



RELEVANCE OF HUMAN VALUES IN THE CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Values are virtues, ideals and qualities upon which our actions and beliefs are based. Values are guiding principles that shape our outlook, attitudes and conduct. The moral values represent a true perspective of the development of any society or nation. Knowledge provided or received without the inculcation of values and morality is of no use. Education is a core value which gives solutions to all the problems of human life, if it's not handled properly it creates havoc. Higher education is the pillar of career and leadership building, the values and virtues practiced in universities heavily influence the future leadership. According to the UGC draft made about the inculcation of human values in the HEI's, "The tenets of Human Values need to be embedded in the societal act and behaviour of mankind. International and intra-national scandals of corruption, loss of inter-personal trust, value-less lifestyle, unethical behaviours, conflict of interest and insider dealing, nepotism and mediocrity, etc. lead us to the conclusion that things are not going in the right way. There is a dire need to reemphasise ethical ways to conduct the affairs by all members of society.

Keywords: - Education, Human Values, HEI's, Need of Human Values, UGC Guidelines.



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INTRODUCTION: -

According to the ancient Indian philosophy, there are four core values which are inevitable to lead a successful life. They are i] Artha - Economic Values, ii] Kama- Aesthetic Values or Pleasure, iii] Dharma-Virtuous, Ethical and Moral Values and iv] Moksha –Liberation or Self realization. Right living is possible only through value education which stands against sins of cruelty and inhuman practices. Values are virtues, ideals and qualities upon which our actions and beliefs are based. Values are guiding principles that shape our outlook, attitudes and conduct. The moral values represent a true perspective of the development of any society or nation. Knowledge provided or received without the inculcation of values and morality is of

no use. Because such knowledge would only be disastrous and catastrophic in nature. Without including ethics and moral values in higher education, human development will be incomplete. Concept of Value Based Education (VBE) imparts integrity character, social, moral, spirituality and much more. It develops the quality of humility, strength and honesty among students. ***“Value is a process which enable us to realise Satyam Shivam Sundaram”- Mahatma Gandhi.***

Education is a core value which gives solutions to all the problems of human life, if it's not handled properly it creates havoc. Higher education is the pillar of career and leadership building, the values and virtues practiced in universities heavily influence the future leaders. These are the set of some precious principles which help people in becoming good human beings which involve many factors According to Jerry Springer: ***“we are all born as empty vessels which can be shaped by moral values.”*** The purpose of education in general and higher education in particular is to facilitate actualization of human potential by making its stakeholders, particularly higher educational administrators, teachers, and learners conscious about human values and professional ethics. Therefore Human values are essential to inculcate positive behaviour and actions. ***“Education is not limited to the imparting of information or training of skills. It has to give the educated a proper sense of values.”- Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan..***

Human values are the positive dispositions that create bonds of humanity between people and so have value for all of us as human beings. They are the strongest feelings for the fellow human beings and are the essence of life. It is about what we expect from others and what we aim to give to them. Human values are the foundation of any viable life within society; they build space and a movement towards one another creating peace. Human values are universal, they are shared by all, whatever be their religion, nationality, culture and history. Human values induce consideration for others such as brotherhood, friendship, empathy, compassion, love, openness, careful listening, welcoming attitude, wide acceptance, recognition, appreciation, honesty, fairness, loyalty, sharing, solidarity, civility, mutual respect and kind consideration. These human values leave the effect of bonding, comforting, reassuring and procuring serenity, love and happiness. Function of most of these basic values is to make every human realise and maintain the highest or the most basic universal values of life, love and spreading happiness. ***“Moral values, and a culture and a religion, maintaining these values are far better than laws and regulations.” - Swami Vivekananda.***

Need of Human Values:-- Human values are that which human beings cherish and hold in common consciously and otherwise and practice them. Human values are the yield of the field called human nature. All the reports of Commissions and Committees on Education like the Radha Krishna Commission; the Kothari Commission; National Policy on Education; Ramamurti Committee; Central Advisory Board of Education Committee on Policy; Planning Commission and the Core Group on Value Orientation of Education, suggest that education plays vital role in designing and developing the national characters. The values given to the young generation would remain with them permanently. *According to Swami Vivekananda "if education is identical with information, libraries are the greatest sages of the world. and encyclopaedias are "RISHIS".*

Human values inspire students to put the moral values into practice especially during conflict situations, when they tend to become confrontational. Value education is always essential to shape one's life and to give an opportunity of performing their best in the awkward situations. It enables students to understand their needs and visualize their goals, also indicate the direction for their fulfilment. It helps remove their confusions and contradictions. The purpose of education in general and higher education in particular is to facilitate actualization of human potential by making its stakeholders, particularly higher educational administrators, teachers, and learners conscious about human values and professional ethics.

The need for value education among the parents, children, teachers etc, is constantly increasing as we regularly witness an increase in the violent activities, behavioural disorders and lack of unity in the society and disrespect for each other. The education of Human Values is relevant to Higher Education because Value-based education aims at training the students to face the outer world with the right attitude and proper values, to understand the self and mutual development, to understand inclusive and sustainable growth and smooth functioning of the society, to build confidence, to understand relationship between man and environment and to maintain the very highest or most basic universal core values of life that is love and compassion.. *"The right kind of education on moral values will upgrade the society and the country."*- A P J Abdul Kalam.

The purpose of education in general and higher education in particular is to facilitate actualization of human potential by making its stakeholders, particularly higher educational administrators, teachers, and learners conscious about human values and professional ethics. In the present scenario there is an urgent need for the cultivation of human values because,

“Altruism, selfless service to fellow human beings and idealistic attitude are the things of past. Sensitivity to the beauty of arts, literature and life in general are very much on decline. Lack of social cohesion, national disintegration has become patently manifest and our democratic setup and social order is under severe stress. Social tensions, unrest, prejudices and complexes transmitted through the social environment vitiate the quality of life. Narrow casteism, regional, linguistic and communal platforms divide the people as never before”- [Reddy and Sharma- 2003]

Teaching and inculcating the Human Values has become inevitable in the Educational Institutions as they are now withering very fast for which mostly institutions are also responsible. Value based education should be emphasized ranging from school to university level of education. Human value is generally known to be a moral standard of human behaviour. Therefore, human values should be preserved and protected and should be treated as key to the solution of the internal and global problems., Some universities have prescribed and have suggested that the human values and moral values be added in the syllabus for improving the levels of humanity among the students. But this subject has not been included particularly in all the institutions.

UGC GUIDELINES FOR THE INCULCATION OF HUMAN VALUES IN THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING (HEIs) are as follows.

Expert Committee constituted by UGC, after having detailed deliberations and consultations, has developed guidelines entitled **“Mulya Pravah - Inculcation of Human Values and Professionals Ethics in Higher Educational Institutions”**.

The following suggestions are prescribed as UGC guidelines for the genuine engagement and training of the students for the purpose of inculcating the Human Values among them. The Implementation Plan for Students are **(1) Introduction of Foundation Course on Human Values and Professional Ethics at the undergraduate level and advance course at postgraduate level.**

(2) Outreach Program on Human Values and Professional Ethics 3.Training, workshop and orientation programs for students. •4. Assignments and short projects on tenets of human values. •5. Maitri-bhawana practices in society. •6. Promoting human values through social services •7. Participation in national schemes and programs such as Fit India, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Jal Sanrakshan Abhiyan etc. •8. Interface with the societies, NGOs and similar organizations.

(3) Promotion of Human Values and Professional Ethics •1. Display of ethical and human value thoughts and edifications at public places. •2. Placement of ethical and human value thoughts and edifications in official correspondence. •3. Open interaction on regular-basis with other stakeholders for harmony. •4. Annual activity plan for value promotion activities. •5. Publications of manuscripts and books •6. Repositories (Library and e-library).

Conclusion:--

To avoid the untoward happenings across the nation and to control the violent attitude prevalent in general, the inclusion of Human Values as a compulsory subject at all the levels of education will surely enhance the democratic, pluralistic and peaceful character of India.

The basic features of Human Values which are required to be instilled among the students are

i] Respect of Human-to-Human Relationship.

ii] 'Trust on the humanity' which is the most important human values for establishing relations of peace, it is the Foundational Value in human relationship that quantifies and defines our interdependence in developing relationships.

iii] Understanding the importance of Harmony in the Society.

There is an urgent need for implementation plan of action to inculcate human values and professional ethics for significant stakeholders of the higher education in different levels i.e. individual level, inter-personal level and intra-institutional level.

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