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VALUE EDUCATION: THE NEED OF THE HOUR

KEY WORDS:

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Living is common to all beings. Right living is given to only a few. It causes friction nowhere and lubrication everywhere. It is right or rightness living that becomes highly fruitful and helpful to all. Indulgent living is wrong, restrained living is right. Right living means life of values 'values', treading on the path of purity, path of principles and spread gospel of love, fraternity service, empathy, forgiveness and values.

The happiness and health of any country depends quality of life of its people. Ethics is the core of all religions even education some ethics is disasters, devastating and dangerous not only to the individual but also to the society around him the epic villain Ravana being deficient in ethics/morality landed himself in peril and also landed the whole country in the trouble all the scriptures replicate with values legendary hero Sri Rama and other characters like Vibhishana, Hanuman are outstanding examples for ethical values. Even a small of quoted rhyme in kindergartens speak of values i.e., 'Eating sugar no papa // Telling lies no papa.'

Aristotle says 'educating the mind without reducing the heart is no education at all.' It is rightly said that the educated must 'rise above' the unthinking herd of common humanity. According to Swami Vivekananda,

What is education? It is book learning no. It is diverse knowledge? Not even that. It is the training by which the current and expression of will or become fruitful is called education.

The education that is being imparted in schools and colleges is only producing a race of dyspeptics – rendering the individual working like machine merely and living jelly – fish existence.

Man onward Mars in the sphere of science is highly commendable. Man has unveiled many things. Significant achievement has been made on several fronts impossible things have become possible. There is a revolutionary and radical change in all walks of life. But the sense of insecurity stalks the human beings. 'The sword of democle' is hanging over his head. Man's glorious mind clouded by material wealth. It shatters the personality, the clouds the understanding and ruins the talent. Selfishness reigns supreme. Hypocrisy has become sovereign tenet to modern man. Society is full of 'Iagos'. Man is not what is being the statue worshippers of mammon appears to be. He lost his core content and stoops down miserably to make early money. Being the inhabitant of knowledge world man is ought to be a man at least of not divine. But he became a tool in hands of wealth. Every being in nature retains its original state. But the very character of man today is obnoxious. But man has lost his original character by becoming monster in guise of man.

Three hundred and thirty millions of mythological Gods fall to make man human. Man should not turn in to 'intellectual dust bin'. Mind should not be caught up with envy, anger, greed, hypocrisy, selfishness and lust. These negative qualities render man a mere creature on this earth. Prof. D.K. Subramanyam puts it, 'We are human beings. We are also rational and social beings. We have therefore formulated human values. They promote a harmonious co-existence of all of us. We are of the divine origin. But the instinctive animal in us drag us to be sub human and the satanic evil drives us to be in human. Resisting both we should evolve to be super human and manifest the latest divinity. Value Education retains the human ness and promotes purity and helps us unfold the divine unity.'

Cent percent purity in mind and body is ethical excellence. Ethics is inevitable to evolve further. The rational human being draws ethics for the welfare of humanity all over the globe. Money mars the purity victory comes into those who are committed to the professional ethics. Recognition, remuneration and rewards are only by-products. It is the responsibility of every individual in society to above by the moral codes of conduct, so that there will be an aura of ethical excellence in the social environment.

The Bhagavad Gita preaches that 'the embodied soul is privileged to own that is grand, great and useful. Pomp, power, property, pedigree and all such coveted endowments do then seem empty and purposeless. Understand becomes clouded. Mind becomes overwhelmed with despondency. Life then becomes a phantom. In order the preserve and protest the greatness and grandeur of life, value based life is the sovereign remedy to overcome the crisis of the society.'

Animal impetuosity is still dominant in man. In a normal man both virtue and vice are formed inter mingled in varying degrees. Man is constitutionally a combination of good and bad inclinations. Evil habits are born of blind ignorance, whereas good inclinations originate in the whiteness of purity. These two sets of tendencies try to dominate the bodily domain. The evil ones among them are ever adopts at mobilizing in their favour of all possible resources. So, self-perfection is the acme of human aspirations. Change of body effect no more change in the personality than doe's change of clothing. Mode of action that makes a person what he is. The attitude with which it is performed brings about magical change. All actions become sacred in the hands of ethically elevated man on the contrary a man with material outlook drags down even a sacred act to the vulgar plane. It is rightly said that 'the vegetable kingdom thrives prompted by impulse; 'birds and beasts get on well goaded by instinct.'

Man progresses guided by intellect perverted intellect arrests his onward march. The Gita further says 'Man blunders due to ignorance and love for material wealth. Right understanding is panacea for all maladies. That man who endorses people with knowledge is the true benefactor. Money can be misused. But wisdom can never be misused.' Even in The Mahabharati, aptly written 'Birds and beasts came into this world in true colours and quit the world in their true colours. Sometimes they shed their animosity and become mild, modest and sublimate their bore nature. But man alone is not faithful to his make observe a hundred tigers. All of them reveal the tiger nature. Do the same with snakes, doves and cows. They are all formed faithful to their species. But man is an exception. In human physique are engaged tigers, serpents, doves, and cattle. Common sense has become most uncommon. Man goes on causing wounds.'

Multiplying the desire is the bone of humanity. Day in and day out man suffers from the disease called 'GREED'. Basically animals fight for needs, but the man in spite of his great wisdom, fights for greeds. So the world is at cross roads being haunted by discontentment, violence, hypocrisy, selfishness, vandalism and Nepotism. All negative 'isms' are dominating the world except 'humanism'. But man forgets to realize that humanism is the greatest religion. The sword of Damocles called insecurity and fear hangs on the hands of the mankind. Kailas Sathayarthi, Nobel Peace laureate says, twenty people have been killed by raging mobs on the suspicion of being child lifters across the country in the last few weeks.

The violence apart, there are so many people who suspect that their children could be abducted for prostitution, organ trade, forced begging or any other form of slavery. Eight children go missing every hour in India to remain untraced and four are sexually abused. Children are not safe in homes, schools, neighbor hoods, workplaces. Shelter homes or even inside the places of worship and faith institutions. Can we guarantee our children will be not abused by a family to friend?

Reports on incidents like the sale of a baby by missionaries of charity home, the rape of minor girls by a self-styled God man in Delhi and rape of old girl by a Maulana in Madarasa raise a basic question; why are many of these residential institutions allowed to run without stringent regulations and checks.

Day by day, indiscriminate violence is breaking out in every work and corner of the country. Of late an 80 years old Swamy Agnivesh, a well-known social activist was beaten up and his clothes were torn for biased reasons. Many intellectual icons were dastardly and brutally killed for no reasons that include Ms. Gauri Lankesh, a noted journalist in Karnataka. She was indeed the voice of the voiceless. Even a layman feels ashamed by being a member of this so called democratic society. The world is going away. It is all because of the erosion of human values.

Selfishness reigns supreme. Hypocrisy has become a sovereign tent to modern man. The society is full the Shakespeare's 'Iagos'. Man is not what he appears to be. He stoops down miserably to make easy money being the staunch supports of Mammon. Vivekananda says "All moral perfection is extinct and it is replaced by the duality of lust and luxury as male and female deities with money as its priest; fraud, force, corruption are its ceremonies."

Being the inhabitant of knowledge world, Man is ought to be a man. But he became a tool in his hands. Man has to pursue wisdom in addition to knowledge. Wisdom leads to character. The very character of man today is obnoxious. Every being in nature retains its original character, but man has lost his original character becoming a monster in the guise of man. According to Swami Vivekananda "Neither money pays, nor name, nor fame, nor learning. It is CHARACTER that care cleaves through the adamant walls of difficulties. Character has to be established through thousand stumbles." It is due to lack of character the world term apart miserably into caste, creed, country, colour, race and religion. So, Rabindranath Tagore, the first Asian Nobel Laureate of English, prays 'Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by NARROW DOMESTIC WALLS, Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreamy desert sand of DEAD HABIT, Where the mind is led forward by thee into 'ever-widening' thought and action into that heaven of freedom, my 'FATHER' let my country awake.' Vivekananda advises 'Let men have light, let them be pure and spiritually strong, 'ethically excellent' social responsible, professionally proficient and emotionally stable.' Then all misery will cease on this world, every house can be converted into a charitable asylum or a mansion of 'mirth'

Man must realize that prayers, ceremonies and all other forms of worships are simply kindergarten of meditation. Doctrines or dogmas or rituals or books or temples are but secondary details. To make man moral or ethically excellent is the prime purpose of all religions. Vivekananda further emphasizes 'It is very good to be born in a church, but is very bad to die in church. It is very good to be born within the limits of certain forms that help the little plant of spirituality, If a man dies within the bounds of these forms, it shows that he has not grown that there has been no development of soul.'

The core of human life is its dharma. The dharma of fire is burn. The dharma of water is to wet. The dharma of lion is to prey on the deed. The dharma of deer is to flee to save its life. The dharma of man is to be a MORAL BEING. Morality upholds universe and fosters the spirit of universal fraternity. So Mother Theresa became the mother of world. Vivekananda exhorts 'Lead the mankind to the place where there is neither the Vedas nor the Bible nor the Quran. Man ought to be taught that religious are but

varied expressions of the religion which 'ONENESS'.

The rustic mind is a monkey given to vagary and excitement. It has drunk the liquor of lust, the scorpion of jealously has stung it. The ghost of greed possessed it. Such a shattered mind requires to be reformed conquering and culturing the kind is benign. Culture of the heart is the core concept of education. The Bhagavad Gita says "Will, emotion and cognition are the three aspects of the phenomenon of mind. Naught exists in psyche beyond the realm of these three functions. A healthy and wholesome mind has a universal value. Nothing on each or in haven can compare with fully evolved mind. A harmonious development of will, emotion and cognition goes to constitute a perfect mind. The slightest inequality among these three functions will result in imperfection in the formation of character."

Evils such as bribery, bride burning, honour killing, dowry, adultery, corruption, ragging, human trafficking and money laundering are taking place in society in spite of police, laws and courts. It is so disheartening to know that even the judges are stooping down to resort to bribery. Any number of rules cannot eradicate the social evils. The good number of laws cannot make people live a lawful life unless people feel the moral compulsions from within. Reformation of mind is not possible through legislation. No husband can be a watch dog throughout his life to check the evil ways of his wife. So also, no woman can physically prevent her husband from doing mischief. No society with all its legal force can enforce right conduct. It has to educate people by setting up worthy models, parents, teachers, elders and police have an onerous responsibility to be of exemplary morals and conduct. Social evils can be stain by force. They can be removed by appealing to the moral sense and ethical humanness. Laws may successfully separate people but not bring them together. It is the moral bond that unites wife and husband, parents and children and the teachers and the taught. Hence the significance of moral values in any society is immense and indispensable.

The plan and purpose of all 'values' is to evolve out of man, a personality that is perfect from all points of view. It is nothing but development of 'HEART' which takes one to the highest plane which intellect can never reach. Hence cultivation of heart is the primary duty of a rational being. Through heart the Lord speaks and through intellect you yourself speak. Man of heart always prays that

May all be happy
May all be free from disease.
May all realize what is good.
May none be subject to misery?

The prayer speaks of an ethical human excellence that aspires to inspire all for the promotion harmonious society with enduring values. Values make life charming. Values ultimately prevail and live through eternity and cross beyond the geographical boundaries and clear through adamant walls. They sanctify life filling the surroundings with the fragrance of fraternity. Values are capable of converting hell into heaven. Therefore, let life be imbued with 'VALUES' but not valuables, 'ideals' but not idols, and 'principles' but not principal positions or pelf. Vivekananda thunders "Him I call Mahatma (great soul) whose heart bleeds for the poor otherwise he is Duratma (wicked soul).

In a nutshell, it is sure that a harmonious or holistic and healthy society can be established if the society is guided by MORAL COMPASS.

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