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INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, SOCIETY – A SYNERGY

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KEYWORDS :

A family, generally speaking, consists of mother, father, sisters, brothers and so on. If we consider them as present generation people, then, a family, if it is an extended one, would also consists of grand parent, uncles and aunts, together forming second generation. We live and thrive amidst these relationships, learn to share and care, within the four boundaries of home. Stepping out of our immediate family, we also establish relationships with others in our immediate society – be it our teachers our neighbours, our colleagues, the local paper delivery boy, the milkman and the grocerer- the list is endless. All these people contribute their mite towards making our social life pleasant and bearable. It would then not be too idealistic or far-fetched to say that human beings, by and large, exist in peaceful co-existence with one another. These relationships should be understood in the context of self-acceptance, in order to make them, meaningful and strong. However, in recent times, all relationships seem to have been commercialized. We a mass material things and by giving those things to others, we feel that we are doing justice to everyone.

Parents of today, work beyond their limits to give their offspring the best that money can buy.

However, they seem to forget that no material wealth can equal the time, love, affection and understanding that they, and only they can bestow on their children. Based only on weak foundations of material wealth, relationships between parents and children are becoming brittle day by day. Parents can give no time to children when they are young and by the same token, children refuse to spare time for their parents when the former become old. Caught in this vicious circle, people, young and old have forgetten human values such as faith, respect, love and affection. Our comforts are limited only to our physical body , the nurturing of heart and soul, so important for any human being, is sadly neglected.

Today, it would do good for people to remember that money cannot buy love or respect. A family should be firmly based on mutual satisfaction and togetherness. If this is lacking, then, relationships within families crumble, lot of hatred increases among members of the family. Relationships should be based on Natural Acceptance, the four components of which are as follows.

1. Self
2. Family
3. Society
4. Nature

All these components are inter linked and are all equally significant in a human beings life. To give an example, a mother gives birth to child the child's body derives from the mother's body, the bodies of mother and child do not feel this bond, it is only the mother 'self' and the child 'self' that recognize and reinforce this relationship. All human values arise out of this feeling, acceptance and understanding.

Care and concern should be the bedrock of all human relationships. They should be natural and free only then do they remain strong and everlasting. As William Wordsworth, the British poet puts it, Care is to express, not to impress people. Because, when care is expressed truly, People get impressed naturally.

It should be a matter of great concern to all that human relationships are deteriorating everyday and only seem to be based on economic gains. Everyone seems to be untrue to oneself and to others. We say something and mean something else. As T. S. Eliot says, we all wear our masks to go out and meet the other marks of the world. To overcome these faults, we need to bare our relationships not on false feelings but on true faith and belief. In any relationship, it is easy to see that nine things are of utmost importance:

1. Trust
2. Respect
3. Care
4. Guidance
5. Affection
6. Reverence
7. Glory
8. Gratitude
9. Love

Even if one of the above is not given properly, we can see easily that relationships are weakened indeed, destroyed. Accepted and used in right proportions, relationships become happy and everlasting.

In case of society, the responsibility of repairing it cannot be pinned on any one or a few people in the society. Naturally, a good society requires collective responsibility. However of late, people expect others, except themselves, to shoulder the responsibility of building a robust society. Most people assume that society is the responsibility of government or judiciary or legislature. In such scenario, building a strong society is near impossible.

An answer to the above problem would be found in our teachers. A teacher can guide students, build their personalities, inculcate in them a strong sense of the right and the wrong and therefore, can build a right society. It is now the responsibility of the teachers to shape the lives and destinies of students, evolve them into strong individuals, improve their natural skills and talents and to infuse in them a certain wisdom to shape not only their individual futures but also, the future of the society in which they are such an essential part. To this end, to divert students from negative thinking and loose living, the Commissioner of Collegiate Education of Telangana State has taken the initiative of introducing a course of HVPE to the students at undergraduate level. A teacher exerts a lot of influence on students and if this influence is a positive and strong one, then, students can be given wonderful training to be good and useful citizens. A country's progress indeed its fate, depends up on the equality of its citizen and the quality of education imparted to them. Education gives knowledge and wisdom, character, indomitable spirit and self- sufficiency. The need of the hour now is precisely this kind of education.

Such education should empower our students to face global challenges and become global citizens themselves. At home, the education system should gear them up to question injustice, fight corruption both economic and moral corruption, stand up against superstition and terrorism.

The onus of providing such education segrarely on the shoulders of our teachers. Our teachers themselves should have great moral

fortitude, strength of character, commitment, discipline and clear optimism to shoulder this responsibility. I express my sincerest gratitude to all the members of the noble teaching community who willingly take up the responsibility of building individuals, societies and therefore nations.