

Value Development Among Youths: Vital Role of University

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"The troubles of the whole world including India are due to the fact that knowledge has become more intellectual exercise and not acquisition of on oral & spiritual Values." (S. Radhakrishnan) The main aim of higher education is to shape the character of youth as the best citizens of the nation as well as to make them individuals having high morality and higher spiritual values. All these qualities are related with characterization of an individual. These qualities are reflected through the behaviour of a person. But a continuous deterioration and fall in values can be observed in our youth and people of the country. The existing higher education and education overall seems to be a **failure** in shaping the character of the youth. Dutta said that "the values are the pillars of meaningful life and education is the tool which can bring a change." All these gave birth to a new concept "Value based education". But if one thinks on value based education, many questions arise in his mind.

- i. What is the concept of value?
- ii. What is the present value system of our society?
- iii. Can values be taught?
- iv. If, yes, what are the methods?
- v. How can university play a vital role in developing values among the pupils?

Present article is a sort of discussion on the above questions.

In philosophical texts values are those standards or a code of conduct conditioned by one's cultural tenets and guided by conscience, according to which human being is supposed to conduct himself and shape his life patterns by integrating his beliefs, ideas and attitudes to realize the cherished ideals and aims of life.

Existing Environment and Value System

Education is a powerful instrument of social change and human progress. It is also a powerful tool to cultivate moral and spiritual values in an individual. Universities are the higher educational institutes and hence the responsibility is directly imposed on them. It has been said that "Vidya dadati vinayam" but it has not been ever seen in universities. Universities are a part of the society or mini society. They have their own value system; where most of the people believe in just preaching on values but do not practice it themselves. They are money minded, selfish and ambitious. Thus people are going away from natural life due to competition. Due to this, universities are becoming the target of criticism. In past, the education was based on tapa, Tyaga, Namrata and Brahmacharya and pupils worked under the guidance of Guru. All these

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things made their life meaningful. Today, we ourselves do not know where we are going and where we are leading our pupils to?

Value- A Matter of Affective Domain

Values can not be taught through formal and direct teaching as it is related with the affective domain. It is necessary that value system must be integrated into the personality of an individual. It is evident that values are not taught but caught. It is required that a person should live in the atmosphere of desired value system. Actually there is no need to use word desirable value. Value itself has an essence of desirability. To acquire a value, a person should go through the following five stages which are the levels of affective domain. These stages are:

- Receiving – Getting aware of value.
- Responding – Responding value in appropriate situation.
- Valuing – Making Judgement on preferences.
- Organising – Organise it to make stable in value system of mind.
- Characterization – Making value as a part of character.

Role of Universities in Developing Value System

Universities are institutions which play a vital role in shaping the personalities of youth. When we consider university as a system all the elements of the university are equally responsible for developing values among the students. All the elements whether teacher, administrators, parents, environment etc. constitute the institutional climate where the students spend 7 to 8 hours per day.

Teachers

The reputation of university is created by its teachers. Main responsibility of shaping the behaviour of students is in the hands of teachers. Teachers in fact, are the designers of the future of their students. Directly or indirectly they influence their students, hence teachers should present themselves as ideals. They should have a clear image among students. They should be honest, sincere, punctual and should follow the professional ethics. They must devote time for discussion with the students. Discussion should be made informal, outside the classrooms also, not only on contents but on social problems, individual problems faced by students and on social values. Teachers should be sensitive, sympathetic and have positive attitude towards student's emotions. It is the role of a teacher to make the students realize the depth, magnitude and significance of values.

Teaching Strategies

There are certain techniques suggested by different educationists. These techniques are useful in developing values. These techniques are critical inquiry method, case study, role playing, value clarification technique, value analysis model etc. The main purpose of these techniques is to develop rationality among the students. In all these techniques students try to judge their values. To reach the generalization is not the aim of these techniques. Community extension work or community based projects are also useful,

where students go to the people, discuss with them and see the reality of life. In this way these methods are useful in developing instructive awareness among students. Instructive awareness and consciousness is a sort of rapport between individual consciousness and social conditions of life.

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