



Value Oriented Education The Need of the Hour

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ABSTRACT

Value Oriented Education is highly needed in our modern society because our lives have become more miserable. The quantity of education has considerably increased, but the quality has decreased. The number of educated people has reached at a high level, but murder, hatred and selfishness have spread like wildfire everywhere. Many books are written; much research is done; many professional achievements are attained, but humanity is threatened. Therefore we need VOE

Education open up our mind, but Value Oriented Education (VOE) gives us purity of heart too; education provides us with skills, but VOE provides us sincerity too; Education gives us Anna (food) but VOE provides us Ananda too; education may bring limitations but VOE is for liberation. After all, right education means "Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktaye". It means that knowledge is what helps us to attain liberation

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We can see growth, progress and development in all spheres of the society. Seemingly from outside everything seems to be fine and going on well. But if we do sonography of the society we will come to know that there is a severe problem which is needed to be rectified on war footing step.

Now a days news papers, magazines and other news media are flooded with report of crime, murder, agitation, and eve-teasing. Incidents of violence and destruction are increasingly reported.

Today, very few people care for and have respect for the age-old values like freedom, sincerity and self-respect, the right to do work and freely express one's views. Very rarely are people found making true sacrifice for the benefit of others, selfishness fills the atmosphere and corruption and other immoral acts reflect totally corrupted values.

Very few people are disciplined enough to fulfill and do justice to such responsibilities and duties, though they heart fully partake of all benefits they can derive from taking that responsibility.

India used to take pride in its traditions, art, culture, ideals and teaching of great personalities. But all seem to be dormant and polluted to a large extent. Our media like cinema, TV, video, etc could not provide desired nourishment to our culture, on the contrary, due to commercial type of competition in gaining cheap popularity and material benefits, they have polluted our values and culture. Except a very few they could not provide healthy and nourishing environment to our culture.

Corruption has engulfed the whole society. Be it any area Politics, Education, Sports, Jobs, Business, Mining, Construction, Police Department, Medical Industry etc... Scams, Scandals and Cheatings have crossed all the limits and have become a regular phenomenon.

Suicide has become a common phenomenon of society. People are living under depression and frustration. Society is also observing a very high growth in suicide. India is on top in youth suicide cases in the world. The endurance power of the people is decreasing day by day.

People are not motivated towards higher visions of life and society. People are becoming more and more self-centric. People are becoming rich gaining more and more money and power but still society is very poor as far as true Human Being is concerned.

There seems one silver lining amongst the dark clouds of above said scenario and that is Education. Education is supposed to be a powerful instrument of change and progressive improvement of human behavior. But now a day Education System is producing only Information Man. People are educated today but not civilized. In actual practice our Education System is doing very little to cultivate moral and human values in our youths and to promote national consciousness in the country.

The gulf between the content and aims of education is becoming wider day by day. The quality of teaching and teachers in our schools has now become a subject of the deepest national concern. It is the schools and homes where the primary attitudes and values towards social relationships and personal conduct get fixed and carried all through life. Education that does not help to promote Human Values and Virtues will not do any good to the society; it will rather mislead the entirety of humanity.

"The real difficulty is that people have no idea of what education truly is. We assess the value of education in the same manner as we assess the value of land or of share in the stock-exchange market. We want to provide only such education as would enable the student to earn more. We hardly give any thought to the improvement of the character of the educated. As long as such ideas persist there is no hope of our ever knowing the true value of education" Gandhi

All cherished aims of any nation have been realized through the classrooms only. Butler Act of 1944 in U.K had a nice line written on top: *"What Our Schools Are, The Race Shall Be."* It is but natural to have great expectations from our classrooms.

Our teachers and students very often fall short of our expectations because their personalities are developed mostly intellectually by assimilating and vomiting of the information (knowledge) and not by acquisition of moral and universal values. International Commission on Education has rightly pointed out that our education basically suffers from "the gap between its content and the living experience of its pupils, between the system of values that preaches and the goals set up by society, between its ancient curricula and modernity of science".

The anxiety and concern reflected in the concluding paragraph of the report on Religious and Moral Education Committee which was submitted in December 1959 is still more prominent and relevant as far as the need of 'Value Oriented Education' is concerned in the present system of education. A part of the paragraph is as under:

"We are bound to say that many ills that our world of education and our society as a whole is suffering today, resulting in widespread disturbance and dislocation of life, are mainly due to the gradual disappearance of the hold of the basic principles of religion on the hearts of the people. The old bonds that kept men together are fast loosening, and the various new ideologies that are coming to us, and which we are outwardly accepting without inwardly digesting their meanings, are increasingly worsening the situation. The only cure, it seems to us, is in the deliberate inculcation of moral and spiritual values from the earliest years of our lives. If we lose these, we shall be a nation without a soul; and our attempts to imitate the outer forms of other lands, without understanding their inner meaning, or psychologically attuning, ourselves to them, would only result in chaos and confusion, the first signs of which are already very distinctly visible on the horizon."

The future destiny of a country rests not in the hands of soldiers and merchants but those of students and scholars. Dr Annie Besant beautifully remarks, "The destiny of a nation is folded within its budding youth as is the flower within the close embrace of the petal". Therefore a vigorous program for Value Oriented Education is the need of the hour.

Value Oriented Education is highly needed in our modern society because our lives have become more miserable. The quantity of education has considerably increased, but the quality has decreased. The number of educated people has reached at a high level, but murder, hatred and selfishness have spread like wildfire everywhere. Many institutions are opened, but only few civilized people are produced. Degrees are available for all, but the dignity has gone down. Trained people are produced from many institutions, but sincere people are very few. Many books are written; much research is done; many professional achievements are attained, but humanity is threatened. Therefore we need VOE

Education open up our mind, but Value Oriented Education (VOE) gives us purity of heart too; education provides us with skills, but VOE provides us sincerity too; education extends our relationship with the world, but VOE links us with our own family members too. Education makes our living better, but VOE makes our life better too; education makes us a good professional, but VOE makes us a whole human too; education takes us to the top, but VOE takes the whole society on the top. Education gives us the capacity of better

learning, but VOE gives us the tool a deeper understanding too; education gives us Anna (food) but VOE provides us Ananda too; education may bring limitations but VOE is for liberation. After all, right education means "Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktaye". It means that knowledge is what helps us to attain liberation.

The VOE is therefore organized so as to secure the fullest possible development of body, mind, and heart; and a fruitful channelization of the life-energy in pursuits that contribute to the growth of both internal and external personality.

In past few decades the government has expressed the urgent need to formulate concrete and practical plans for VOE. The high level conference held at Shimla on 1981 is to be considered as one of the significant events in this regard. Below are the recommendations in this regard:

1. Provision for VOE should be made throughout the country with due regards for flexibility of approaches.
2. Value Orientation should be main focus of education.
3. The learning process itself has a great bearing on the value orientation of children. All activities in the school curriculum making, instructional techniques and evaluation, etc. should be so designed that they lead to the spontaneous development of desirable values.
4. There is a need for producing literature especially designed for the value orientation.
5. There should be foundation courses both at secondary schools and universities aiming at giving the children basic knowledge about India, its people and cultural traditions. The course should also aim at making students feel proud of their country and responsible for its upliftment.
6. There is a need for establishing a resource center for literature on VOE. Besides printed matter this centre should also produce small clips and short films emphasizing desirable values.
7. Special schools designed for VOE should be established. Every state should have at least one institution which may impart VOE from nursery to the postgraduate level.
8. Special teacher training programs should be taken up at the state level to train teachers in the effective methods of development of values among students and teachers.
9. Special short duration audio video modules for VOE should be prepared according to the content of textbook and can be taught shown along with content only.
10. The curriculum relating to VOE and to the study of Indian culture should be implemented in all the teachers training institutions.
11. More and more Researches should be encouraged and promoted in the area of VOE.

Many institutions and people are working in this regard around the globe but still there is more work needed immediately. There is a famous saying 'better late than never'. So we must start now. In fact the bright future of our nations depends on the children as there is saying "If you plan for one year, plant rice. If you plan for ten years, plant trees. If you plan for 100 years, educate children"

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