education should be for the head, hand and heart. According to Gandhi, if wealth is lost nothing is lost, if health is lost something is lost, but if character is lost everything is lost. Best of all things is character. Likewise Rabindranath Tagore, the great poet and founder Viswabharati, gave more importance to the value education in his philosophy of life and especially in the curriculum of Santinikethan. For Tagore, the greatest use of education is not merely to collect facts, but to know man and to make oneself known to man. Swami Vivekananda gave a broader view of value oriented education. He said, we want the education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect expended and by which one can stand on one's feet. Value education helps pupils in developing democratic qualities like liberty, equality, fraternity, justice and co-operative living. It stresses the dignity of the individual and the sanctity of human personality. It facilitates the desired social awakening which is essential for the integral developmental of individuals as well as society. Value education is the basis of humanitarians also. It stands for peace, good will and understanding. It helps in fostering the brotherhood of man and unity of the world. Absence of value education has caused exploitation, corruption, disaster, selfishness, aggression and hatred in the world. Value education will replace hatred with love, selfishness with self-sacrifice and violence with non-violence. Value education is the best means through which social, spiritual and moral values are inculcated and lived meaningfully.

How are Values Inculcated ?

We know today's children are tomorrow's citizens. The inculcation of values is by no means a simple matter. There is no magic formula, technique or strategy for this. In inculcating values, all human facilities such as head, heart and hand should play a role. The value education covers the entire domains of learning, the cognitive, affective and the psychomotor. In the pursuit and promotion of values, the teacher has the most vital role to play. It is the teacher who is the guide, friend and philosopher and the first interaction of children, after the parents, is with the teacher. Teachers with dealing with curricular subjects such as languages, science, social science, music, art, work experience and extra-curricular activities such as NCC, Scouts and Guides, Community service, field trips, sports and games can develop suitable strategies and methods which would enable proper transmission of values, provided they are guided by clear vision and farsightedness. Value education can be achieved directly, indirectly or incidentally.

Direct value inculcation refers to deliberate, systematic instruction given during the time of formation. Indirectly, value education can be imparted through the regular subjects of curriculum and co-curricular activities. Incidental value inculcation can be given through events and incidents related to good values occurring around us, thus relating value inculcation to concrete situations. Teachers can play a vital role for imparting values such as integrity and discipline, tolerance and respect for all faiths and the value of humanism to his pupil. Value education should be given right from the primary level. There are so many occasions like Teachers Day, Parents Day, Annual Day, UNO Day etc. Through these activities, the qualities of leadership, self-discipline, co-operation, team work etc can be easily developed. Participation of students in school assembly, celebrations of national and religious festivals, work experiences, team games and sports, social service camps etc can help them inculcating the values of co-operation, mutual regard, honesty, integrity, discipline etc. It is sure that, family is the first school and parents are the first teachers for the child followed by the school of learning. It is the responsibility of parents and teachers both to pass on to their children good values which should make them good individuals in future whom the world awaits.

Conclusion

Values are guiding principles that shape our world outlook, attitudes and conduct. It is important in schools and colleges for every student and it should be in the fore front of our education. They constitute the grounds for a sound and justifiable decision making process. If we give good education to the present day children, the future of the world will be well. Education is the most effective means to inculcate, transmit and sustain values in the individuals and societies for a just world order.

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