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Ethics, Human Values and Education.

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Abstracts -

Ethics and Human values are the guiding principles of life that contribute to the all round development of an individual. They give a direction and add quality to life. Thus, we can say that any human activity, thought or idea, feeling, emotion, which promotes self development of an individual, constitutes a value. Imparting ethics and human values and reforming the society were the only aims and objectives of the ancient education. But in the present scenario, due to manifold changes in various aspects of our civilization such as population explosion, advancement in science and technology, knowledge expansion, rapid industrialization, urbanization, mobilization, liberalization, privatization & globalization, present society has become highly dynamic. But at the same time ethics and human values are disappearing everywhere in society, it caused global poverty, pollution, hunger, disease, unemployment, unsociability, caste system, child labour, gender inequality, ill-treatment of women, violence, disability, exploitation of natural resources. To overcome the problems there is an urgent need of ethics and human value education to save humanity of today's world and to make the world better place to live. Ethics and human values may vary from one society to another and from time to time. But, every society abides by certain human values, and these values are accepted by all the societies as Global values.

Keywords – Ethics, Human Values, and Education.

Introduction –

The term 'value' refers to a development of 'heart'. But we lost our heart. So value based education is highly needed in our modern society because our lives have become more miserable. The quantity of education has considerably increased, but the quality has decreased, why? The number of educated people has reached at high level, but murder, hatred and selfishness have spread out like wildfire everywhere, why? Many institutions are opened, but only few civilized people are produced, why? Degrees are available for all, but the dignity has gone down, why? Trained people are produced from many institutions, but sincere people are very few, why? Many books are written, many researches are done, many professional achievements are attained, but humanity is threatened, why? To remove all these problem from society it is highly needed ethics and human value based education.

Swami Vivekananda says "we cannot have a great nation with men of low character. Character is destiny and character is only precious jewel that one can cherish to wear". Swami Vivekananda gave importance to "**man making education**", not for **money- making education**. Values are the life blood of a civilized human society. They are the saving grace of an educated man or women. Hence education is the only means of inculcating right values in the heart and soul of the youth and every individual.

Ethics is the foundation of our human relationship to ourselves and the world around us. The purpose and role of ethics has always been the preservation of the human being as a person, human dignity, and the conditions for leading a good life. Today's time, today's culture in which we live is characterized mainly by pluralism with which we have to deal, with crises and turmoil that we are experiencing, with the increasing interconnectivity of the world (globalization) and the dependence of one another, and the "relativisation" of values, which is primarily an expression of decreased confidence in society and the loss of certainty about the answers to the fundamental questions of our existence. Ethics protects and nurtures humanity of our existence, both in ourselves and in others, and practice of dialogue is essential. We always live in relationship to others, namely in a relationship of mutual giving and receiving, therefore recognition of our dependence on others and caring for others is essential.

Values – There are four views to clear the concept of value.

Psychological view –Anything that satisfies our desire is value.

Biological view – Value is the characteristic of a thing or activity which helps in conservation and furtherance of our life.

Ethical view- Those things or activities are valuable which help in making our soul perfect.

Philosophical view-Value signifies neither a thing nor an individual, but a thought or a point of view. As such everything which is useful to an individual becomes valuable to him.

Human values are the virtues that guide us to take into account the human element when we interact with other human beings. Human values are as respect, acceptance, consideration, appreciation, listening, openness, affection, empathy and love towards other human beings. Values related to the aims of human life. For the achievement of aims men frame certain notions and these notions are called values. Values are the forces that govern behaviour at the core of the personality. Behavioural dispositions of the individual are governed by value-orientations, attitudinal dispositions, and belief systems with specific reference and relevance to broader social context of the individual. A value orientation is essential for the planning of a good future for mankind. It is a matter of experience that mankind reacts to human behaviour sometimes with approval and sometimes with disapproval. Not only the individual but society makes judgments on various kinds of human behaviour.

Nature of Ethics and Human Values -

1. Our conduct is motivated by values. 2. Values give direction to one's strivings. 3. Values represent feelings, wants, interests, attitudes, preference and opinions about what is right, just, fair or desirable. 3. Value is the act of characterizing something. A person who values justice will spend a lot of energy in search of it. 4. Value is the co-operative result of an interaction between personal and impersonal elements. 5. Value has its importance and worth. Only a good person is able to see and recognize good things. 6. Creation and preservation of value is an important purpose of man. 7. The greater the consideration and importance of values the better is the social group. 8. Values have characteristics like subjectivity, objectivity, material or abstract elasticity etc. 9. Values aim at protection self realization, satisfaction, perfection and development, integrity and cohesion etc. 10. Anything which has utility is valuable. 11. Value is helpful in existence. 12. Anything which is helpful in organizing society is called value. 13. Values are experiments in present and past as well. 14. By virtue of his emotion man determines his values. 15. Values are felt sometimes partially and sometimes wholly. 16. Values are determined by the notions of individuals and also by the circumstances in which he lives. 17. Anything has value if it relates to the perfection of life for which a man endeavours in his life. 18. The values are inner imperatives which urge us to seek higher goals. Hence, values are those which satisfy our needs.

Types of Values -

The values can be expressed in different types which may be broadly classified in to two categories namely,

Positive values and Negative values.

Positive values are those that lead us towards freedom, peace, joy and fulfilment. They are warm, shining and uplifting. **Negative values** are those that lead us towards bondage, conflicts, sorrow and frustration. They are cold, dark and debasing.

Other types of value are as Social values, Aesthetic values, Cognitive values, Spiritual values, Economic values, Religious values, Moral values, Health, Democratic values and Physical values which are necessary for the all-round development of our personality.

Objectives of Ethics and Human Value and Education -

- To stimulate ethical reflection, awareness, responsibility, and compassion in children, provide children with insight into important ethical principles and values,
- To equip them with intellectual capacities (critical thinking and evaluation, reflection, discovery, understanding, decision-making, non-cognitive abilities like compassion) for responsible moral judgment,
- To develop approaches to build a classroom or school environment as an ethical community,
- To reflectively situate individuals into other local and global communities with a mission to contribute to the common good.
- All this enables pupils to overcome prejudice, discrimination, and other unethical practices and attitudes.

Importance of Ethics and Human Value and Education-

Values are a set of desirable behaviour which is good for the individual and also the society. In this respect we find the relevance of the saying- Values are not taught, they are only demonstrated.

Today, The Whole world is going through rapid and profound changes due to globalization processes, closer integration and expansion of EU, economic crisis, advancement of technology and social innovation, migrations and challenges to traditional identities and memberships, etc. All these societal transformations present the educational sector and especially education professionals with new challenges. The development of a knowledge-based society and the globalization process are creating new social and individual needs in the areas of culture, scientific and technological development, social cohesion, education, the position and the role of an individual as a citizen as well as in the area of an individual's personal development.

In the context of social changes education is not only to impart information and to teach skills to the students but also to inculcate the values of humanism, democracy, socialism, secularism and national integration. This is necessary for the realisation of our national objectives of building a democratic and just social order based on equality, social justice, fraternity and freedom. We know that India was a very rich country in cultural heritage and spiritual aspects. But now it has become a nation of violence, terrorism, extremism, corruption etc. Preservation of democracy value oriented education is highly needed.

Developing the right understanding about oneself and the rest of reality through self exploration and realization of the inherent co- existence, harmony and self-regulation at various levels of existence is seen to be the real basis of imbibing universal human values and ethical human conduct. This is what will affect transformation towards a holistic worldview (human consciousness) which happens to be the prime purpose of value based education.

After attaining independence, no doubt, the nation made rapid development in all fields, but we lost our character and pride in our values. It is rightly said- **if wealth is lost, nothing is lost, if health is lost, something is lost; but, if character is lost, everything is lost.** This holds true not only for individuals, but also for the every society in the world.

Need of Ethics and Human Value and Education -

- To guide the human beings in the right path, to inculcate the concept of **Universal Brotherhood** and to achieve the absolute values of Truth, Goodness and Beauty;
- To give direction and firmness to life and bring joy, satisfaction and peace of life
- To preserve our culture and heritage and to develop morality and character;
- To bring the behavioural changes towards positivism;
- To promote the peace and harmony in the individuals and society;
- To bring quality of life and sustainable development in the society.
- To improve the integral growth of human beings.
- To create attitude and improvement towards sustainable lifestyle.

- To know about various living and non-living organisms and their interaction with

Challenges in inculcating ethics and human values among individual-

- Non-responsiveness,
- Professionalization,
- Poor quality of teaching,
- Political intervention in teacher's selection ignoring of merits,
- Privatisation,
- Changing social attitude,
- More priority of ranks and seat percentage.
- Lack of awareness regarding ethics and human values.

Conclusion –

The doors of knowledge is opened 24 X7 for everyone by one click but they don't know what is right and wrong, what is good and bad for me? Not knowing about when, how and where should they use and apply of knowledge. They are totally confused. That's why there is an urgent need of proper guidance. Ethics and human values education gives the direction to every individual's life regarding what is right and wrong. The main purpose of this article is that to save humanity and preserve democracy in the world. Therefore, we all need to inculcate ethics and human values at each and every level of education.

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