

## “A STUDY OF LIFE VALUES AND HIGHER EDUCATION”

*Dr. R.K.Vipat*  
HOD Commerce  
B.L.P. Govt. P.G. College MHOW

### **ABSTRACT:**

*This comprehensive paper argues that Education plays an important role in the process of social change. It is very potential instrument a powerful medium of bringing about changes in the society. Changes brought about by education are permanent and transcendent in nature. The modern world is changing very fast. This paper suggests that with the help of new communication media, modern methodology and latest instructional materials, education bring about changes in the society. Value means primarily to prize, to esteem, to appraise and to estimate. It means the act of cherishing something and the act of passing judgment upon the nature and amounts of values relating to higher education as compared with something else. In present scenario where we live, the society values material gains and profits above all. Values unlike other aspects have gone into abysses where human existence and its future looks dismal and in dark. The present paper highlights values in higher education. This paper further argues that Higher Education is the main instrument for development & change. Universities & Colleges function as the focal centers of Higher Education.*

**Keywords:** *Higher Education, values and education, value orientation in higher education through universities & Colleges, issues facing humanity, social change with higher education.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Values refer to standards for determining levels of goodness or desirability. Values are generally loaded with affective thoughts about ideas, objects, behavior etc. Value education is ingrained in every tradition of Indian culture. Yet it is a matter of great regret that gradually we are losing our values with the result that we tend to become corrupt and hypocrite. This trend must be checked urgently. Perhaps a major responsibility for the corrective action lies on our teachers, education policies and syllabus. Nevertheless educational institutions can also play a significant role in the promotion of values. Value means primarily to prize, to esteem, to appraise, to estimate, it means the act of cherishing something, holding it dear and also the act of passing judgment upon the nature and amounts of values as compared with something else. A value stands for ideas men live for. They are the part and parcel of the philosophy of a nation and that of its educational system. They are the guiding principles of life.

In present scenario where we live, the society values material gains and profits above all. It is not an exaggeration if to say that in this materialistic era of science and technology, everything except morality has reached to its echelon. Values unlike other aspects have gone into abysses where human existence and its future looks dismal and in dark. Though every nation is worried about the continuous corrosion of values yet no serious action has been taken by any of the nations for the restoration of values.

Rat race in the field of education and economic life can be seen in terms of insecurity, distrust, lack of fellow feeling, lack of honour for human values etc. leading to discontent and maladjustment in personal and social life and finally leading to drug abuse, maladjustment and even suicide among students. It is here that the urgent need for value education is felt by one and all currently. Values in higher education make one's own life and the life of his fellow beings lively and meaningful. Value is the base of meaningful human life. It is defined as one's principles or standards, one's judgments of what is valuable or important in life. Human being is a constituent of social group and everyone is interdependent. While performing in a social group one has to adopt certain norms of behaviour which would create an atmosphere of attainment of his objectives in line with group objectives. These principles, standards or norms of behaviour has to be judged not from one's perceptions but from perceptions evolved in course of time in the larger interest of the group as a whole, but from the basic minimum norms from the core discipline of behavior. Value education alone can provide real meaning and content in life.

#### **VALUES - DIFFERENT KINDS AND APPROACHES**

There are mainly two kinds of values from another point of view "to value". Some values are used to value and others are utilized to evaluate. The same distinction is evident in the values "to prize and to appraise, to esteem and to estimate". The similar difference also appears in "what is desired" and "what is desirable", since whatever is desired by the student, may not be desired. Values may again be divided into

- (i) instrumental and
- (ii) intrinsic values.

The instrumental values are values, which are judged good for something. That is, their values are dependent on the consequences or the outcomes. On the other hand, intrinsic values are interest in the objects, not imposed or applied by outside agencies. They are judged good not for something else, but are good in and of themselves.

One more categorization of values could be :-

- (i) Basic Values in terms of our belonging to the family of God as the father of all, our belief and faith, a life of honesty, love and service, the ethical and the spiritual components which is the bed - rock of human life on this earth;

- 
- (ii) Personal Values, related to cleanliness, dignity of labor, diligence, courage, maturity, excellence and the like;
  - (iii) Neighborly Values which include magnanimity, gratitude, tolerance, courtesy, patience, forgiveness, duty-fullness and a host of others related to those around us;
  - (iv) Current Situational Values which consist of evoking a positive response in us like joy and rejoicing at people's or nations' achievements, sadness or grief in times of calamities, generosity and an urge for justice or creative endeavors when confronted with issues of national and international magnitude like human rights, environment, child labor and women's development;
  - (v) National and International Values among which are freedom, accountability, justice non-violence, brotherhood, sympathy, service and sharing.

### **PRESENT SCENARIO**

The main failure of our education system is that we have failed in inculcating values. To a great extent our family system is also responsible for it. Instead of inculcating good values we have taught the students wrong values. The children are taught to earn money in any manner, as those having money are respected in the society. Earlier societies even without education had these values and preserved them. The education system lacks democratic principles. The students are never taught what is meant by their fundamental rights and corresponding duties. The system, which lacks cohesiveness, integrity does not teach anything, which would strengthen unity of the nation. During the 66 years of Independence, casteism and communalism have developed and destroyed the values preached by Mahatma Gandhi, which was once the binding force of the nation.

### **NEED FOR VALUE ORIENTATION**

The need for value orientation in higher education has been emphasized time and again. Now it has become necessary to change the objectives and content of higher education giving due Weightage to value systems. India's rich heritage, with vast canvas of knowledge and enlightenment and philosophy of values have been relegated to the backseat and materialistic desire based behaviour pattern has taken driver's seat. This order needs to be reversed. In a changed context of scientific and technological advancements, entire system of education needs to be redefined, reorganized, reshaped and recharged. Now at the threshold of the new millennium, it is a challenge before educationists to draw a programme to prepare a student to understand, adopt and adhere to values for rich, satisfactory and meaningful individual and social life.

### **CONCLUSION**

Education, in other words, must initiate a life-long process of developmental exploration, within its two dimensions, one of the self and the second of the self and the second of the community and the wider society. In our culturally plural society, higher education should foster universal

and eternal values, oriented towards the unity and integration of our people. Such value education should help eliminate obscurantism, religious fanaticism, violence, superstition and fatalism. Apart from this combative role, value education has a profound positive content, based on our heritage, national goals and universal perceptions. It should lay primary emphasis on this aspect. A glance at our educational system will tell us how far our educational institutions have been successful in making value education an integral part of education in the vast majority of our universities and colleges. Only maiden attempts are being made towards it. we can come to conclusion that providing value based education to our children from early childhood especially during adolescence age group, can help us in overcoming the problem of deteriorating moral values in our youth. Current socio-economic forces of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization have created a global society where the ancient values have been thrown into the winds. However the general degradation of values has led only to personal discontent and heap of social-economic problems. Hence people across the globe are looking towards the system of education to infuse human values among the students so that the world remains as a place of peace, security and prosperity.

#### REFERENCES

1. **Aher H, (1998)**, 'Impact of Education on Value Systems', Report of the World Conference on Education Indian The Next Millennium, Nov. 1998, IERSD, Howrah.
2. **Dalton, J. C., & Crosby, P. C. (2010)** "How we teach character in college: A retrospective on some recent higher education initiatives that promote moral and civic learning" *Journal of College & Character*, 11(2), 1-10.
3. **Jain MP (1999)**, 'Value Oriented Education', University News, Vol. 37 (8), Feb. 22, 1999, AIU Publn., New Delhi;
4. **Saikia, Mukul (2012)** *Higher Education and Inculcation of Values*. In Anuradha, Rajeev & Manoj(first edition), *Higher Education: context and linkages*(pp. 41-46)., Bhiwani: Lakshmi Book Depot.