ROLE OF ETHICS AND VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract

According to Socrates –"Education is bringing out of the ideas of universal validity which are latent in the mind of every man." Education does not end only with mastery over few languages or subjects. It also defines opening the doors of the mind, cleansing the soul and realization of the self. We, as Indians do have a rich and huge volumes of spiritual heritage but it is a matter of regret that we are the inheritors of the privileged and enriched heritage. It is really pathetic to see that the concern over the ethical values has lost their values and place at various levels of our education system in general and the higher Technical Education in particular. It is therefore, required to scrutinize the major causes of this deterioration in ethical values due to the prevalence of corruption, bribery, murder, rape, scams etc. The best way to address this issue is to impart value based ethical education that is incorporated in the academic curriculum, just the way it was being practiced in the ancient times where the education system was value-based and education would help in the improvement of human character and recognition of their inner purity.

Key Words: Ethics, Values, Self Realisation, Ancient Indian Heritage and Education, and Present Education

Introduction

Education plays a key role in the life of human beings. It is a process that starts from womb and continues to tomb. It polishes the three folds of human life like physical, intellectual and spiritual life. Ethics is the branch of philosophy that deals with the moral aspect of human life. It is derived from the word Latin word "Ethos" which means 'Character'. In the words of Nelson Mandela "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Speaking about the importance of moral education Jerry

springer asserts that: "we are all born as empty vessels which can be shaped by moral values." According to Albert Schweitzer: "Ethics is the activity of man directed to secure the inner perfection of his own personality." Thus these assertions signify the importance of ethical transformation of the human beings. And Educational institutions have the moral responsibility of moulding especially the youth towards that life of nobility.

Indian Higher education system has occupied the third place next to United States of America and China. Besides being the holder of the third place, Indian higher education system has a great responsibility to prepare the students with the values of ethics that transforms them into complete human beings. Therefore, it is very important to have an insightful approach into the system of higher education that is being imparted to the students in India in this aspect of inculcation of Ethic and values. There are certain factors that are proved to be focused especially the issues of concern like financing and management, conduct of re-orientation programmes on health consciousness, insistence in imparting the values and ethics, quality in the system of Higher Education that is included with the assessment of institutions and also their accreditation etc., as these factors play a pivotal role in making the society as a knowledge society in the 21st century.

There are certain Ethical parameters in Higher Education to be considered to decide its standards and quality. The quality management in higher education is determined in the aspects like Academic Environment, Intellectual Capital and physical infrastructure.
Generally Ethical values of the Academic Environment can be visualized in the prevalence of literary books, journals of national and international origin, digital amenities like computers and CDs etc.,

The Intellectual capitals can be seen in number of faculty an institute possesses, books that are published, seminars and conferences that are conducted in the organization and as well as attended by the faculty in that organization to the other institutions and faculty development programmes organized as well as attended in the organization and the outside organizations etc.,

Availability of laboratories of the various departments and the number of class rooms with adequate infrastructure facilities campus facilities and the hostel facilities speaks volumes about the Physical infrastructure of any organization.

Moreover, the percentage of selected students in the placements and conduct of placement drives and campus drives explain the Placement competency of any organization.

Faculty satisfaction, students' satisfaction and parent satisfaction recruiters' satisfaction explain the satisfaction of the Stake holders.

Innovative facilities in their flourishment in the organization of any higher education can be interpreted in terms of the courses that are modified and the updated courses and the new courses that are introduced etc.,

Result of inculcating ethics and values are seen in developing morality among the youth that can be measured collectively in the following terms. Moral development, awareness of health care, development of culture, development of healthy and multifaceted personality, good citizenship, redressing all sorts of conflicts in a harmonious environment, national integrity and development of the nation etc., are defined as the outcomes of the cultivation of ethical values of the citizens of the any country.

Every human being learns ethics and values from the following sources. They are the Institutions like family, school, state and Religious, Professional ethics that includes organization and responsibilities of the employees, friends and colleagues, and situational circumstances etc.

The moral values of the human beings are reflected if they are taught at the level of Education, as they function with honesty when they step into the professional world or any other work they undertake in their life.

If the youth are taught the importance of the ethics and values it leads to many benefits., like it helps them to grow morally and culturally, guides them to be healthy and to maintain the balanced mentality and free from being eccentric, this intellectual wit assists them in resolving the conflicts, to live under peaceful and harmonious environment, realizing the importance of cooperative living and thus causing for building the developed nation.

It is hilarious to see lack of prevalence of the set of hard and fast rules in various educational and responsible bodies, which are to impart the ethical sense and enlightenment in the society. Consequently, they are stimulating the deterioration of ethical standards among the youth. Moreover, the ad-hoc policies are contradicting among themselves that are framed by the AICTE, UGC, National councils of Teachers' Education, Universities and Colleges for the purpose governing themselves. This can be witnessed very clearly in the intervention of Supreme Court and the statements in its verdict for the rectification of the prevalent anomalies' as it is filed by Prof. Yashpal. Youth are impacted by the unethical practices of the following domains like, Actors of Higher Educational such as AICTE, University Grants

Commission, NCTE etc., Higher Educational Institutes like Engineering and Management Studies, Society and Family where they are born and brought up, and from the relations of Mentor and Mentees etc. The detailed description of the four domains is followed;

Impact of Family and Society

The impact of the family and society play a major role in moulding the personality of the child. In the words of Napolean, the great "Mother's lap is the first school to a child". Thus parents should monitor the child's behavior. They should strictly restrict their school going children from carrying the luxurious things like mobiles, cars, etc., to school which is completely wrong ethically, since these things speaks volumes of their status and instead of making the students humble, they make them adamant and aggressive.

Some of the Parents are unable to make out their valuable time to monitor their children and this lack of care of the parents make the child to become easily victims to the excessive usage of Internet and thus leading them to fall prey to cyber-crimes.

Apart from all these things the parents should have a regular check at the progress of the child in their studies contacting the teachers in regular intervals. This constant supervision enables the child to regulate their behavior.

Impact of Educational Sector:

The second important institution that impacts the child is the school and the teachers .Teachers should set themselves as a role model, instead of practicing the ethics rather than speaking about it.

They should in still ethical sense, rational thinking that enhance their horizon of perception towards the organizational values among the students, and thus make them capable to resolve all the conflicts of different complicated perspectives that are encountered in their lives in the days to come.

It is very miserable to notice nowadays some of the mentors/teachers are using Internal Assessments using as double weapon for and against the students/mentees which has a negative impact on personality of the student.

Many of the Higher Educational Institutes are wholly incapable of imparting any education, much less a quality education, in absence of bare infrastructure, class rooms, libraries and laboratories in the campus.

Some of the Private Universities are running professional courses without taking prior permission from the regulatory bodies like All India Council of Technical Education(AICTE)

Medical Council of India(MCI), Dental Council of India(DCI) etc., In absence of requisite permission from statutory bodies degree certificates awarded by such Universities would not be recognized by the professional organizations, consequently the students studying in such Universities and obtaining the degrees, therefore would suffer immense loss, both in terms of money and the spent in completing the courses. To resolve these types of problems Supreme Court has intervene especially in Chattisgarh to resolve and regulate the system in the year 2002.

The labour is exploited by the managements of the Institutes as the guidelines for the mandatory establishment of selection committee to recruit the faculty. Moreover, pay scales not according to the UGC norms by organizations of Higher Education.

Education refers to the process designed to bring out the hidden goodness and capability in human beings. Nearly two thousand and more years ago Greek philosophers used the term 'Educare', meaning, "Educators should devise the simplest and most effective methods to turn the minds towards the light. Not to implant sight in it because it already has the capacity, but to correct its orientation because it is not facingthe right way." —**Plato, Republic, 375**

The Higher Educational Institutes but, not all, maintain the Camouflaged salary in addition to actual salary disbursed registers in many colleges; Unfair means are being practiced in exams, sometimes even with faculty involvement. The famous case of Anti copying Act in UP by BJP Government which was later abolished within one hour of Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav becoming the Chief Minister; Unqualified and inexperienced faculty are being recruited, which results in compromising the quality of teaching.; Increased fee structure on some pretext or the other under the label of Developmental Charges by the colleges are being charged.. ; There is no correlation between performance appraisal and in the hikes of salary. Professional ethics such as punctuality, attendance of faculty and students, results achieved overall development of student's personality, quality research work/ projects undertake are not given due concern and weightage. The main motto of these organizations is to make profits by hook or crook ways and means. Donations accepted while giving admissions to students as capitation fees and further no accounts are maintained for these donations.

Education is seen as consisting of three components, namely, Information, Knowledge and Wisdom, each one leading to the next so that we ultimately end up with wisdom. While knowledge backed by information develops human skills and capabilities to achieve many

things in the best way possible, it is wisdom that guides one to decide the priorities. Ultimately, everything one undertakes has to be purposeful not only to oneself but more so to the society one lives in. Education, at higher levels has made human beings not only greedy but also self-centred. Swami Ranganathananda, eleventh President of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission puts it nicely with his reference to the Ten Commandments of Moses. He says,

"Moses gave us Ten Commandments but highly educated persons today think that there were eleven of these and follow the eleventh one which says: "Even if you disobey all the Ten Commandments, make sure that you are not caught by the law." That is Education today. Swami Ranganathananda, Prabuddha Bharata, Feb. 2011.

India is the largest democracy in the world and has a population of over 1.39 billion people, with well over a 677 universities and university-level institutions, including, 45 central Universities, 290 State Universities, 95 Deemed Universities, 12 IITs, 12 IIMs, 20 IIIts, 2 IISc's, 5 Institutions established under State Act and 13 Institutions of National importance apart from around 37,204 colleges including 2401 women colleges in India. The total enrollment of students in Universities and Colleges is 20 million while the number of teachers is 4.8 lakhs. Only seven percent of the population in the 18-24 age groups has access to higher education. India will need 1,500 universities to attain gross enrollment ratio of at least 15% by 2016. This is a key observation made by the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) in its note to the Prime Minister on higher education. Stating that opportunities.

Education without modesty is symbol for arrogance and danger. Unethical behavior triggers the citizens into darkness and can only exist when ethical leaders remain bystanders in the face of oddities. If we who are in the field of educating the young want to measure and assess our efforts we need to look at how our institutions nurture human freedom in the service of humanity. Success of a person is measured today by the power of the wealth that one holds.

Conclusion

Thus it is observed that there is an ardent need to reform the ethical structure of education, especially in higher level, where it sends new managers, academicians, researchers and the makers of society in the days to come. The above analysis exhibits clearly a lack of value education in present day education and there is a strong need to rejuvenate it. Additionally, where there sometimes these amenities exist, they are just on the papers or just practiced to complete out the formalism, i.e. teaching the syllabus and writing out the exams. There is

hardly any relativism in between these scored marks and values actually practiced. There is a strong need to recast this system by adding workshops, social projects and other social contribution causes to the existing system to make the coming managers ethically sound and stable strengthening our corporate world as well as society at large.

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