**Human Values & Professional Ethics**

**Unit-1**

**Definition and Concept of Human Value:**

* Human values are the foundation for any viable life within society: they build space for a drive, a movement towards one another, which leads to peace.
* Human values thus defined are universal: they are shared by all human beings, whatever their religion, their nationality, their culture, their personal history.
* **Human values are the principles, standards, convictions and beliefs that people adopt as their guidelines in daily activities.**
* Principal human values are the foundation on which professional ethics are built.
* They are a set of consistent measures and behaviors that individuals choose to practice in the pursuit of doing what is right or what is expected of them by society.
* Most laws and legislation are shaped by human values.
* Human values are passed by parents to their offspring soon after childbirth and are instilled throughout the children's upbringing.
* As they grow, children learn more values from their peers, religious leaders, teachers, friends and society at large.
* These attributes include honesty, trustworthiness, diligence, discipline, fairness, love, peace, justice, care for one another and being mindful of the environment, including plants and animals.
* In addition, selflessness and putting the well-being of all before a person's own needs are desirable human values.
* Generally, human values are highly encouraged in society, while negative attributes are discouraged and condemned.
* These values are passed from one generation to another.
* People with excellent human values are usually held in high esteem, admired and rewarded.
* The traits are important especially in leaders and people in influential positions.
* All cultures and societies encourage teachers, doctors, lawyers, politicians, businesspeople and other professionals to have strong human values.
* Human values are the *virtues* that guide us to take into account the human element when one interacts with other human beings.
* They are the many *positive dispositions* that create bonds of humanity between people and thus have value for all of us as human beings.
* They are our strong *positive feelings* for the human essence of the other.
* It’s both what we expect others to do to us and what we aim to give to other human beings ("Do unto the other what you wish for yourself").
* These human values have the effect of bonding, comforting, reassuring and procuring serenity.
* By nature, they induce consideration for others.
* Human values are, for example:
* civility, respect, consideration;
* honesty, fairness, loyalty, sharing, solidarity;
* openness, listening, welcoming, acceptance, recognition, appreciation;
* brotherhood, friendship, empathy, compassion, love.
* Respect is one of the most important human value for establishing relations of peace - and  yet it remains elusive: its understanding varies according to age (child, teen,adult), to one's education and surrounding culture.
* It is better understood when combined with other values: a disposition that is deeper than *civility*, very close to *consideration*, and approaching *appreciation*.
* Indeed, to respect someone, one must be able to appreciate some of his/her human qualities, even if one does not appreciate his/her opinions or past behaviour.
* It’s by making one’s own these human values that we can better feel, keep in mind, appreciate and especially value the importance of connection between human beings.
* It’s then easier to respect the physical or psychological integrity of the other, and to stop oneself from getting carried away by feelings and reactions that could cause injury.
* By realising our likeness in terms of humanness, I can wish him well, I can wish he lives in peace with himself and with others.  
  Putting into practice our human values helps us have a contributing attitude towards peace.
* Human values are thus an inspiration for peace: by integrating them into our way of managing human relations, they predispose us to use a tool for peace.

**Important Human Values**:

1. **Wisdom**Wisdom is something that is the most important human value in many ways; under-appreciated in its importance, in its value in our lives and in its true meaning. Wisdom is also very often confused with words like knowledge or intelligence but the word wisdom is defined as the quality of having experience and good judgment and the resulting soundness of that action or decision. Wisdom is so vitally important and yet we often confuse it with other words or disregard a wise opinion because we are too vain or egotistical, to be truly wise is to understand the way the world works.

**2. Integrity**Society once saw integrity as valuable as trust but now we think of integrity as, more common than not, a weakness. The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles can be seen as a non-willingness to change or to adapt to a new way of thinking, and to an extent that is correct, but that’s not thinking of integrity in the true sense of the word; moral uprightness. The state of being whole and undivided, not just in your physical decisions but spiritually as well, being metaphysically undivided is the true nature of integrity. As a human value it is imperative that we stand spiritually undivided and hold true to our integrity, the importance of which is often forgotten.

**3. Trust**Trust can be interpreted many ways, but ultimately it comes down to reliability and truth. Without trust the world simply would not function, we create documents, money and bulletproof glass because we have lost faith in trust, which is why it is now one of the most important human values someone can have. Learn to trust and be trusted, it’s no easy task, but the importance is beyond measure, In a world without trust no one can survive.

**4. Beauty**Beauty is something that has really been tainted by our society. The way we think about something that is beautiful is judged on a purely physical response, but the true meaning of beauty is being in balance and harmony with nature. Many would argue that beauty is not a human value and, although beauty is a subjective experience, when you analyze what a subject of beauty is, it becomes anything that resonates with personal meaning, not just emotion. The importance of this Human Value is clear when you think about the things that bring meaning into your life such as family and friends, these things become beautiful in a greater sense.  Finding things that have personal meaning in your life and allowing them to fill you with emotion is one of the most important values.

**5. Faith**Faith and the way we perceive it today has, in a sense, been hijacked by religion. That is not to say Faith cannot represent religion, it absolutely can, but it means so much more than what religion uses it for. It is complete trust or confidence in someone or something, not only living with invisible means of support but knowing that there is an ocean, because there is a river. Certain things in life require a bit of faith because the world isn’t black and white, sometimes you need a little bit of unknown to accomplish things you never thought you could.

**6.Respect** Many feel that respect should be given as opposed to earned, but no matter who you are Respect needs to be earned just as trust and honesty need to be as well. Respect is a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements. The rub to this is that when you want to be treated with respect, you will treat others with respect; its one of those rare instances that in obtaining this feeling you will better the way the world views you.

**7. Love**Love seems like something that we do know the importance of, but in fact it is misunderstood and forgotten about daily. Not in the sense one would think, but rather it loses its importance in the over use of the word.  In its over-use, the word love has depreciated in value, not in the feeling but in the word, just as saying a word repeatedly you eventually forget it’s meaning, the words love has become a little too common. The trick is to remember the feeling behind the word and not lose faith in the fact that it is over-used. It the object of attachment, devotion, or admiration.

**8. Honesty**  
Honesty feels like something you don’t come by often these days, but in the realm of human values, it is extremely important. The idea of staying true to oneself can often feel intimidating and impossible, but what most people fail to realize is that it is not the act of simply telling the truth that makes someone honest rather the quality of person who is being honest. An honest person is often straight, upright, sincere and fair and being an honest person brings more reward to the soul than the damage a lie could do.

**9. Caring**Often seen as displaying kindness and concern for others, the true importance of this value comes from the work or practice of looking after those unable to care for themselves. Caring for others both physically and spiritually is a vitally important value to have; people will always rely on someone else for help at one point or another, but we often fail to realize how much of a difference caring for another person can make.

**10. Co-operation**It is the process of working together to the same end, but many view co-operation as a luxury and not an important human value. It is undeniably one of the most vital assets one can have when working through a problem. Having the opinions and voice of another person will not only draw out a discussion of the topic, but also lead you to a well-rounded solution. Co-operation has been under-appreciated for years in its importance and should be held in high regard.

**Need for HV in professional education system** :

* Knowledge and understanding of the very most basic human values is also of basic importance for any scientist and technician, to give in a responsible way direction to the development of science, technique and human development . . .   
  And this applies also to any creative individual in the broadest sense.    
  Any development in science and technique not based on the very most basic human values can be futile, or can even be harmful or destructive to human development and to future humanity.We can think of e.g. humane eugenics, humane GM, computer development and robotization, and environmental effects of agricultural eugenics and GM, etc. etc.
* The subject that enables us to understand ‘what is valuable’ for human happiness is called value education.
* The present education system has become largely skill-based.
* The prime emphasis is on science and technology.
* However, science and technology can only help to provide the means to achieve what is considered valuable.
* It is not within the scope of science and technology to provide the competence of deciding what really is valuable.
* Value Education is a crucial missing link in the present education system.
* Because of this deficiency, most of our efforts may prove to be counterproductive and serious crises at the individual, societal and environmental level are manifesting.

**Classification of Human Values:**

We can speak of universal values, because ever since human beings have lived in community, they have had to establish principles to guide their behavior towards others.  
  
In this sense, honesty, responsibility, truth, solidarity, cooperation, tolerance, respect and peace, among others, are considered universal values.  
  
However, in order to understand them better, it is useful to classify values according to the following criteria:  
  
**a. Personal values:**These are considered essential principles on which we build our life and guide us to relate with other people. They are usually a blend of family values and social-cultural values, together with our own individual ones, according to our experiences.  
  
**b. Family values:**These are valued in a family and are considered either good or bad. These derive from the fundamental beliefs of the parents, who use them to educate their children.  They are the basic principles and guidelines of our initial behavior in society, and are conveyed through our behaviors in the family, from the simplest to the most complex.  
  
**c. Social-cultural values:**These are the prevailing values of our society, which change with time, and either coincide or not with our family or personal values.  They constitute a complex mix of different values, and at times they contradict one another, or pose a dilemma.  
  
For example, if work isn’t valued socially as a means of personal fulfillment, then the society is indirectly fostering “anti-values” like dishonesty, irresponsibility, or crime.  
  
Another example of the dilemmas that social-cultural values may pose is when they promote the idea that “the end justifies the means”.  With this as a pretext, terrorists and arbitrary rulers justify violence, intolerance, and lies while claiming that their true goal is peace.  
  
**d.Material values:**These values allow us to survive, and are related to our basic needs as human beings, such as food and clothing and protection from the environment. They are fundamental needs, part of the complex web that is created between personal, family and social-cultural values. If exaggerated, material values can be in contradiction with spiritual values.  
  
**e. Spiritual values:**They refer to the importance we give to non-material aspects in our lives. They are part of our human needs and allow us to feel fulfilled. They add meaning and foundation to our life, as do religious beliefs.

**f. Moral values:**The attitudes and behaviors that a society considers essential for coexistence, order, and general well being.

**Hierarchy of Human Values:**

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| **Old Paradigm of Protection Values** |  | **Emerging Paradigm of Growth Values** |
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| **Safety:**  Avoiding risk.  Protection via external restraints and constraints; Rules, burglar alarms, and borders to define the places safe from danger, "us" versus "them"; survival is a goal. |  | **Spontaneity:**  Freedom, Willingness to risk and move into the unknown, Survival is assumed. |
| **Comfort:**  Avoiding pain, threats to belief systems, or contradictions; Strive to maintain the status quo at all costs. |  | **Meaning:** Willingness to confront life as it is, including uncomfortable contradiction and/or paradox.  Tolerance of ambiguity. |
| **Image:**  Meeting or exceeding cultural expectations; Conforming to norms and fitting oneself to the "job description"; Status and role valued. |  | **Authenticity:**  Meeting or exceeding one's own expectations; Willingness to diverge from cultural norms out of integrity and/or curiosity.  Flexibility; Acceptance of other's nonconformity. |
| **Self-control:** Ability to restrain one's emotional responses and control of the situation.  Repression of anger, fear, sexuality, sentiment.  *Self-indulgent*, an anesthetic against fear for people. |  | **Self-knowledge:** Awareness of feelings and their role in behavior; Transformation of fear and anger thru self-understanding and trust; Inner confidence  from having let go of illusions and survived fear. |
| **Ego defenses:**  Protection of one's self-image by making others wrong or by rationalizing one's behaviors and beliefs.  Feeling right or righteous. |  | **Vulnerability:**  The "transparent self" that acknowledges its weakness and draws from its strong points.  It does not identify with the ego's need to be perfect. |
| **Permanence:**  Effort to memorialize or freeze the past. Longevity, preservation of traditions, long-range commitments, repeating and recalling past triumphs. |  | **Potential:**  Recognition of the dynamics and flux of life, the impossibility of holding the present moment; Belief that change represents possibility, a future whose capacity to surprise is relished, not feared. |
| **Information:**  Having answers, facts, training, experience, data; Being sure. |  | **Insight:**  Asking the right questions, eager to learn; Acceptance of uncertainty. |
| **Adjustment:**  Human beings are seen as limited in what they can accomplish; Effort if futile; Poverty, starvation and war are inevitable. Belief in human limitations, which excuses from effort. |  | **Aspiration:**  Human beings have built great cathedrals, flown to the moon.  Any of us might accomplish something beyond the ordinary; belief in unlimited human potential. |
| **Power over others:**  Being boss, top dog, judge, authority, *or* being helpless, manipulative, flattering, coercive. |  | **Power with others:**  Cooperation, mutual support, communications, alignment. |
| **Feeling superior to others:**  More attractive, intelligent, successful and/or harder working.  Protection from feeling inadequate by being special. |  | **Feeling connected to others:**  Total acceptance of oneself; Identifying with all human traits. |
| **Freedom from responsibility:**  Sense of impotence, [**Scapegoatology**](http://www.halexandria.org/dward043.htm); What ever happened was the fault of others, social forces, and/or fate.  Feelings of [**Woundology**](http://www.halexandria.org/dward044.htm). |  | **Freedom in responsibility:**  Sense of one's personal self-empowerment.  Past choices acknowledged, and sense of being able to choose in the future.  Power to change based on taking responsibility. |

**Value Education**:

* Character oriented education that instills basic values and ethnic value in one’s psyche is called ‘Value Based Education’.
* The subject that enables us to understand ‘what is valuable’ for human happiness is called value education.
* Value education is important to help everyone in improving the value system that he/she holds and puts it to use.
* Once, one has understood his/ her values in life he/she can examine and control the various choices he/she makes in his/ her life.
* Value education enables us to understand our needs and visualize our goals correctly and also helps to remove our confusions and contradictions and bring harmony at all levels.
* It also helps remove our confusions and contradictions and enables us to rightly utilize the technological innovations.
* Values form the basis for all our thoughts, behaviours and actions.
* Once we know what is valuable to us, these values becomes the basis, the anchor for our actions.
* We also need to understand the universality of various human values, because only then we can have a definite and common program for value education.
* Then only we can be assured of a happy and harmonious human society.

**Process of Value Education**:

* The process for value education has to be that of self-exploration, which includes two things: verification at the level of natural acceptance and experiential validation in living.
* Self exploration is the process to find out what is valuable to me by investigating within myself, what is right for me, true for me, has to be judged within myself.
* Through self exploration we get the value of ourselves.
* Various aspects of reality facilitating the understanding of human values will be presented as proposals.
* We need to verify these proposals for our self and examine our living in this light.

**WHAT IS LACKING IN OUR SYSTEM OF EDUCATION**

* Most of the social problems plaguing our country have a root cause related to the inadequacies of our educational system.
* Recognition of the failure of our public school system to properly educate our citizens is readily acknowledged by most educational leaders but their remedies leading to effective improvement of the system are woefully lacking
* It has been recognized that the measurements used for the analysis of how well a student is educated has been inadequate.
* SAT and other  testing methods omit considerations of knowledge of subject matter that is important to our society as a whole.
* Our educational system will not have any opportunity for true success until basic morality is incorporated into the curriculum and includes the teaching of ethics as a required ongoing part of the curriculum.
* This term is meant to convey principles of right and wrong, the respect that should be given to other human beings, the manner in which a person should conduct oneself and the need to establish relative value standards that guide such conduct.
* In creating a curriculum, the educators must remember that their most important task is to reach the reasoning process of the students so as to motivate them to want to learn the subject matter.

**Implications of education in values - Vision for a better India**

* It is widely agreed that education is the most effective means that society possesses for confronting the challenges of the future.
* Indeed, education will shape the world of tomorrow. Progress increasingly depends upon the products of educated minds: upon research, invention, innovation and adaptation.
* Of course, educated minds and instincts are needed not only in laboratories and research institutes, but in every walk of life.
* Education is also the means for disseminating knowledge and developing skills, for bringing about desired changes in behaviours, values and lifestyles, and for promoting public support for the continuing and fundamental changes that will be required if humanity is to alter its course, leaving the familiar path that is leading towards growing difficulties and possible catastrophe, and starting the uphill climb towards sustainability
* Indeed, access to education is the sine qua non for effective participation in the life of the modern world at all levels.
* Education, to be certain, is not the whole answer to every problem.
* But education, in its broadest sense, must be a vital part of all efforts to imagine and create new relations among people and to foster greater respect for the needs of the environment.
* Education must not be equated with schooling or formal education alone.
* It includes non-formal and informal modes of instruction and learning as well, including traditional learning acquired in the home and community.
* Education serves society in a variety of ways.
* The goal of education is to make people wiser, more knowledgeable, better informed, ethical, responsible, critical and capable of continuing to learn.
* Education also serves society by providing a critical reflection on the world, especially its failings and injustices, and by promoting greater consciousness and awareness, exploring new visions and concepts, and inventing new techniques and tools.
* Education, in short, is humanity’s best hope and most effective means in the quest to achieve sustainable development.

**Challenges for Value Adoption:**

Learning to live together in peace and harmony is a dynamic, holistic and lifelong process through which mutual respect, understanding, caring and sharing, compassion, social’ responsibility,solidarity, acceptance and tolerance of diversity among individuals and groups (ethnic, social, cultural, religious, national and regional) are internalized and practised together to solve problems and to work towards a just and free, peaceful and democratic society. This process begins with the development of inner peace in the minds and hearts of individuals engaged in the search for truth, knowledge and understanding of each other’s cultures. and the appreciation of shared common values to achieve a better future. Learning to live together in peace and harmony requires that quality of relationships at all levels is committed to peace. human rights, democracy and social justice in an ecologically sustainable environment.