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Personality Development through English to inculcate moral values in Indian Youths and Adults

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ABSTRACT

Many States in India have implemented courses for Under Graduate and Post Graduate colleges with the teaching of Personality Development to enhance an individual's interaction, job performance and career prospects. Though it develops the individual, still today's youth lacks humanism, consideration for the society and colleagues at their work place. They are fragile in handling their own difficult situations and emotionally unstable hence deteriorated their values. This is a great concern for India. Keeping a serious eye on the delicate and stubborn mind set of today's youngsters is a must. This paper points out problems and solution suggesting that Personality Development needs to include moral values to change not only youths but also the adults working in corporate world. This will make them aware that how education should be utilized for the goodwill of all in a matured and understanding way. To glorify our nation, good citizens are must.

KEYWORDS: Personality Development, Moral Values, mind set of youths and adults, Change

Background

In this competitive era, for an individual's personality development good command over English language along with moral values have become a must. Technical colleges emphasis more on technical knowledge while Medical colleges stress on medical knowledge and MBA institutes brush the youth's business skills. Though Personality Development is one of the subjects introduced along with English communication skills in colleges or professional institutes, very less difference is noted in behavior pattern of youth today. They have successfully captured the English world but failed to win power over moral values.

Problem

Syllabus designed for Personality development in many Indian Universities and trainings for corporate are structured keeping in mind, the improvement of communication skills in English and interpersonal skills like Leadership, Time management, Stress management, Conflicts resolution, Negotiation, Motivation, Team building, Group Dynamics, Performance Appraisal etc. Moral value is not included as the part of any curriculum in Professional institutes. In Personality Development; it is observed that teachers teach only the tailored readymade notes rather than making the topics interesting, lively and practical oriented. Teacher's stress more on the different theories related to particular topic, thereby not giving any practical usage in day to day life during the lecture sessions. Hence, the youth don't get much from the lectures attended or they lose their interests in such subject. Both the student and teacher tend to have casual approach for it.

'A steep decline in moral values manifests itself in the form of our poor educational system and teaching methodologies. In fact, the poor educational system in all the parts of the nation has led to poor moral values in the society. And the educational system has deteriorated beyond compare due to rise in commercialism.' 1 ("Study Adda post, category Essays," 2012)

The erosion of values is one of the major concerns of today's society. Human beings are similar in every generation; it is probably the increasing stress, fast pace of life, keen competition and overvaulting ambition to achieve too much in too little time that has made today's man seemingly less principled than his ancestors. Materialism has put all the Indian traditions and values in the dump yard. Everyone is running for well-defined and cash-convertible goals. Nationalism, family, society and morality no longer matter for him. The youth of today are caught in the vicious circle of crime and violence. They have lost their moral values to the new era of commercialism and modernization world. This is a great concern for India. Our country requires a greater sensible approach for this young generation. Whole country's future depends upon them. Keeping a serious eye on the delicate and stubborn mind set of today's youngsters has become a must.

Solution

Values are the greatest unifying force in life. Inculcation of these values through Personality development is the necessity of the hour to check the disintegration of social relations. Mere education doesn't build ones character. Education merged with values should really make a difference. Introducing moral values in Personality development is constantly increasing as we continue to witness ever increasing violent activities, behavioral disorder and lack of unity in the society. Inculcating moral values to personality development syllabus will help students to get more general awareness as a youth, to cope up with their common problems, remove the tendency of committing suicide, maintaining personal relationships and the biggest task to make them understand the importance of respecting people and holding decorum in the society. To glorify our nation, good citizens are a must.

Bhagat Chetan (2012) in his latest book "What young India Wants" talks about adding values to life states " Belonging to the land where Buddha and Gandhi became icons, purely on the strength of their values, means ours is a society that understands goodness".2

Social values have many influences in the society. It has become the standard for people to act wisely in order to achieve democratic and harmonious life. Moral values are needed for developing qualities such as humility, truthfulness, honesty, courtesy, tolerance, sacrifice etc. among the youth. It will help in developing positive social attitudes in new generation which prompt them to raise their voice against social evils.

Dr. N.K.Arjunan's("Importance of Moral Education") states that, 'A worthwhile education should target the total development of learner's personality.'3

Meaningful education aims at all round development of the learner. The optimal development of the moral, spiritual and aesthetic aspects of personality needs enrichment and refinement in the form of teaching moral values. It is also essential for developing democratic qualities such as dignity of the individual, social justice, liberty, equality, fraternity etc. Moral values will inculcate sense of cooperation and fellow-feeling among people. It can strengthen youngsters self esteem, commitment to personal values such as care and compassion. It will help the individual to resolve value conflicts and fix the standard of his behavior. Teaching moral values in Personality development classes can promote individual and social welfare, love, peace, goodwill and understanding.

As Martin Luther King Jr.(1947) quotes 'Intelligence plus character is the goal of true education". 'If we are not careful, our colleges will produce a group of close-minded, unscientific, illogical propagandists, consumed with immoral acts. Be careful, "brethren!" Be careful, teachers!' 4

Teachers through positive approach need to make the youths of India realize that they are the future of India. Teachers need to teach how lack of humanism and less consideration for the society and colleagues due to lust for money and only enjoying the pleasures of materialistic life would be dangerous for India's Development. A well known Chinese Proverb saying by Confucius or K'ung Fu Tzu:

"If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in character, if there is beauty in character, there will be harmony in the home, when there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation, where there is order in the nation there will be peace in the world".5

Today's world is getting ruined by many unwanted incidences like Money transaction by forge signatures of high authorities, theft, cyber crime, killing for promotion, corruption scams, murders etc. Lectures can be planned to discuss its impact and the negative resultant. Also generating awareness, in case if they indulge in such unethical work, how it would impact their family and tarnish their image in the society. Youths can also be cautioned by telling them what the current culprits face as punishment. Awaking moral values in youth and adults can reduce black marketing, adulteration, cheating, fraud and manipulation.

As trainers we ought be fortunate to promote values and support harmony and peace among human beings. Moral values have to be reinforced for building a morally sound nation. The younger generation look up to their teachers as examples to emulate. The educators set the example of the behavior that they want to instill in their pupils. Moral values starts with teachers morally educating themselves. Teachers need to be convinced and sincerely committed to the way of life that they want to recommend and to teach their students. This will prove that what is being taught is feasible and can be practiced. Teachers are the role models for the renewal and improvement of moral behavior. As visionary Indian Statesman Dr. Karan Singh, says that,

'The Indian youths have to work on four spheres to be successful and carry the burden of leading India. These being physical, mental, spiritual and most importantly patriotism'.6

We can find change in the mindset of the youth of India only when we combine our education with all these four aspects. The youth are the future of our country. They are mainstay of India's success and have to responsibly carry on the good work.

Nelson Mandela quotes "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". 7

We can witness the future Indian society with social transformation if imbibed with the required virtues at a right age group. The greatest wealth and strength of any nation is its youth. As per Population Council resources,' There are 315 million young people aged 10–24 years in India, representing 30 percent of the country's population'.8 Youth make up about 30% of the total population of the country. This 30% constitutes for the country's future. If we can harness this powerhouse of the nation in the right direction then our country can reach untold heights. All we need is to direct the energy of our youth in constructive channels that lead to development and progress. The creative potential of the younger generation coupled with their zeal, enthusiasm, energy and versatility can work wonders for the country. We need to empower our youth with moral values so that they can make a better tomorrow. The teachers can motivate the new generation and increase their confidence by infusing the thought that even though we have accepted modern means of living but we are still Indians from heart. Our lifestyles, eating habits, clothing may have changed but the rich values, which we have received from our culture, are deeply rooted within heart, mind, body and soul. We should feel proud that we are born in the land of rich cultural heritage and it is our moral duty to do good deeds to spread the true meaning of our culture and inherit the same for future generations.

According to Father of Indian Nation M.K.Gandhi,

"If wealth is lost nothing is lost, if health is lost something is lost, if character is lost everything is lost, so the best of all things is character." 9

Conclusion

To make our country Incredible India, we ought to influence our young generation's mindset with the best we could and make them understand the importance of moral values to build good character. If only we inculcate the ethical values in the minds of people, which we could achieve only through education, we will be successful in our attempts. This change will glorify youth of today as the best citizens.

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