

Value Education in Schools for National Integration—An Urgent Need

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ABSTRACT

Every nation has its own soul, which forms the foundation of its identity. Our nation has always been rich in its traditions, cultures, and values. Values in our Indian culture and society have always been held in the utmost regard. However, in the last few decades, the race for advancement in science, technology, and industries has given a very narrow scope for human values to develop. India is inhabited by people belonging to different religions, cultures, languages, races, castes, etc., representing a diversity of people with different styles of intellectual thinking, behaviour, and emotions. In addition, this has resulted in problems connecting youth with national reconstruction, building national economies, maintaining a standard of living, and developing national sentiment. The purpose of this paper is to investigate the elements that have contributed to a deterioration in national values, which has resulted in an increase in indiscipline and insurgency in the system, as well as to identify workable solutions.

Introduction

National integration represents a connection that exists amongst citizens of a country belonging to different castes, creeds, religions, and genders. It is the sense of oneness, brotherhood, and social togetherness that exists within a country's communities and society. Despite the diversity of a country, national integration serves to maintain the nation's unity and make it powerful from within. National integration is extremely important for a country since the integrity of a nation has been jeopardised several times throughout history. It has faced significant internal obstacles such as communalism, regionalism, and so on as well as external attacks. Terrorism on a global scale is also a big danger to national integration. While just a few individuals with radical ideas are able to persuade and manipulate the whole public. They incite them to rebel against their own country. As a result, national integration is crucial in the formation of a country. It ensures that the country's heritage is preserved while still allowing for growth.

The education system appears to be a factory that produces a large number of educated people who are inefficient in the real world. In today's world, education means learning how to make money or get a job, and the importance of values and morality is completely overlooked. This strategy has exacerbated a number of long-standing issues in the Indian educational system. The majority of antisocial behaviours are committed by the well-educated young generation. The teacher-student relationship is characterised by a lack of trust in one another. In this age of technology breakthroughs and social media accessibility. It is incredibly simple to be deceived. National integration aids in the obfuscation of these issues. It develops intellectual ability and tolerance among people.

Modernization and technological developments are contributing factors to the changing value patterns of our country. Children are no longer considered passive learners. They are more aware of their environment, have easy access to information, and are opinionated on every topic of discussion. The education system was once considered a place where old values would be replaced with new ones. The

child would be helped to adapt to the new values accordingly, but today no attempt is made to persuade young individuals to accept human values. The increase in indiscipline, violence, disobedience, use of substances, indifference, dishonesty, etc. among students has led to the question "where do values in our education system stand?"

Teaching Values for National Integration - A need of the hour

Today, we live in a materialistic society where the quality of living has improved but the quality of life continues to decline. The erosion of moral codes in our culture has become a major source of concern. values are the collection of principles that we use to determine whether something is right or wrong. These values might originate from one's own self, family, community, religion, government, or any other entity that has an impact on one's thinking. Let us discuss some of the primary causes behind our youth's eroding values.

1. **Political Scenario:** Political parties have trapped today's youth and are exploiting them for their own benefit. In colleges and universities, there exist student unions groups that encourage students to engage in unethical behaviour, immoral conduct, such as cheating, assaulting faculty if they fail during exams or organising strikes to meet their unfulfilled demands, leading to degradation of society's ethical and moral principles.
2. **Family factors:** Family factors in today's society, the involvement of family is critical for the development of a child's personality. Parents are generally more concerned with their children's education than with fostering strong moral principles in them. Working parents fail to teach their children character traits and etiquette. The majority of working parents have no clue as to what their children do when they're not at home. Excessive freedom can lead to youths indulging in a variety of undesirable behaviours such as going to a nightclub, gambling, smuggling, etc. Parents today are unable to monitor their children's

activities; some parents are unable to meet their children's demands, compelling them to engage in immoral activities.

3. **Students Indiscipline:** India is dealing with an increase in students' unrest and indiscipline which has reached terrifying levels. This is a threat to our national identity and culture. The pupils' frequent reluctance is nothing more than a representation of their widespread dissatisfaction and disapproval. It is important to understand why students in India resort to acts of violence. We've seen that students become enraged and throw stones, amongst many other things. Their insignificant actions are met with brutal repression by police officers, who use firearms and sticks to control them. Schools and institutions have been closed, principals have been gheraoed, and educators have been beaten by students.
4. **Unemployment & Poverty:** Continuous pressure of poverty has caused man to destroy the good feelings. Due to bad effects of economic dissatisfaction and other elements, good ideals and values are neglected. After the Second World War, materialistic view-points expanded more and more as a result of which the moral level of individuals and society continuously went down and all the efforts of man began to indulge in earning more and more money. Their major aim became to earn money only by applying fair or foul means. Men were forced to abandon spiritual beliefs and accept antagonism, jealousy, exploitation, and dishonesty as a result of this materialistic mindset. The younger generation are directly affected by these bad customs prevalent in the society.
5. **Social Media:** In today's modern world, social media networks are among the most powerful platforms for information dissemination and communication accessibility to shape, strengthen global social relationships. Young individuals use social media to create online identities, communicate with others, and join online communities. These networks may be immensely beneficial to youth, especially those who are socially excluded or have disabilities. However, the constant use of media can have a negative impact on certain young individuals, particularly high school pupils. The transformation in the twenty-first-century educational system is comprehensive, emphasising computer skills, and the internet is highly encouraging. However, some young individuals are abusing these resources by accessing websites that are unsuitable for education and learning. Youth today dedicate a considerable amount of time to social media. Peer pressure, low self-esteem, and mental illness are also more common amongst them. Increased social media use has been linked with depression, anxiety, insomnia, anorexia, and suicide risk in a number of studies.

Role of Schools in imparting Value Education

We need to count on the involvement of the school to create an inclusive society. It is through the process of education that an individual or a child will develop morals and values to create and survive in a society. It is therefore the role

of the school to promote tolerance, understanding, and protection among students, and to help the younger to build a more civil and democratic society.

1. **Role of the Teachers:** Teachers are considered to be the role models for the students. The students imitate the behaviour and gestures of his/her teachers during their formative years. The teachers should give attention, acknowledge, appreciate, motivate the child regularly to develop a pro- social behaviour.
2. **Focus on development of Communication Skills:** Effective communication skills will help an individual to survive and participate in social activities. The most salient point to remember is that there must always be effective communication with the child. Talk to them about everything that has happened in their lives, including what they have done correctly and incorrectly. In specific cases, teachers can even recommend good moral decisions. Teachers should make it a point to have genuine conversations with the child on a frequent basis. Appreciation for good deeds motivates youngsters and communicates the proper message in the most effective way imaginable. Allow the child to know that they are getting attention, and reward them whenever necessary. Recognize the child's accomplishments and make a point of mentioning and applauding them for each positive activity.
3. **Development of Emotional Intelligence:** Emotional intelligence includes traits like motivation and commitment, it may help individuals meet their objectives in a variety of fields, leading to success. Emotional intelligence is connected to several aspects of life achievement, according to the studies undertaken in a range of different fields such as education, health, and industry. Fernandes and Rego (2004) observed that EI is a significant predictor of students' life satisfaction, wellbeing, and student performance. Focusing on increasing emotional intelligence in students will increase their learning quality; they will be more exposed to emotional situations with emotional enthusiasm, which will be favourable to their development. The present generation is faced with unique challenges, educators should be equipped with the necessary expertise. The child needs knowledge as well as a set of skills, such as empathy, self-control, optimism, stress tolerance, self-esteem, adaptability, emotional awareness, and so on to tackle these new and more difficult situations.
4. **Development of Vocational Efficiency :** The main purpose of vocational education is development of skills based on competence and strong scientific knowledge, to meet the manpower for long-term national growth as well as the society's demands for jobs. It is the vocationally qualified individuals via need-based, adequate, and suitable education and professional training programme, who can ensure the supply of high-quality goods and services in a worldwide market economy, ensuring economic sustainability for national development and individual

success; It also attracts a significant part of the population to various vocational courses in order to lessen the rush to university education; equip students for self-sufficiency and unemployment problems.

5. **Curriculum (focus on Value Based Education) :** Schools should arrange the curriculum keeping in consideration the interest of the child. They should be involved in a way that keeps the child engaged in learning values not just subjective but also by participating in various co-curricular activities such as story-telling, dramatics, cultural programmes, morning assembly etc. The teacher is required to design lessons in such a way that he uses the subject matter to develop character e.g. while teaching science teacher should aim at the development of understanding of concepts which will lead to serious scientific outlook, open mindedness, thinking logical reasoning etc. Humanities and social science helps to understand human behaviour and social environment so certain attitudes, values, habits of thinking should be intended to impart among the learners,
6. **Development of Good Habits:** Good habits form a good person, which leads to a responsible citizen. It's not an exaggeration to argue that a small habit formed as a child can have a significant impact in the future. Most institutions, values and habits are grouped under the broad umbrella of character education, which covers a wide variety of values and attitudes such as respect, trust, honesty, concern for others' well-being, responsibility, and the desire to do one's best. It goes without saying that strong study habits in school serve as a foundation for job habits that lead to success as an adult. Make schoolwork a pleasurable experience. Make completing the homework a top priority. Organising and planning abilities may be taught through homework. Set goals for yourself. Other desirable academic practices, such as attending class regularly, arriving prepared to learn, and actively participating in class, are also linked to developing good habits. Habit development allows kids to tackle their everyday lives without assistance, managing to be much more independent, and developing self-evaluation and conscience skills. By inculcating habits, it becomes a routine which will result in making them a part of their daily lives, and they will be more creative in their search for methods to solve their problems. The development of values in children against their rooted behaviours is important because it teaches youngsters to be accountable and co-responsible in their roles.
7. **Parent - Teacher Communication:** In the education of a child, both parents and teachers play a significant

role. They provide fundamental life and academic skills as well as love and support to help the child grow in a productive way. Students are prepared to have a positive school experience when teachers combine their skills to encourage thought and creativity with the fundamental support provided by parents. Students build a special trust when his/ her parents and teachers have a strong communication. The student recognises that both parties are involved in their growth and works diligently to improve their academic goals. When communication between home and school is clear and constant, parents and kids are more easily able to connect with what is going on in the classroom. Students get excited by their parents' participation and look forward to sharing their experiences.

Conclusion

The educational organisations in charge of the schools and colleges do not pay heed to the aspirations of Indian students. Students are the cornerstones of India's future success. They are an amazing reservoir of vitality that, if guided in the proper direction, has the potential to perform brilliantly.

Inculcating values to students in school will help the child to understand what is "morally right and ethically right and wrong", to develop their personality, and to be aware of their obligations. Individuals have a tendency to adopt the values that have been taught to them. They also prefer to assume that their viewpoints are "correct" because they reflect the values of their society. Ethical decision-making typically requires, considering those contradictory ideals and determining which to prioritise. When people's values are incompatible, it can lead to a clash of priorities and preferences, which can result in conflict. Love, honesty, and liberty are examples of values that are innately worthwhile. Values such as ambition, responsibility, and courage are examples of qualities or behaviours that are valuable as a means to an aim.

This can only be accomplished by bringing citizens together from all groups of society. It ensures that each citizen gets an equal opportunity, by providing a fair and equal platform in terms of social, cultural, and economic. It is the responsibility of both teachers and parents to provide an environment that will allow a child to develop the required skills and attitudes toward their neighbourhood, society, and country. It is obvious that education is a process of integration in and of itself. The child's values are an integral part of the process of education and socialisation. The purpose of this paper is to analyse the cause of value degradation among youths and probable solutions that can be implemented by educational institutions.

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