

- 1. Important and lasting beliefs or ideals shared by the members of a culture about what is good or bad and desirable or undesirable. Values have major influence on a person's behavior and attitude and serve as broad guidelines in all situations. Some common business values are fairness, innovation and community involvement.

Human Values: Meaning, Nature and Types

Meaning of Value:

Human values have been employed in so distinctively different ways in human discourse. It is often said that a person has a value or an object has a value. These two usages have been explicitly recognised by writers in various disciplines such as Charles Morris in Philosophy, Brevster Smith in Psychology and Robin Williams in Sociology.

If one wants to know the origin of the term 'VALUE', it may be stated very firmly that the term 'VALUE' comes from the Latin word 'VALERE' which means 'to be of worth'. Whereas, the concise Oxford Dictionary defines the term 'VALUE' as the 'worth, desirability or utility of a thing'.

In fact, it is difficult to define values, for they are as comprehensive in a nature as our human life. Somewhere, some other dictionary states that Value is that which renders anything useful, worthy or estimable. It is price, worth or importance of a thing'.

Value is "a concept explicit or implicit, distinctive of an individual or characteristics of a group of those desirable traits which influence the selection from available modes and ends of action."

In fact, value is an abstract term which is commonly regarded as an economic conception. In the words of John Dewey, "Value means primarily, to price, to esteem, to appraise, to estimate. It means the act of cherishing something holding it dear and also, the act of passing judgement upon the nature and amount of its value as compared with something else,"

According to Rokeach, **"Value is an enduring belief, a specific mode of conduct or an end state of existence, along a continuum of relative importance."**

In spite of the definitions quoted so far, one more definition still remains and it is of the eminent sociologist Prof. R. K. Mukerjee, who defines 'value' as follows –

"Values are socially approved desires and goals that are internalised through the process of conditioning, learning or socialisation and aspirations."

The sociologists are concerned with the questions like value-diversity, value-clashes, value-tensions, value-conflicts, social change, socialisation, innovations, modernisation and preferred futures. The legitimacy of the sociologists' involvement is based on the task of examining the social relations and processes as valuation phenomena.

According to Shaver, **"Values are standards and principles of judging worth."**

They are a criteria by which we judge things – people, objects, actions, ideas and situations – to be good, worthwhile, desirable or on the other hand, worthless, despicable, undesirable or somewhere in between these two extremes”.

The Shaver’s definition consists of three elements:

- (i) Values are concepts, not feelings.
- (ii) Values exist in the mind independently of self-awareness or public affirmation.
- (iii) Values are dimensional rather than absolute categories.

Nature of Values:

From the definitions of ‘VALUE’, certain most important things regarding values are noted.

These are:

1. Values are not just feelings, but they are concepts.
2. Values are express feelings but they are more than feelings.
3. Values exist in the mind, and, are independent of Public affirmation.
4. Values are absolute but they are dimensional. That is, values are a criteria for judging the degree of goodness of badness, Tightness or wrongness.
5. Values are concepts heavily weighted with emotions and influence the child’s selection from variable modes, means and ends of action.
6. Values are primarily, ethical, social and subjective. Therefore, they are strong dispositions of human behaviour than concepts with less heavy emotional weightage.
7. Values are based on respect for human dignity. They assume that personal integrity is the nucleus around which ethical community and global stewardship resolve.
8. Values are the very essence of human life.
9. Values are essential for a fair and equitable community which reflects our respect as well as responsibility for the global environment.
10. Values are cross-cultural and are essential for the development of community and global citizenship.
11. Values are that in which people are interested.
12. Values are the things of worship.
13. Value is the product of feeling, set and action.
14. Values are the product of human spirit and not of intellect.
15. Values never change. It is only the perceptions of these that undergo changes as a result of ever-evolving human consciousness.
16. Values act as forceful tools for the cultivation of social good.
17. Values are caught through literature.
18. Value is a motivating force behind the individual’s thought, emotion and action.
19. Values are integrated into personality and many times they act as barriers to the acceptance of new change or innovations.
20. Every value is reflected in a person’s reactions.
21. Values influence every aspect of educational process.

Relation between Norms and Values:

Norms and values have salient relation. Norms are specific, values are not. There may be, in a particular situation, delusion of norms, but values are commanding. Norms are rules for behaving: they say more or less specifically what should or should not be done by particular types of actors in given circumstances. Values are standard of desirability that are more nearly independent of specific situations.

The same value may be a point of reference for a great many specific norms; a particular norm may represent the simultaneous application of several separable values. Thus, the value premise "equality" may enter into norms for relationships between husband and wife, brother and brother, teacher and student and so on.

On the other hand, the norm "a teacher must not show favouritism in grading" may in particular instance involve the value of equality, honesty, humanitarianism and several others. Values, as standards (criteria) for establishing what should be regarded as desirable, provide the grounds for accepting or rejecting particular norm.

Functions of Values:

1. Values provide goals or ends for the members to aim for.
2. Values provide for stabilities and uniformities in group interaction. They hold the society together because they are shared in common. Some sociologists argue that shared values form the basis for social unity. Since they share the same values with others, the members of society are likely to see others as "people like themselves". They will therefore, have a sense of belonging to a social group. They will feel a part of the wider society.
3. Values bring legitimacy to the rules that govern specific activities. The rule are accepted as rules and followed mainly because they embody the values that most people accept. The Americans for example, believe that the capitalist organization is the best one because it allows people to seek success in life.
4. Values help to bring about some kind of adjustment between different sets of rules. The people seek the same kinds of ends or goals in different field of their life. Hence, it is possible for them to modify the rules to help the pursuit of this end. For example, if the Indian people cherish the value of "the principle of equality", then they will have to modify the rules governing the interpersonal relationship of husband and wife; and man and woman. As and when new activities emerge, people create rules in the light of their beliefs about what is 'good' and 'right'.

Here are seven social values:

1. Respect
2. Justice/Fairness
3. Honesty
4. Service/Giving Back/Contribution

5. Responsibility
6. Family
7. Community

Types of Values

1- Social Values

[Social Values](#) consist of things like peace, justice, freedom, equality, and bettering our community. Examples of social values include:

- Not hurting others and also standing up for those who can't stand up for themselves
- Being respectful and courteous in your interactions
- Volunteering time and skills in the community
- Being generous with what you have
- Being honest with others
- Participating in teamwork whenever possible

2- Political Values

Although being a liberal, conservative, or moderate may determine your opinion on how the government should run and what laws should be enacted, there are certain [political values](#) that remain constant across political parties. American values often include:

- Exceptionalism - that America is a land of limitless opportunities and, as such, has a duty to act as an example to other countries.
- Capitalism and private ownership of property
- Patriotism
- Treating everyone equally, regardless of ethnicity, race, religion, or sexual orientation
- Being open-minded to new things
- Following the law and respecting those who enforce it
- Working hard for success

3- Religious Values

[Religious values](#) center around the expectations that people have about themselves and others based on the beliefs of their [faith](#). Although each faith has its beliefs, there are common values that many faiths tend to share. Examples of religious values include:

- Showing compassion to those in need
- Treating others as one would like to be treated
- Continually learning and growing both spiritually and intellectually
- Being modest in your relations with others
- Being respectful and nonviolent when interacting with others

4- Work Values

[Work values](#) include such things as your philosophies about your job, your finances, and how you spend your money. For children, these values include how they approach school and their education. Examples of [work](#) values include:

- Always doing your best work
- Working in a team
- Saving a portion of your salary/allowance
- Finding opportunities to express your ideas and creativity

- Being proud of your achievements
- Making education a priority
- Keeping in mind the part that your job plays in society
- Treating co-workers, fellow students, customers, and authority figures the way that you want to be treated

5- Moral Values

[Moral values](#) are your individual values about what you think is right and wrong. Moral values provide the foundation from which you make decisions. [Morals](#) are learned from your parents and your experiences. Examples of moral values include:

- Being honest and trustworthy
- Being courageous
- Never giving up
- Adding value to the world
- Being patient
- Taking personal responsibility

6- Recreational Values

[Recreational values](#) refer to anything that involves [fun and play](#). Recreation is important in the family because it fosters closeness in the family, opportunities for learning, creating memories, [improving social skills](#), and developing empathy. Examples of recreational values include:

- Providing unstructured play time
- Having [family game nights](#)
- Allowing and encouraging each family member to pursue interests
- Taking [vacations](#) together
- Spending time together outside playing