

CHAPTER – 1

INTRODUCTION OF VALUES

INTRODUCTION

Education is a methodical effort towards learning basic facts about humanity. And the core idea behind value education is to cultivate essential values in the students, so that the civilization that teaches us to manage complexities can be sustained and further developed. It begins at home and it is continued in schools and colleges. Everyone accepts certain things in his/her life through various mediums like society or government.

MEANING OF VALUES

Value is a belief, a mission or a philosophy that is meaningful. Whether we are consciously aware of values or not, every individual has a core set of personal values. Values can range from the ordinary, such as belief in hard work and punctuality, to the more psychological, such as self-reliance, concern for others and harmony of purpose.

The belief of man, is at stake, his dual language,
Dual meanings, dual expressions,
Dual faces, Man is using his wit and wisdom, in his own downfall,
Now man is, in his mousetrap, experimenting,
With his own life, with his own belief.

Dr. Ram Sharma

When we examine the lives of famous people, we often see how personal values guided them, propelling them to the top of their fields. For example, an actor was motivated by his commitment to social justice, which led to important acting roles related to that value that made him world-famous.

CONCEPT OF VALUES

Values are psychological objects. Although we cannot see or touch them, they are every bit as real as any physical object. People may dedicate their entire lives or even give up their lives to pursue their values, as so many loyal patriots have done fighting for values of freedom, equality and human rights.

We all have values that determine our decisions and guide our lives. Those who value their individuality take responsibility, become self-reliant and act with self-respect. Those who value truthfulness cannot bring themselves to tell a lie. Those who value family or friendship sacrifice their personal interests for the good of others. Those who value goodness cannot bring themselves to do something that is wrong. We express value in our relations with other people when we are loyal, reliable, honest, generous, trusting, trustworthy, and when we feel a sense of responsibility for family, friends, co-workers, our organization, community or country.

VALUES, ACCOMPLISHMENT AND OUR PSYCHOLOGICAL ENERGIES

Accomplishment in life depends not only on physical energy, but even more on the intensity of psychological energy we are able to bring to our

action. Interest, commitment, determination, passion, drive, enthusiasm are some of the ways in which we characterize the intensity of our psychological energy. It turns out that value direct our psychological energies for accomplishment. Values determine the intensity and flow of our psychological energies. The quality of the values we embrace and the intensity of our commitment to them determine the level of our accomplishment in life.

Values are culturally weighed preferences for person and institution. They are some kind of socially approved or disapproved desires or goals, conceptions or standards by which things or behavior are composed, approved or disapproved. They express the ‘good’, the ‘bad’, the ‘should’, and the ‘ought’ of human behavior and put things or behavior on an approval – disapproval continuum, according to Kerlinger.

However, every person does not follow the same path, as choosing the path would depend on the inherent values of a person. These inherent values are acquired through virtue of one’s nature and nurture. The effect of family, society, nation and individual makes every person unique as he develops a unique set of values. These values decide the priority and lifestyle of a person. So, the values make the personality of a person and decide the growth of the individual, family, society, nation and humanity.

In the speedy materialistic race, We have forgotten our grace,
We are running behind the glitters, Due to which everyone suffers,
In going ahead with one another, we are pushing each other,
We have no human values, only cry and hues,

we have no heart, only the art
to cheat and to deceive, We can't bear,
The progress of other, we, we, and only we

Dr. Ram Sharma

DEFINITIONS OF VALUE

The term value refers to the work, merit, usefulness and important of a thing. Value has been defined by various writers differently.

According to Mukerjee,

“Value are socially approved desires and goals that are internalized through the process of conditioning, learning or socialization and that become subjective preferences, standards and aspirations”

According to Freeman,

“Value is a generalized and dominant interest”

According to Allport,

“Value is a belief upon which a man acts by preference”

According to Varma,

“Value is a conception of desirableness of an object or activity for the well-being of an individual”

According to Gupta,

“Values are those standards or a code of moral behaviour conditioned by one’s cultural tenets and guarded by conscience to realize ideals and aims of life”

According to Spranger,

“Value is a basic interest of motives in the personality of an individual”

SOURCE OF VALUE

Religion

Religion is the most powerful source of values, norms or standards. Most of the values, norms or standards are derived from and given by religion. Religion beautifies our life by cultivating social, moral and spiritual values.

According to Betrand Russell,

“Religion is the source of the sense of social obligation”

According to Kant,

“Religion is the recognition of all our duties as divine commandments, social obligations and duties, and values”

Different religions prescribe different value patterns. Hindu religion emphasizes self-realization or moksha as ultimate goal of life. Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, Islam, Christianity and other religions of the world recommend the following values of life:

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| • Self – Control | • Social Service | • Devotion |
| • Non-Violence | • Simplicity | • Dignity of Labour |
| • Social Sacrifice | • High Character | • Unity |
| • Piety | • Prayer | • Peace |
| • Tolerance | • Broad– | • Happiness |
| • Love | mindedness | |
| • Truth | • Purity | |

What we need today is to evolve a universal religion, a world religion or a human religion.

Philosophy

Philosophy is another important source of values. Philosophy has been defined as the study of epistemology, metaphysics, logic, ethics, aesthetics and values. Different philosophies of life and education recommend particular values of life based on their own fundamentals.

- Materialism
- Naturalism
- Progressivism
- Idealism
- Realism
- Existentialism
- Humanism
- Pragmatism

Literature

Literature is another important and effective source of values. Literature and social life are closely related to each other. Values of social life are reflected in different forms of literature, such as poems, stories, novels, dramas, etc. Generally, the study of literature inculcates right type of attitudes, interests, imagination and value system of the people.

Social Customs

Social customs are also significant source of values. Social customs advocate different types of values as follows :

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| • Social beliefs | • Place of women in society | • Sculpture |
| • Social practices | • Institution of marriage | • Painting |
| • Social norms | • Joint or nuclear families | • Commerce |
| • Social mores | • Skills | • Industries |
| • Manners | • Professions | • School |
| • Social heritage | • Dance, Music | • Library |
| • Cultural heritage | • Modes of thinking | • Cinema halls |
| • Conduct | • Modes of worship | • Spiritual wealth |

Science

Science is a social activity, a social institution and an important source of values. It plays a tremendous role in lives and changes our entire existence. It profoundly influences social, organizational, and cultural, moral, attitudinal and aesthetic sensitiveness.

- Health
- Education
- Production
- Transportation, communication
- Occupational trends
- Centralization, national policy

CHARACTERISTICS OF VALUES

- Values are what we, as a student or professional, judge to be right. They are more than words: they are the moral, ethical and professional attributes of character.
- Values not only determine our character, but they are also central to our successful personal and professional life.
- Individually or organizationally, values determine what is right and what is wrong, and doing what is right or wrong is what we mean by ethics. To behave ethically is to behave in a manner consistent with what is right or moral.
- Purely subjective values, such as agreeableness, serve an end which can only be appreciated by the individual concerned and therefore can't be either defined or described.
- Relative values, such as usefulness, are evaluated according to their suitability to serve an end, and they can be defined by the purpose they serve.
- Absolute values, such as goodness, are sometimes called intrinsic value. These serve no other purpose, but end in themselves. They can be desired, but not fully defined. These values refer to qualities which make things agreeable or disagreeable, and they also refer to likes and dislikes. They are purely a matter of individual taste and therefore can't be disputed.

CLASSIFICATION OF VALUES

Walter G. Everett in his book *Moral Values* classifies human values in the following eight groups:

- i. ***Economic values:*** Economic values are indicated by market price. They include all purchasable things. Economic values are instrumental in the sense that they are used as means to obtain other values.

- ii. ***Bodily values:*** Bodily values relate to the health efficiency and the beauty of physical life.
- iii. ***Recreation value:*** Recreation values refer to the values of playing and leisure that enrich our lives.
- iv. ***Values of association:*** *These* may also be called the social values, as they include numerous forms of associations from friendship and family life to worldwide relationship.
- v. ***Character values:*** Under character values, we may include the whole range of desirable personal and social virtues including justice, benevolence, self-control and truthfulness.
- vi. ***Aesthetic values:*** Beauty of nature work of art are the aesthetic values.
- vii. ***Intellectual values:*** Values of knowledge and quest for an attainment of truth are included in intellectual values.
- viii. ***Religious values:*** Religious values include worship, devotion and commitment to that which one believes is the highest value.

Awdhesh K Singh classifies values as follows :

- i. ***Individualistic Values:*** The individualistic values support freedom, as it believes that every person has the right to decide what is good for him. Every child starts with individualistic values, and he wants everything in the world for the self and wants everyone to serve him.
- ii. ***Family Values:*** The concept of family has given rise to the family value where a family is considered to be the basic unit of the society instead of the individual. The family has right and power to control the other member of the family. In a family system, the members of the family divide their works in a way that all members perform complementary functions rather than performing the same functions.

- iii. **Professional Values:** A society is made of not only families which are natural but also organizations which are artificially created to fulfill a specific requirement of the society. The government is one of the most important organizations which has been created to bring order in the society.
- iv. **National Value:** The world today is divided into a number of countries and each country is sovereign and independent. However, in recent years the countries have started behaving like family members, as the independence is gradually being replaced by interdependence in the globalized economies. If China is emerging as the manufacturing hub of the world, India has become the outsourcing and out-shoring hub of the world from where the different services are being provided to the world.
- v. **Moral Values:** The moral laws are enforced jointly by the society. As every man desires to be loved and respected by the society, the moral values are often more powerful to keep the man on the right path than the legal enforcement. The moral values are passed on from one generation to another by tradition, for example marriage.
- vi. **Spiritual Value:** The spiritual values are often attributed to God and called divine. The spiritual values include love, compassion, justice, truth, etc. These values are so universal that all human beings seem to understand it without being taught.

IMPORTANCE OF VALUE EDUCATION

Value education is important to help everyone in improving the value system that he / she holds and puts them to use. Once, everyone has understood their values in life, they can examine and control the various choices they make in their life. One has to frequently uphold

the various types of values in his life such as cultural values, universal values, personal values and social values. Thus, value education is always essential to shape one's life and to give an opportunity of performing oneself on the global stage.

The need for value education among the parents, children, teachers and others, is constantly increasing as we continue to witness increasing violent activities, behavioral disorder, lack of unity in the society and so on.

The family system in India has a long tradition of imparting value education. But with the progress of modernity and fast changing role of the parents, it has not been very easy for the parents to impart relevant values in their wards. Therefore, many institutes today conduct various value education programs that are addressed to rising problems of the modern society. These programs concentrate on the development of children, young adults and others. They focus on areas like happiness, humility, cooperation, honesty, simplicity, love, unity, peace and so on.

EROSION OF VALUES

The many ills that our society as a whole is suffering today are mainly due to the crisis of values. Values in public life seem to be on the decline. The people are losing ground in cherished values, for which the nation stood for in the ancient past. There is erosion of social, moral, cultural, economic and political values at all levels. The erosion of values has led to the spread of callousness, hooliganism, violence, destruction, abuse of human rights, gross injustice, frustration and crisis of character.

EROSION OF POLITICAL VALUES

We are living in a state of political tension, economic stress, fear and frustration. Exploitation, corruption, disaster, destruction, selfishness and violence have their head high. There is chaos, turmoil and disorder. The causes (factors) of erosion of political values are given below:

- i. ***Loss of leadership:*** There is a lack of true leadership. Political leaders are motivated by their party politics. Many high-ups in the political circles do not deserve the rank they hold, but continue holding it shamelessly.
- ii. ***Political exploitation:*** Most political leaders exploit the masses to achieve their narrow selfish ends. National interest are sacrificed for personal interests. Political rivalries get priority in the national agenda. The masses are misguided and used against the rival groups.
- iii. ***Lack of code of conduct:*** Politicians lack code of conduct. They act as if they were above the laws of the land and constitutional directives. They indulge in political corruption. Our assembly halls and parliament houses have lost their charm and dignity.
- iv. ***Police atrocities:*** Police atrocities and brutalities are committed on the advice of politicians.
- v. ***Scandals and indiscipline:*** Lawlessness, scandals, militancy, non-democratic tendencies and indiscipline are on the increase in the society. Often politics is involved. Consequently, national progress, integrity, freedom and sovereignty are at stake.

EROSION OF SOCIAL VALUES

Today man is so materialistic, bewildered, frustrated and confused that he does not know the art of living with others in love, peace and harmony. Erosion of social values can be outlined as follows:

- i. ***Caste system:*** Caste system is prevalent in the society. It poses a serious obstacle to social progress and the establishment of a democratic society. It is opposed to nationalism.
- ii. ***Social disorganization:*** Our society is being rapidly fragmented into small units because of the influence of casteism, linguism, provincialism and communalism; as a result, one finds social disorganization.
- iii. ***Marital disorganization:*** The number of disorganized marriages is on the increase, due to dowry, increase in divorce rate and change in the functions of family.
- iv. ***Malpractice:*** All types of corruption, bribery, dishonesty, disloyalty, nepotism and other malpractices from top to bottom of the society are on the rise.
- v. ***Materialistic attitude:*** People have become more money-minded and materialistic. They want to amass money by one way or the other at the cost of values. They want to become rich overnight through illegal means or corrupt practices.
- vi. ***Selfishness:*** People have become the victims of callous selfishness, egoism and unlimited greed. They have their own axe to grind in every field of life.
- vii. ***Social indiscipline:*** Social indiscipline is on the increase. There is a gross violation of social values, social norms and social conduct. There is a lack of social discipline, social courtesy, social sensitiveness and respect for elders.

- viii. **No justice:** Social justice has become a thing of the past. As a result, most people are frustrated, dejected and unhappy.
- ix. **No social sensitiveness:** Love, affection, industriousness, co-operation, fellow-feelings, brotherhood of human beings, welfare of others, equality, fraternity and social sensitiveness are disappearing. These are not viewed as social values. People do not adhere to these values.
- x. **Social exploitation:** There is social exploitation everywhere. People do not hesitate to exploit others for their own benefit. The present society has lost its faith in social, cultural and moral values. Hence, one finds complete disorganization of values. This acts as a serious impediment to values.

EROSION OF ECONOMIC VALUES

There is erosion of economic values. Erosion of these values may be attributed to the following factors or causes:

- i. **Development of science and technology:** We are living in the age of science and technology. Science and technology have given us abundant power. Unintelligent and wrong use of this power can destroy the entire human race and other forms of life on earth. Advancement of science and technology has given birth to cut-throat competition, materialism and barbarism.
- ii. **Rise of materialism:** With the emergence of materialism, man has become a machine. He is so busy in amassing wealth that he has discarded values like honesty, social service, service of humankind, perseverance and patience.

iii. ***Growth of industrialization and urbanization:*** With the coming up of science and technology, there is a tendency towards industrialization and consequently urbanization. The growth of industrialization and urbanization has given birth to commercial outlook to life in its varied manifestations. The traditional joint family system is disappearing and the single family system is increasing. These changes have caused erosion of values.

iv. ***Influence of psychological movement:*** Psychological movement has considerably influenced the value system. Psychology attaches importance to instincts, drives, urges, impulses, desires and motives. As a result, man has become a slave to these tendencies. He is losing touch with the values.

The education commission (1964-66) points out the same defect in our school curriculum:

“A serious defect in the school curriculum is the absence of provision of education in social, moral and spiritual values. In the life of majority of Indians, religion is a great motivating force and intimately bound up with formation of character and inculcation of ethical values. A national system of education that is related to the life needs and aspiration of the people, cannot afford to ignore this purposeful force.

We recommend that conscious and organized attempts can be done for imparting education in social, moral and spiritual values with the help of ethical teaching of great religions.”