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BASIC HUMAN ASPIRATIONS AND CHALLENGES FOR HUMANISM

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ABSTRACT

Background: Humanism is a philosophical and ethical stance that makes a point of the value and agency of human beings, individually and collectively, and generally prefers critical thinking and evidence (rationalism, empiricism) over acceptance of superstition. Humanists think that this life and this world is all we have. Like everything else that exists we are the product of natural processes. There are no supernatural powers or sacred texts to guide us, so we have to think for ourselves and frame our own rules and take responsibility for our own lives and actions and for the world we live in. Ethical decisions should be based on reason and experience and compassion. Everyone has a right to seek happiness and to avoid pain, and the best way to achieve this is to help other people to do the same. Aim: The aim of this paper is to exploring the Basic human aspirations and challenges for humanism. Humanists make good use of rational argument and scientific method in working out a sound progressive philosophy. They also recognise the great importance of artistic, emotional, and intuitive elements in the working of the human mind. Thus, all aspects of the complex human consciousness are called upon in endeavouring to understand human nature at this stage in its evolution.

KEYWORDS :

INTRODUCTION

Humanism views education as a method of fulfilling human potential based upon individuals' needs and interests. The humanistic approach emphasizes human freedom, dignity, and potential. It is based on the belief that "human beings are capable of making significant personal choices within the constraints imposed by heredity, personal history, and environment". Humanist principles are grounded in the following major assumptions:

a) Human nature is inherently good;

b) Individuals are free and autonomous, thus they are capable of making major personal choices;

c) Human potential for growth and development is virtually unlimited;

d) Self-concept plays an important role in growth and development;

e) Individuals have an urge toward self-actualization;

f) Reality is defined by each person; and

g) Individuals have responsibility to both themselves and to others

Happiness

1. We can understand Happiness as:" to be in state of liking is happiness." and " the situation in which I live, if there is harmony in it, then I like to be in that state or situation". Verify whether you want continuity of happiness and prosperity or discontinuity of happiness and prosperity.

2. Unhappiness" to be in state of disliking is unhappiness" and "the situation in which I live, if there is conflict in it, then I do not like to be in that state or situation".

3. Prosperity is the feeling of having or making more than required physical facilities. For prosperity two things are required –1. Identification of the quantity required for physical needsProsperity &2. Ensuring availability / production

List of Wants

4. Basic requirement for fulfilment of human aspiration is needed in me. I need to 1. Right study myself, the human being, & the entire existence Understanding of which I am a part 2. Relationship 2. Relationship Mutual Happiness Mutual Prosperity We are in relation ship with The things we use, come from people, other human being what we call as nature

5. We find most of the people in the these categories:
SVDD – Sadhan Viheen Dukhi Daridra
SSDD – Sadhan Sampan Dukhi Daridra
SSSS – Sadhan Sampan Sukhi Samridha Before we explain these we should have a clear understanding of 'Desires'. Desires are of

a). Materialistic: Food, shelter, clothes and physical facilities which are quantifiable

b). Non- materialistic: It is qualitative in nature like respect, trust, happiness, recognition, peace etc

6. Where do we stand today At the level of Individual: rising problems of depression, psychological disorder, suicides, stress, insecurity, health problem At the level of Family: Breaking of joint family, mistrust and insecurity in relationship, divorce, legal suits At the level of Society: Terrorism, casteism, wars between nations, fear of nuclear and genetic welfare At the level of nature: Global warming, water, soil, air, noise pollution, resource depletion of minerals and oil, loss of fertility of soil

7. To live with continuous happiness and prosperity, the program is 'to understand & to live in harmony at all levels of our living / existence'. There are four levels of our living 1. Self 2. Family 3. Society 4. Nature Continuous happiness is being in harmony within one self, being in harmony with others and being harmony with nature.

It is our attitude which determines if we are rich, poor or prosperous: A person who lacks facility and money is Poor. A person who has facility and money is Rich. Who is Prosperous then? Lets first do the comparison of Rich and Poor.

A Poor person is deprived because he lacks even the necessary facilities. A Rich person is deprived because he feels that what he has is not sufficient for him and wants more. Both are suffering from deprivation.

A Poor person is ready to exploit because his basic necessities even are not getting fulfilled. A Rich person is ready to exploit because of his feeling of deprivation. In fact a Rich person has more capability to exploit in current system.

A Poor person is lacking facilities and is unhappy (Sadhan Vihin Dukhi Daridra). A Rich person is having facilities and is unhappy (Sadhan Sampanna Dukhi Daridra). A Normal person is having facilities and is happiness (Sadhan Sampanna Sukhi Samridha)

The source of deprivation in a Rich person: There are many factors here. In fact one of the major contributing factors of poor being poorer is the feeling of deprivation of Rich. Also when a Poor start becoming a Rich he also starts suffering from the feeling of deprivation like Rich. Some of the factors for feeling of deprivation of Rich are:-

1. Lack of understanding of how much is needed.

2. Peer Pressure, a kind of Fear. If I do not confirm to the standards in society where I sit, then I will loose respect.

3. Enticements, Misconceptions and Misunderstandings like, if I have More Resources then I will get More Respect in the society, I will have Better Relationships with people, I will be More Happy.

4. Lack of assurance in Relationships that I will be taken care of by my relatives, when my body is not capable of production of resources.

5. Lack of assurance of availability of needed resources in future. All of these above factors make a Rich person Poor, deprived. So what is required to make a Rich person really Rich?

1. Right Understanding within every individual of what he really wants? How can he fulfill that? What Material/Resource can do? What relationships are? What are the expectations involved in Relationships? What kind of society he really wants? What material is needed for and how much of it is needed. This understanding needs to be ensured within every individual.

2. When one has Right Understanding then one has Confidence in what he feels and is doing, then Peer Pressures and Fears automatically start going down.

3. Right Understanding of Relationships within every individual. Understanding that Resources can not ensure fulfilling Relationships and Respect due to Resource doesn't? have certainty, consistency and continuity and one needs continuity of Respect.
4. Assurance in Relationships among family members. It gives all of them the Happiness in fulfilling Relationships as well as the assurance of continuity of Production in house and also the assurance to be taken care of.

5. When there is Right Understanding within every individual, Assurance in Relationships in every family, Prosperity in every family, then continuity of culture of Right Understanding, Assurance in Relationships among families leads to Fearlessness in society. This assures the continuity of availability of resources in future too.

6. A harmonious society automatically becomes complimentary to the Nature. It takes care of Nurturing, Protection and Right Utilization of Nature.

All this starts from the Right Understanding in an individual. Right Understanding in an Individual makes him to understand how much he needs and if he ?feels? that he has more than what he needs and also have ?assurance? of having more than what he needs in future then he feels Prosperous.

More facilities than what is needed.

The important point here to notice is, Prosperity is a ?Feeling?. A Rich person ?feels? that he ?lacks? that's why he is not Rich. So you are Rich, Poor or Prosperous? And, what do you want to be? Rich, Poor or Prosperous?

Being Prosperous is the basic need of every human being. Happiness, Prosperity and Continuity of these two is the basic requirement of a human being. To ensure this basic requirement all of us need to ensure,

Right Understanding within every individual, Prosperity in every Family,

Fearlessness in Society and Co-Existence in Nature.

Humanism isn't a word like 'Christian' or Hindu' or 'Sikh' or Muslim, which all describe followers of a religious faith. You don't sign up to become a humanist and then find out what you believe by consulting a holy book on what you should think. Instead, think of 'humanist' as a word which describes the sorts of views you may have, and the approach you take to life.

Many people with humanist beliefs may not be aware that there is even a word to describe them. However, if they…

a) Trust science rather than the supernatural as a means of understanding how the universe works
b) Make ethical decisions based on empathy and concern for human beings and animals
c) Believe that human beings can act to give their own lives meaning by seeking happiness in this life and helping others to do the same…then they are very likely to be humanists.

Living in reality

The way of thinking about ethics brings with a lot of advantages. While religious texts contain advice about how to live which were based on how people saw the world a long time ago, a humanist approach is based on life in the here and now, and so can be sensitive to special features of a situation. By contrast, ancient religious advice might contain misguided ideas about certain types of people or generally not be equipped to respond to the kinds of problems we face nowadays that people didn't have in those days, particularly when our understanding of these issues is shaped by modern science. Religious texts will also reflect the attitudes and values of the people who helped write them and the societies they came from. A humanist approach, by contrast, is based on an honest assessment of reality. This is a very good starting point for dealing with challenging questions.

Humanists

For as long as there have been people, there have been those of us who view this life as the one life we have, and who have tried to live an ethical and fulfilling life on the basis of simple empathy and a rational outlook, without religion or superstition.

Today we call these people humanists, and we refer to this approach to life as Humanism.

The Happy Human

a) First invented in Britain in 1965
b) Used today by humanist organisations in every part of the world
c) A universal symbol of what it means to be a human being striving for significance in a world of one's own making

Human values are derived from human needs and the dogma of religion should play no part in formulating the best possible codes of human behaviour. History has so often seen a total breakdown of society while one faction's request for respect from others simply cannot be met owing to insurmountable sectarian barriers. Humanists subscribe to an open secular society and remain tolerant towards all people who subscribe to sound moral codes.

Humanist causes

Humanists come from every walk of life. They tend to be very independently minded and so humanists often have a wide variety of views.

However, all tend to care greatly about protecting human rights, treating animals and all living things with kindness, and using the Golden Rule as a basis for living cooperatively with others.

CONCLUSION

I concluded that the Human values are derived from human needs

and the Superstition of religion should play no part in formulating the best possible codes of human behaviour. History has so often seen a total breakdown of society while one group's request for respect from others simply cannot be met owing to insurmountable sectarian barriers. Humanists subscribe to an open secular society and remain tolerant towards all people who subscribe to sound moral codes.

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