

The Relevance of Values Education in Today's Higher Education

P. Selvarama Lakshmi

Associate Professor, Satyapriya Roy College of Education, Kolkata, West Bengal, India
lakshmiselvaram@yahoo.com

Abstract: Value education refers to the aspect of the educational practice which entails that moral or political values as well as norms, dispositions and skills grounded in those values are mediated to or developed among students. Concern for value education is increasing in recent years as a result of crisis of values that our society is currently experiencing. The issue has been projected as one of the national priority in the nations education. The paper remains a humble attempt at exploring the nature, purpose, methods and relevance of value education in higher education.

Keywords: Higher education, values, education

1. Introduction

Values and principles in students that guide their behaviour, choices, and actions throughout their lives ideally constitute value education. Value education refers to the aspect of the educational practice which entails that moral or political values as well as norms, dispositions and skills grounded in those values are mediated to or developed among students. Values education can be referred to as explicit or implicit. Whereas explicit values education refers to the official curriculum of what and how to teach values and morality, including teachers' explicit intentions and practices of values education, implicit values education is associated with a hidden curriculum and implicit values influence, embedded in institution and classroom practices. Teaching is inevitably a moral activity in which teachers have to consider the ethical complexity of teaching and the moral impact they have on their students. These values include honesty, respect, empathy, responsibility, integrity, and more. The primary goal of value - based education is to cultivate not just knowledgeable individuals but also morally upright citizens who contribute positively to society. Concern for value education is increasing in recent years as a result of crisis of values that our society is currently experiencing. The issue has been projected as one of the national priority in the nation's education. The National Education Policy 1986 declares that the growing concern over the erosion of essential values and increasing in the society has brought to focus the need for readjustment in the curriculum in order to make the education a forceful tool for the cultivation of social and moral values. The national curriculum Framework for school education 2000 (NCERT) observed that schools can and must strive to restore and sustain the universal and external values oriented towards the unity and integration of people. Their moral and spiritual growth enable them to realise the treasure within. The school curriculum has to contain components that communicate essential values in their totality. The recent term 'value education' is referred to the traditional approaches such as a moral education, religious education, social and character education, moral and spiritual education. In moral or value education is to be effectively undertaken, it must be firmly based on the principles of value development.

Importance of Value - Based Education

- 1) *Character Building:* Value - based education is instrumental in character building. It helps students develop a strong sense of right and wrong, promoting qualities such as honesty, integrity, and empathy. These qualities are not only important for personal growth but also for building a harmonious and compassionate society.
- 2) *Ethical Decision Making:* In today's complex world, ethical dilemmas are commonplace. Value education equips students with the skills to make ethical decisions, even in challenging situations. It encourages critical thinking and a deep understanding of the consequences of one's actions.
- 3) *Respect for Diversity:* In a globalized world where diversity is celebrated, it's crucial to foster respect for people from different backgrounds and cultures. Value - based education promotes tolerance and acceptance, teaching students to appreciate diversity and work collaboratively with others.
- 4) *Empathy and Compassion:* Value education teaches students to be compassionate and empathetic towards others. These qualities are essential for building strong interpersonal relationships and addressing social issues effectively.
- 5) *Leadership and Responsibility:* Leaders with strong moral values are the need of the hour. Value - based education nurtures leadership qualities grounded in ethics and responsibility, ensuring that future leaders prioritize the greater good over personal gain.
- 6) *Conflict Resolution:* Conflict is inevitable, but value education equips students with conflict resolution skills. They learn to resolve disputes peacefully, fostering a more harmonious and cooperative society.
- 7) *Stress Reduction:* Understanding and practicing values such as patience and resilience can significantly reduce stress levels among students. It, in turn, leads to better mental health and improved academic performance.

Components of Value Education:

The components of value education may be summarised as below:

- 1) History of a nation and its national heritage: Being connected to one's roots and country makes a person a responsible and morally aware citizen.
- 2) All the constitutional rights of a nation: Value education makes people realize their rights and those of people around them so that they can also help others.
- 3) Overall community development: A socially responsible person will also help overall community development, which will bring about positive changes in society.
- 4) National Integration: National integration is bringing all citizens on the same page so that everyone lives in harmony and supports each other, and ultimately the nation develops.
- 5) Environmental knowledge: Knowing about the environment is also very important as it makes the individual more aware of his/her actions and their side effects on the environment.
- 6) Health Awareness: The more a person is aware of health, the more he will be able to help people around him.
- 7) Character education: All the positives around a person will make him a better human and help build a strong character.

Characteristics of Value Education:

Value Education's characteristics are unique compared to different types of Education and may be listed as below:

- 1) Value Education is a sort of Education that helps build up an individual's social skills and makes them a team player.
- 2) Value Education helps in building up a global perspective in an individual and helps build up global vision in them.
- 3) Value education helps enhance creative and systematic ways of thinking and handling difficult situations in life.
- 4) People who get value Education cooperate better with others.
- 5) Individuals with value education help understand diversity beyond cultural, religious, and other social stigmas.

Objectives of Value Education

Value education aims to create awareness amongst individuals about values, their importance, and their benefits so that they can be adopted widely in society.

- 1) The purpose of value education or its need must also be studied so that people know its application.
- 2) To ensure holistic development of children where their physical, mental, and emotional needs are fulfilled.
- 3) Value education helps in creating responsible citizens.
- 4) It makes people feel accountable for mankind and connects people.
- 5) Value education helps people become polite and humble beings.
- 6) Value education instils a sense of curiosity in individuals.
- 7) It also helps people make morally correct decisions in life in difficult situations.
- 8) People become democratic as well.
- 9) Individuals develop a lot of patience and tolerance

Types of Value Education

The different types of value education or classification of value education that can be opted for are as follows:

- 1) Personal Value Education: Value Education focuses on enhancing personal development and growth in individuals.
- 2) Social Value Education: Social Value education can make people better and more responsible citizens who will help build a better society.
- 3) Spiritual Value Education: People must be spiritually awakened, especially in today's world, where there is a lot of stress and competition to keep calmness in mind.
- 4) Cultural Value Education: If people are aware of their cultural values, they will be more aware of the diversity, deals, and norms of the society, which will keep a check on their behaviour as well.
- 5) Environmental Value Education: Value education also stresses making individuals aware of the environment and making them environmentally conscious.
- 6) Universal Value Education: People should know universal values applicable to mankind.

Methods of Value Education

There are always different ways in which any sort of Education can be imparted, and so is the case of value education, in which there are other ways in which students get value education. The methods of value education cannot be specified as there can be a wide variety of innovations and modifications for effective inculcation of value education. However, some widely used methods may be summarised as below:

- 1) Stories and Fables: Like bedtime stories teach us lessons, stories in class can help us understand right from wrong. By listening to a tale about kindness or honesty, we can learn how to act in real life.
- 2) Role Play: Imagine dressing up and acting like different characters! By putting ourselves in someone else's shoes, we can better understand their feelings and why specific values are essential.
- 3) Group Discussions: Sometimes, talking with friends about a situation can help us see things more clearly. Discussing and sharing ideas can help us learn about values together.
- 4) Games and Activities: Who said learning can't be fun? Games like "Pass the Parcel" or team - building exercises can teach us about teamwork, patience, and fairness.
- 5) Real - life Examples: Teachers might talk about something that happened in the news or the community. Discussing these real situations helps us understand how values work outside.
- 6) Art and Creativity: Drawing, painting, or making crafts related to values can be a fun way to understand them better. For instance, they are creating a "Tree of Honesty" where every leaf has an honest act written.
- 7) Field Trips: Visiting places like old age homes or orphanages can teach empathy and compassion. When we see and interact with different people, we learn to appreciate and value them more.
- 8) Individualized learning: Few learners do not want or require any guidance in learning new things. These people are primarily introverts and are self - sufficient to grasp new understandings independently. The only drawback of this learning style is that people are less aware of the world around them and restrict themselves from learning from others, so the perspective formed is limited to their own.

- 9) Group Learning: There can be several study groups or interest groups that can be built up to find out how the value of Education is perceived, and so there can be more exchange of ideas and thoughts regarding the subject matter for better development and more content knowledge.
 - 10) Project knowledge: Any learning, when combined with first - hand experience with real - life situations, is the best type of learning. This stimulates ideas in the learners' minds and helps them grasp new topics better.
 - 11) Open learning: These days, available education is getting more critical. An example of this is the Montessori way of learning, where the children are developed so that they can take care of themselves on their own.
 - 12) All these learning styles are very different from others, but the idea is to instill the basics of value education in them.
- 8) Value education's ultimate goal is not to make individuals aware of the benefits and the importance of value education in life but to make them implement it in their daily lives.
 - 9) making individuals aware of their rights provided by the constitution and the various fundamental human rights so that nobody can take undue advantage of them.
 - 10) We can build a sustainable future for ourselves and future generations by switching to sustainable options, with environmental Education being a part of value education.

Nature of Value Education

The nature of value education can be understood by -

- 1) Value education has a holistic approach toward different aspects of life.
- 2) Value education is relevant to every individual.
- 3) It is focused on moral and ethical values.
- 4) Value education has an efficient approach, because of which it becomes very relatable.
- 5) Value education talks about the inclusion of one and all.

Contents of Value Education

The contents of values education can be broadly summarized as below.

- 1) Love: The foremost part of value education is love which is love for self, others, nature, mankind in general, nation, etc. This brings in a sense of humility and belongingness toward others.
- 2) Understanding: Value Education helps make people more understanding of the situations around them and less judgemental towards others.
- 3) Respect: Value education makes people more respectful.
- 4) Discipline: To be successful in any of the fields, a person needs to be dedicated disciplined and maintain that to lead a healthy life ahead.
- 5) Honesty: A person needs to be accurate and honest towards his work and otherwise to become more believable.
 - The main objective of value education is to build and make citizens responsible and build a better world for living.
 - It is focused on bringing social harmony.
 - There is a lot of personal growth that a person undergoes when introduced to value education.

Importance of Value Education

The importance of value education also needs to be understood so the actual meaning and usage of value education is known.

- 1) Value education helps transform students into progressive thinkers to discover the real purpose of their lives.
- 2) Value education helps build character along with physical and mental ability enhancements.
- 3) Value education helps in making individuals understand the way to lead a life.
- 4) Value education helps create a positive perception of individuals towards different aspects of life. We can say that it changes the way individuals think.
- 5) Value education with so many positive changes in an individual helps in building up an upbeat personality of individuals altogether.
- 6) People can build better relations with families and friends once they are introduced to the value of education.
- 7) With value education, individuals are always in a positive state of mind.

Role of media in value education

The present - day world is facing the problem of "information explosion" that means an explosion of knowledge. Today, throughout the world, social and technological changes are taking place rapidly due to expanding world of information. There are a good number of media for mass communication such as radio, television, newspapers and films etc. Previously, the mass media were only put to marginal and individualised use. In fact, the mass media have become a well of message around the world of today and have entered into all the structure of daily life, it can be used and in fact is being used as a means of education. So the role of mass media in value - education emerges as crucial.

Examples of values education from around the world

Taylor gives a thorough overview of value education in various countries. Australia The Australian government currently funds values education in its schools, with its won publications and funding of school forums on value of education at all levels of education. It also helps in becoming a better person. A conference on moral education and Australian values was held in 2007 at Monash University. Indonesia A Key feature of education in Indonesia is the five principles of Pancasila. Japan Elementary school and middle school students from first to ninth grades will be taught the importance of life, to listen to others with different opinions, to be fair, respect their country and learn about foreign cultures. Singapore Teacher training institutions in Singapore all have curricular for learning to teach civics and moral education programmes, but students do not take this as seriously as they should due to lack of assessment. The reason has been said to be the lack of innovative teaching approaches. Sweden Value education is a part of Swedish schools. Whereas the formal curriculum is about educating students to be competent democratic citizens by practicing student participative, qualitative studies have shown that in everyday school life, value education and school democracy appeared to be reduced to traditional disciplines with high focus on rules and regulations. Thailand In Thailand, values have traditionally been thought it in the context of Buddhist religious education. Since 1982 there has been a revival of applied values as an extracurricular activity suitable for

Buddhist, Muslim and Christian students alike to prepare Thailand students for the effects of globalisation.

2. Conclusion

Literary meaning of values implies moral principles that control or influence a person's behavior or a system of moral principles or rules of behavior/ principles which affect a person's behavior in a positive sense. These principles have a great, definite and undoubtedly a great deal of direct influence on a normal human behavior. It entails the mental faculty which enables a man to probe distinguish and choose from the good and bad in positive sense which comes to a person with inward concentration. The Indian subcontinent is the one of the oldest civilizations of the world which was well aware of improving the quality of life through these means and they have much been talked about through Indian poetry, drama, prose and fictions. The entire ancient Indian literature, in one way or the other way, have been much emphasizing on these very normative principles of moral conduct. According to the Indian knowledge system, value education is a journey of self - emancipation or the self - realization is the process of becoming from being. An individual, who is on the path of self - realization and who has to achieve his objective yet, is a bundle of imperfections and only through these means of moral corrections, he can achieve the final destination. There, it is a process of becoming from being or coming to the real existence. This very process of becoming is revealed through moral up - righteousness on which all of the Upanishads have categorically emphasized upon to a great extent. The Indic philosophy and culture thus should be integrated in the higher education for effective inculcation of values among the future citizens of the nation.

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