Research Paper Education

Power Values in Education: Nature, Need and Necessity

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ABSTRACT

All good education is, in essence, a process of developing the human personality in all its dimensions – intellectual, physical, social, moral, spiritual etc. Therefore, education in its aims, curriculum and methods should be inseparably bound up with values. Values, beliefs, assumptions are the basis (root) upon which the Learning tree is planted covering a wide variety of knowledge, skills and attitudes. Depending upon philosophical and practical desirability and utility educational values are of different types including moral values, aesthetic values, social values, environmental values and power values. In general the word "power" means "the ability or capacity to do something or act in a particular way" or "the capacity or ability to direct or influence the behaviour of others or the course of events." Power values thus imply "sets of ideas or preferences that empowers an individual to act in certain direction". Power values direct individual behabiour as well as learning process. This paper mainly deals with conceptual framework of power values in education and significance of power values for educational growth and balance development.

KEYWORDS Power Values, Education, Need and Significance

INTRODUCTION:

"In philosophical contexts values are those standards or code for conduct conditioned by one's cultural tenets and guided by conscience, according to which human being is supposed to conduct himself and shape his life patterns by integrating his beliefs, ideas and attitudes to realize cherished ideas and aims of life."(Gupta, 1986)

What are the values? What values are more important? These questions have provoked unending debate on the number and nature of values among the axiologists, educators and sociologists. The number of values ranges from three (Satyam, Shimvam and Sunderam) to 83 (listed by NCERT). The entire values may be classified in to two types; one - the eternal, absolute or root values and two - the temporal and mundane values. Moral and spiritual values are root values, which take us out of ourselves and inspire us to be good and to do good to others. The mundane values include contextual values-social, cultural, economic etc.

Values Can Be Classified Into Two Broad Categories:

- **Individual values:** These are the values which are related with the development of human personality or individual norms of recognition and protection of the human personality such as honesty, loyalty, veracity and honour.
- **Collective values:** Values connected with the solidarity of the community or collective norms of equality, justice, solidarity and sociableness are known as collective values.

Values Can Also Be Categorized From Their Hierarchical Arrangement, these are:

- **Intrinsic values:** These are the values which are related with goals of life. They are sometimes known as ultimate and transcendent values. In the hierarchy of values, they occupy the highest place and superior to all other values of life.
- **Instrumental values:** These values come after the intrinsic values in the scheme of gradation of values. These values are means to achieve goals (intrinsic values) of life. They are also known as incidental or proximate values.

Moreover, depending upon the nature and preference attached to any idea or concept there are several values identified by philosophers and educationists such as moral value, aesthetic value, spiritual value, social value, power value etc.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF POWER VALUE:

Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679) defined power as a man›s «present means, to obtain some future apparent good» (*Leviathan*, Ch. 10). The key point to keep in mind about values is that implementing them energizes everything concerned with it. For an individual, committing to and applying values releases fresh energies, which always attract success, achievement, and well-being in other words values empowers individuals to act with zeal and enthusiasm.

In general the word "**power**" means "the ability or capacity to do something or act in a particular way" or "the capacity or ability to direct or influence the behaviour of others or the course of events." **Power values** thus implies "sets of ideas or preferences that empowers an individual to act in certain direction"

Each of us is motivated to move our lives in certain directions. That motivation is determined by the power values we subscribe to. These values are thus the formations and ideations of thought, the distinct formulations of understanding that express what we perceive to be important truths about life. These ideals are then reinforced by our emotions and feelings, which turn those mental perception into a vital *passion* that we hope to realize in our lives. Whether we actually make the effort to implement them is another matter.

We can energize our lives by making the full effort to implement the values we subscribe to. Once we identify values that are meaningful to us, we can develop strategies to implement them.

NATURE OF POWER VALUES IN INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS:

- Power value as a Perception: Power is a perception in a sense that some people can have objective power. People who use power cues and act powerfully and proactively tend to be perceived as powerful by others.
- Power as a Relational Concept: Power exists in relationships. The issue here is often how much relative power a person has in comparison to other person.
- Power values are Resource Based: Power usually represents a struggle over resources. The scarcity hypothesis indicates that people have the most power when the resources they possess are hard to come by or are in high demand, it may be material resources like money and wealth or mental re-

sources like sense of self- sufficiency, self-confidence, perfection, excellence and the like .

- Power as Enabling or Disabling: Power can be enabling or disabling. Research has been shown that power may be enabling when people communicate through self-confidence and expressive, in achieving their goals and maintaining good relationships, while it can be disabling when it leads to destructive patterns of communication where the less powerful person often hesitates to communicate dissatisfaction.
- Power as a Prerogative: The prerogative principle states that the people giving excessive importance to power values in life can make break relational rules, and manage interactions without considering consequences. These actions may reinforce the powerful person's dependence power. In addition, the more powerful person has the prerogative to manage both verbal and nonverbal interactions. They can initiate conversations, change topics and end discussions more easily than less powerful people.

FIVE TYPES OF POWER:

Social psychologists John R. P. French and Bertram Raven, in a now-classic study (1959), developed a schema of sources of power by on the basis of which they identified five significant categories of power.

- Legitimate power: Also called "Positional power," is formal authority delegated to the holder of the position in an organization.
- Referent power: Referent power is the power or ability of individuals to attract others and build loyalty. It is based on the charisma and interpersonal skills of the power holder.
- Expert power: Expert power is an individual's power deriving from the skills or expertise of the person and the organization's needs for those skills and expertise.
- Reward power: Reward power depends on the ability of the power wielder to confer valued material rewards; it refers to the degree to which the individual can give others a reward of some kind such as benefits, desired gifts, promotions or increases in pay.
- Coercive power: Coercive power is the application of negative influences, includes the ability to demote or to withhold other rewards. Threats and punishment are common tools of coercion.

JK Galbraith summarizes the types of power as being-

- "Condign" (based on force),
- "Compensatory" (through the use of various resources)
- "Conditioned" (the result of persuasion),
- "Personality" (individuals),
- "Property" (their material resources) and
- "Organizational" (whoever sits at the top of an organizational power structure).

Personality or power values behind personal powers are pre-requisite for attaining other forms of power.

SOME IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF POWER VALUES:

- **Practicality**: Often people with great talent, artistic temperament, or other qualities fail to achieve because they are not practical in their thoughts and deeds. For example, when important opportunities come their way, they shun them; any attempt on one's part to be more practical will rapidly catapult one from one's current status towards the pinnacle of success.
- **Results-Oriented**: A key to success and achievement in life is to insure that the activities you are engaged leads to a constructive, useful purpose. Those who value real results from actions the make far greater use of their time, leading to higher levels of success and achievement in life.
- **Hard Work**: It is universally agreed that hard work is one of the keys to success in life and work. Without it, few can succeed.
- **Continuous Improvement/Progress**: One of the most interesting values in life is one's innate desire for continuous improvement, a desire to improve one's attitudes and temperament, or to get the best out of things. Both individuals and organizations, such as a business, can adopt this value. It also includes creating new values, the cornerstone of life. Contemplate them deeply to see that they fill all aspects of life and being.

NEED AND NECESSITY OF POWER VALUES:

- Implementing power values have an innate capacity to create more energy, accomplishment, and joy in living.
- Power Values are actually of a very special power in the universe. It enables our minds to grasp for the purpose of uplifting life.
- Power Values are expressions of emotionalized truths when implemented they energize whatever they come in contact with, enabling the greatest positive results with the least effort in the shortest period of time.
- Power Values are the nexus to our future progress. It is the call to the minds of men to seek a better life, to pursue ultimate delight and fulfillment and success in life.
- Accomplishment in life depends not only on physical energy, but even more on the intensity of psychological energy we are able to bring to our action. Interest, commitment, determination, passion, drive, enthusiasm are some of the ways in which we characterize the intensity of our psychological energy. It turns out that power values direct our psychological energies for accomplishment.
- Power Values carry the power of psychological commitment and determination. They issue from a deeper or higher center of motivation in our personalities and therefore carry far greater power than our opinions and attitudes.
- We all have values that determine our decisions and guide our lives. Those who value their individuality take responsibility, are self-reliant and act with self-respect. Those who value truthfulness cannot bring themselves to tell a lie. Those who value family or friendship sacrifice their personal interests for the good of others. We express values in our relations with other people when we are loyal, reliable, honest, generous, trustworthy, feel a sense of responsibility for family, friends, co-workers, our organization, community or country.

CONCLUSION:

If we think about it, we will see that people relate to power values in a number of ways. *Thoughtful* people are continually thinking about those things they cherish and believe in. Powerful people are motivated and driven to implement them in their lives. In fact, the most successful people are constantly evaluating their values, and are continually driven to turn them into a living reality. For these individuals, values are an inexhaustible source of inner power that energizes them to no end; driving them to the heights of success, while bringing about deep fulfillment in their lives.

Without values, we would be mechanical-like beings, driven here and there by the vicissitudes of life. When we take to values, we live a purposeful and dynamic existence i.e. we become truly human. Foundation of a powerful soul and mind rests in Power values.

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