



# The Importance of Human and Moral Values in Society

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## KEYWORDS :

### INTRODUCTION

The present paper is an attempt to explore the importance of human and moral values in the global society. Human society may not significantly sustain without human values. Hence, it is necessary to talk on the subject and bring about awareness of human values into the modern society. There is no denying the fact that the present global society is facing a lot of crises. Human value crisis is a known fact of the modern society. Indeed, humans are aware of the global and national problems which they are currently facing. The impact of human activities on the earth in various ways is placing a significant amount of stress. For instance, the climate change due to global warming. There seems to be a significant link between the remedial measures and various solutions to climate change and the practice of human values. It is believed that at the end of the day, it is the human values which will save the mankind.

Moral values are the standards of good and evil, which govern an individual's behavior and choices. Individual's morals may derive from society and government, religion, or self. When moral values derive from society and government they, of necessity, may change as the laws and morals of the society change. An example of the impact of changing laws on moral values may be seen Moral values are the standards of good and evil, which govern an individual's behavior and choices. Individual's morals may derive from society and government, religion, or self. When moral values derive from society and government they, of necessity, may change as the laws and morals of the society change.<sup>1</sup> In past generations, it was rare to see couples who lived together without the benefit of a legal matrimonial ceremony.

Moral values are defined as standards of what is right and wrong which governs the behaviour of an individual. One's moral values can come from family, society, religion or self. However, in this competitive society, I feel that it is not uncommon that some people sacrificed their moral values for one's benefit, for example, lying in order to protect one's interests. The foundation of a society where people value themselves beyond the good of the society would be weak. When one is only concerned about oneself and not the good of the society as a whole, one would only do things that benefit oneself and disregard the society. It would ultimately harm the society if people become self-centered. This is due to the fact that usually the good of the society would mean the good of each and every individual in the society. However, as this group of people is blinded by their self-centeredness, they would be unable to see that and become only interested of the short-term gains. Therefore, it is crucial to establish a strong moral foundation in the society.

### HUMAN VALUES

Human values are the virtues that guide us to take into account the human element when one interacts with other human beings. They are the many positive dispositions that create bonds of humanity between people and thus have value for all of us as human beings. They are our strong positive feelings for the human essence of the other. It's both what we expect others to do to us and what we aim to give to other human beings. These human values have the effect of bonding, comforting, reassuring and procuring serenity. Human values are the foundation for any viable life within society: they build space for a drive, a movement towards one another, which leads to peace. Human values thus defined are universal: they are shared by all human

beings, by nature, they religion, their nationality, their culture, their personal history. By nature, they induce consideration for other. Human values are, for example:

- \* Civility, respect, consideration.
- \* honesty, fairness, loyalty, sharing, solidarity.
- \* openness, listening, welcoming, acceptance, recognition, appreciation.
- \* brotherhood, friendship, empathy, compassion, love.<sup>2</sup>

### MEANING OF VALUES

Values are generally regarded as the moral standards of human behaviors in the society. It is a kind of quality of humans, which is applied to human activities. It is transmitted to a circumstantial factor which depends upon the judgment of the fact. The word 'value' is derived from the Latin word 'valeo' which originally meant strength and also health, and then by natural transition, it came to mean being effective and adequate. In French the term 'valeur' means excellence. Value is a mixture of three concepts such as Idea, Quality and Supervening. Values can be defined as the principles that guide people's lives, and have varying significance. Values are the essence of our personality, and affect us to make decisions, trust people, and arrange our time and energy in our social life. Values may be treated as keys to solving many world problems.<sup>3</sup>

### SIGNIFICANCE OF HUMAN VALUES

Human values have been a central concept in the social sciences since their inception. Human values play a vital role in the society, for they are said to be the basis of human beings for leading a better life. It is believed that all holy books of all religions contain the values of good life. The importance of values is frequently cited in relation to the global and national problems, whether it be in debates in international assemblies, in studies criticizing "value-free" approaches to research, or in discussion of quality of life and individual fulfillment. Thus, values are deemed especially important in questions of cultural development and are central to concern for the preservation of cultural heritage.

It is to be mentioned that importance of human values is seen right from the childhood of a person. Preschool is the first stage or period that lays the foundation of information on human values.<sup>4</sup> Because information about the values of life is a continuous process found in the society. However, the first information not only gains in earlier periods that begin and end in the period to adolescence but also continues personality. From now on, there can be changes on these values, but basic values have been developed. Changing child's wrong behaviour is more difficult than trying to develop a new behaviour. It is critical to develop the child's personality in a planned and systematic process in order to prevent the wrong development of values education.

VALUE-based education" is in vogue today because values command a great significance in society. A society which is endowed with lofty values, makes progress. On the other hand, a society in which values deteriorate, degenerates. Non-violence, truth, non-stealing, etc are eternal values. It is not that they are needed sometimes and at other times they become redundant. These values are needed always, they need to be a factor in individual and social development. That is why

they are so much talked about in every sphere. For conducting mundane affairs, for deliberating upon the basis of society, morality and religion need not be dragged in. National interests call for a national approach. One of the contexts is that of war - whether to go to war or not? From the national point of view, it may be necessary to engage in war. A religious approach would be quite out of place here. If we get stuck up with a religious doctrine, the national problem will not be resolved. National development requires thinking on the national level. In the social context, in relation to marriage etc, a spiritual point of view could only create a problem. 5

### **MORAL VALUES ALSO DERIVE FROM WITHIN ONE'S OWN SELF**

This is clearly demonstrated in the behavior of older infants and young toddlers. If a child has been forbidden to touch or take a certain object early on, they know enough to slowly look over their shoulder to see if they are being observed before touching said object. There is no need for this behavior to be taught; it is instinctive. Once, however, any form of discipline is applied to modify the child's behavior, the child now gains the capacity within himself to distinguish his right behavior from his wrong behavior. Now, the child can make correct choices based on his own knowledge. The choices that are made by an individual from childhood to adulthood are between forbidden and acceptable, kind or cruel, generous or selfish.<sup>6</sup> A person may, under any given set of circumstances, decide to do what is forbidden. If this individual possesses moral values, going against them usually produces guilt.<sup>7</sup>

### **CONCLUSION**

The values theory identifies ten basic, motivationally distinct values that people in virtually all cultures implicitly recognize. The validity of this claim does not depend on the way we measure values or the type of population studied. We still do not know whether the theory applies in more isolated tribal groups with minimal exposure to urbanization, mass media, and the market economy.

Especially striking is the emergence of the same circular structure of relations among values across countries and measurement instruments. People everywhere experience conflict between pursuing openness to change values or conservation values. They also experience conflict between pursuing self-transcendence or self-enhancement values. Conflicts between specific values (e.g., power vs. universalism, tradition vs. hedonism) are also near-universal. 8

Here, I presented one dynamic process that may account for the observed circular structure.

Other processes elaborated elsewhere (Schwartz, 2006) may underlie this structure as well. The circular motivational structure may lead to a unifying theory of human motivation.

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