

VALUE EDUCATION FOR NATION BUILDING

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Value education is not a new concept. From *vedic* age value education is continuously followed in India and is guiding all of us. The important thing is "Values". The philosophy of values is truth, beauty and goodness, better known as *Satyam*, *Shivam* and *Sundaram*. Therefore, values are norms of behaviour, habit and attitude for a happy life. Value education is such a concept which refines human behaviour which gives truth, love, beauty, self-control and respect to all and dignity of labour.

The value based education was originated in *Vedic* age. In *Gurukul* education system value education started with *Pita Devo Bhava*, *Mata Devo Bhava*, *Acharya Devo Bhava* and *Atithi Devo Bhava*. It means that father, mother, teacher and guest should be respected as *God*. We know that father and mother is the first teacher of one's life, then teacher formally imparts education. Salute to them means one starts his behavioural attitude with respect to seniors and then to others like guests. Here, guest means other than father, mother and teacher who comes in contact. This is the broad meaning of guest. The impact of value education can be described in the following way:

Matribat Pardarashue, *Paradrabyashu Lostrabya*, *Atmabat Sarbba bhuteshu Jha pashyatee sa Pandiyya*. It means wife of others should be treated as mother; the valuable items of others as iron and all living beings are to be considered as unique soul. The person who thinks in such a way may be considered as a scholar in true sense. Another saying is: *Om sahana baabatu*, *sahanoi vunaktu*, *saha bijyiong karabawabahai*, *tajaswaniawadhitamantu*, *ma bidwaashahai*, *Om shanti shanti shanti*. It means we protect each other, we always maintain tolerance, and we take our food by assembling and pray to the Almighty to increase our vigour. For keeping peace we leave envying nature. We pray to the Almighty for all round development.

Education gives wisdom. Morality and spiritualism are the essential components of wisdom. Education is the penance to all evils. Values are essential in all fields of education, religion, politics and society. For restructuring of society and nation, value based politics and value based socialization and economic processes are highly essential. But we are living in such a society where politics are floating with inhuman nature without any ethics and science. This results in outcome of meaningless work, characterless education, trade without any honesty, and

even worship without sacrifice. The entire socialization process is badly affected by these odd behaviours. For example science has lost its temper for well being of human, politics are done for personal gains and trade becomes a cheating process to exploit the customers. Today education has become a process for acquiring a degree for professional purposes. Sometimes it loses path for making human resource. Religion becomes a tool for personal benefit. All these evil processes lead to destruction of human race. To overcome all these odds we must give stress on value education. About Indian education system the educationist say that we are providing education only to the mind and not for character. As a result average Indians have little character and no discipline. If they are to build a nation they must learn both. For making a good society as well as nation we should give importance to the following five values:

1. **Material values:** This means desire to acquire property, gain glamour and status in society. We must control ourselves for acquiring these worldly needs.
2. **Social values:** It means social norms in respect to individual behaviour, conduct, duties and responsibilities towards others. Social values provide stability and uniformity in the society. We should keep up the values such as human dignity, social equality, good manners, patriotism, kindness, social responsibility, dignity for labour, peaceful living, sacrifice and cooperation. These values guide us for making a good society.
3. **Cultural values:** Cultural values are those values which can help to conserve and preserve our culture. In educational institutions cultural values may be developed by providing cultural activities like dance, drama, songs etc. The feat of these activities can contribute for building the society in a positive perspective.
4. **Spiritual values:** It emerges mainly from moral values such as truthfulness, right conduct, peace, love, non-violence, honesty, trust etc. Sense of right and wrong is the vital point. Education should be such way so that pupils can acquire spiritual values from their teachers and parents. In this context the Kothari Commission of 1964-66 may be referred which recommended the necessity of developing spiritual values through curricular and co-curricular activities in students.
5. **Intrinsic values:** Intrinsic values are those values which are pursued for their own sake. Truth, beauty and goodness are intrinsic values and they are eternal.

Today value education is specially needed for the youth. Youth can play a pivotal role in nation building. It is said that youth is the backbone of nation. The spirit of youth may continue till to last breath of life. Irrespective of age the person who possesses innovative thinking for any developmental process, missionary spirit, mental strength to do anything at any cost may be termed as youth. For them age is not a factor. With the spirit of value education person can effectively take part in developmental process. It is the right time for the youth him or her for taking part in any developmental activities of the society. With this acquired potentialities a youth can continue his nation building activities till to the last day of life. Here, we want to cite an example from the epic *Mahabharata*. In *Mahabharata* the personality of *Bhisma* is unique. He is known as forefather of all *yoga*. In his ripe age *Bhisma* went to *Kurukhetra* battlefield like a young soldier. He was spiritually very active, intellectually evergreen for this reason he was able to control everything and even death. He was empowered with *Ichsa mrityu*. At the end of the *Kurukhetra* battle *Bhisma* lies on the arrow-heads and gave moral preaching to the *Pandavas*. He died according to his will. This was possible only because of his honesty, self control and his quality of high spiritual thinking. Today youth can take the path of *Bhisma's* character of quality building. They can leave the restless nature which generally leads one even to death.

Life is neither for enjoyment nor for materialistic world. Thinking for welfare of others not only makes one brighter but also brings in benefit to both the persons and the society. *Rig Vedas* stated: *Sarba bhabantu sukhina, Sarba santu niramaya, Sarba bhadrani pachyantu, Ma kashit dukhabhag bhabet.*

This is value education and values can be reflected through one's character. *Swami Vivekananda* was able to erect strong pillar abroad through his value based character. Once a foreign lady asked about his traditional dress then he replied that he came from such a country where character represents the nature and personality, not the dress and costumes.

Today people have become self-centred and they always think for their own. They are very much attracted to the materialistic world which cannot help in nation building. *Sri Madbhagawat Gita* states: *Adewasta sarbavutanang maitra karuna Abasa, Nirmamo nirhankara sama dukha sukha khami.* It means the life of the person who always thinks for others is full of values. Again it is stated in *Gita: Anapakha shucidarkha udasino gatyadyasa.* It means the person having honest, pure, active and selfless character always feels peace of mind.

One who never takes any anxiety for any cause and remains free from anxiety, anger and fear is able to lead a simple peaceful life. Such persons become devotees of god. There are many examples in history who sacrificed their lives for the cause of values.

Sage *Dadhichi* sacrificed his life for the cause that demon *Vrittasur* be killed by the weapons made from his bones. In *Ramayana*, *Vivisan* allowed to kill his son *Toronisen* to save the common people from demons. *Srimanta Sankardeva*, the great saint of Assam always stressed on to give equal status to all living creatures. This doctrine implies the concept of values in one of his composition - *Jata jiba jangama kita patangam, ago nogo jogo teri kaya*. It means all the living creatures emerged from one source that is the Almighty. Again, in one of his composition he stated *Samasta bhutata byapi asu moi hari, sobaku maniba vishnu budhi kori*. It means that *Lord Krishna* is always with all living creatures. Therefore, we should respect all and each other. *Sankardeva* always tried his best to light brotherhood in all sections of the society. But today value education has become a dormant. As a result conflict started among different ethnic groups. To arrest all these problems value education should be implemented from the very childhood. In history it is found that value education starts at mother's womb. *Prahlada* got spiritual values from *Narada* when he was at his mother's womb. *Dhruva* also acquired value education at his early age.

Our former President *Sarvapali Radhakrishnan* stated that the development process in India slowed down because of the division of thinking among the Indians. Collective thinking is very essentials for all developmental processes. For all societal development we should think collectively in a united manner. It is not possible to hold an elephant by single thread but it is possible to hold the elephant by a bundle of threads. It is because of brotherhood, tolerance and strong social values that the Japanese people are able to achieve highest profile in the world even though they were once destructed by two atom bombs.

We may conclude that values are very much significant for rebuilding the nation and everyone should be conscious for the realization of true values not only for the societal development and nation building but also for their own personal development for a balanced personality.