

Value Education 1 : Group 12

Summary 2

Date: 28/8/2024

The topic of today's discussion was regarding values and how good and bad are defined in our society.

The discussion first started out in the realm of decision-making. We deliberated on how values are involved in the decision-making process, like the famous trolley problem for example. We discussed on what parameters the value of a human life should be weighed upon and what really matters in the grand scheme of things. It was discussed whether the values of a person can be quantified or not to ease the decision-making process and make choices that seem better.

The idea of doing a wrong thing for the benefit of the greater good was discussed, that is, if doing something wrong to one person will bring some better benefit to that person or to more people, then that wrong thing is justified, like breaking the trust of a person only to save him for example.

The discussion then shifted to the duality of values, that is, the separation between what the general society perceives as good values and bad values. The boundaries between the things that we considered good and what we considered bad was examined. It was concluded that the boundary is a grey one and everything is not black and white in the realm of values. The degree of blurriness of the boundary was heavily debated upon, with some taking up the ideals of relativism, that is, every value is grey and there is no absolute right or wrong, and others offering their criticism and disbelief on the same.

The discussion then shifted to the topic of how values are created or defined by society and how they are categorized as good or bad. Many interesting points regarding the origin of values were made, with the views coalescing into two major ideas, one that values are created based on societal norms, that is, the people around us define what is correct and what is not. It is because of the people around us that we create our own sense of conscience and values.

Another idea is that our sense of correctness stems from our own experience and the effects that the consequences of our actions have on us, create our conscience and embody what is right and what is wrong. We learn from our actions and everything we experience, be it our own actions or our observation of somebody else's, form our own thoughts and opinions, which in turn form our core values.

The discussion then shifted to talk about the core values that each of us followed. Many different values were expressed by the group, including gratitude, self-respect, hopefulness, honesty, acknowledgement of our privilege and so on.

With respect to the above topic, I believe that empathy is the most important value that someone should possess, and all the values that we follow are essentially derivatives of empathy in some way or another. How we feel about someone defines how we act towards them, be it with gratitude, honesty, or even hostility. It all depends on how much empathy we have on the person in front of us and how much we care about their feelings.

All in all, the session was a very eye-opening one and it really made us introspect the division between right and wrong and how societal norms define our way of thinking and our beliefs.

Sricharan Vinoth Kumar,

Roll No: 2024112022