

Degradation of Human Values and Professional Ethics among Indian Youth: An Emerging Issue

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Abstract

Human Values and Professional Ethics degradation among youth is an important problem of emerging India. Ethics and values must be an integral part of work culture. Values are defined most often as standards for determining levels of goodness or desirability. Youth power is the driving force of a nation; if it moves in right direction. But now a day youth is adversely diverted through different immoral activities which does not only influence the present Indian society but also it stimulates the future generation of our civilization. Therefore, it is imperative and a duty of everybody to find out the solution of this crucial problem to establish India in the world of peace and harmony that is very much dependant over the hand of youth generation. India is considered the country of religions, traditions & recognized worldwide for its culture & values. But as the standard of values of human is getting down. It is raising a big question mark on our education system. The paper highlights here the causes, consequences along with few remedies to encounter the problem.

Keywords: Values, Professional ethics, civilization, degradation, generations.

Introduction

Indian Education system during Vedic period had given due importance to the teaching of 'Values' to the children. Untiring efforts by some Indian sages and Seers of that time had developed priceless heritage of Indian culture that continued till the end of about 16th Century. 'Value' comes from the Latin word 'Valere', which means to be of worth, to be strong. The dictionary gives the following meaning: relative worth utility or importance, degree of excellence, something intrinsically valuable.

Value literally means something that has price, something precious, dear and worthwhile; hence something one is ready to suffer and sacrifice for; if necessary one is ready to die for it. Values are standards, rules, criteria, attitudes, guidelines, desirable ideas/beliefs and important things,

which play a crucial role in shaping the life of individuals. Values give direction and firmness to life.

Human values are the principles, standards, convictions and beliefs that people adopt as their guidelines in daily activities. Principal human values are the foundation on which professional ethics are built. They are a set of consistent measures and behaviors that individuals choose to practice in the pursuit of doing what is right or what is expected of them by society. There are five basic core human values viz. Truth, Righteous Conduct, Peace, Love and Non violence. These five values include in a balanced way the profound moral insights of all the world's great enduring civilizations.

Professional ethics means to develop professional competence with ethical human conduct. Ethical human conduct means definitiveness of human conduct. Ethical human conduct is the foundation of professional ethics. The only effective way to ensure professional ethics is through correct appraisal and systematic development of ethical competence in the professional.

Today young people have to face innumerable value problems. When we look at the Modern Society we can visualize that Violence, Exploitation, Political Corruption and Terrorism, the Armaments Race, the production of nuclear bombs, the ever-increasing Terrorism, and the Corruption in public life etc., are increasing day by day and this indicates that humanity seems to have lost its values. The application of scientific and technological knowledge to the comforts of man has reduced him to a mechanical being, resulting in degeneration of the value system. The unethical practices are rapidly increasing and their impact is also becoming far-reaching. Corruption in multifarious manifestations is afflicting all the professions like a virus. Similarly, unethical practices are also proliferating and getting out of control. It appears as if human ingenuity is being increasingly harnessed to devise newer and subtler ways to thwart the ethical conduct of profession, to twist the laws and to beat the system. As a result of this 'epidemic' of unethical practices, we are frequently coming across serious scams, major economic offences and kickbacks in large scale purchases. Lapses on the part of big organizations in ethical conduct of profession have led to large scale disasters, such as Bhopal Gas Tragedy, the Chernobyl Disaster, etc. endangering public life and prosperity, and causing serious degradation to environment. This menace becomes even more serious as unethical politics are adopted collectively by large industries, cartels, multinational corporations and even national governments. We are also quite familiar how misleading propaganda, advertisements using sex-appeal, the influence of show business ad celebrities are being employed to influence the public

mind for promoting all types of product which are not quite conducive to human welfare. We may enlist some salient categories of these unethical practices as follows:

- Corruption in multiple forms and at various levels.
- Tax evasion, misappropriation and misuse of public funds.
- Misleading propaganda, unethical advertisements and sale promotion.
- Cut-throat competition.
- Exploiting the weakness of consumers through various enticements.
- Adulteration and spurious production.
- Endangering the health and safety of public at large.
- Hoarding and over-charging etc.

Reasons for degradation of human values and professional ethics among Indian youth

Today there is deterioration of values in the society. The values have been neglected not only at the social level but at the national level also. There are several factors with the modern higher education which are making people literate or educated undoubtedly but on the other hand responsible for forgetting the basics or values of a good human being or a responsible citizen of the society.

- In the Educational programmes only mental developments have been stressed. In the modern age, the aim of education is all round development of personality. In the present educational system, provision has been made for intellectual education by giving importance to intellectual development.
- There is lack of development of sound moral vision among human being along with the scientific and technological development. As a result human being can produce such powerful means of destruction like hydrogen and nuclear bombs and destroy the whole world in no time. Wealth worshipped as god, Pride has become a creed. Selfishness is entrenched in the intellect. The ego is flaunted, and desires become an adornment, righteousness has become merely a figurehead in the world, compassion has dried up,

gratitude has waned, Hypocrisy has become the hall mark of life and love and affection has become lustful afflictions.

- The modern youth receiving education are losing their idealism and living in spiritual vacuum. Moral values have no respect now. Man fails to distinguish between right and wrong, good and evil. Highest respect is being placed on wealth and power. Religion have now become a private affair and stress is being laid on secularization of social relationships. Human relations are becoming impersonal and secondary.
- Loss of leadership among the teachers is another manifestation of the deterioration of values in the modern society.
- Lack of academic syllabus related to human values and professional ethics. Student's focus have been changed from enhancing hidden talents or values to just make them eligible to earn well or professionally equipped. Now a day, children are educated but they are not aware of the ways of its practical application. Consequently students are unemployed & depressed as present education makes them job seeker not job maker.
- Higher importance to materialistic achievement among school students.
- Privatization of educational institutes is another major cause for decline in ethical values in education. Permission and recognition given by government to open self-financed private institutions have made the education to acquire the status of a marketable commodity, where educational institutes act as the traders and students are their customers. These institutions run various courses without basic infrastructure and qualified faculties. The teachers appointed in such institutes are paid low with no job security and are far away from the required teaching standards.
- Lack of extra co-curricular activities based on human values and professional ethics. There is a great importance curricular & extra-curricular activity for the student's life. But now the scope of extra-curricular activities is been limited to only sports, literary competitions, Quizzes, few games, dance or musical events only. Morning meetings, prayers, literary works, discussions over social problems and other cultural activities have been disappeared. Today, on the occasion of birth anniversary of any legends of our history or culture there is holiday. Teachers & Students stay away from discussion of these topics. And if there is open debate on such things so people are more focused toward win not on the real importance of discussion or learning of morals. In the same manner on the national festive are celebrated just for the sake of formality. Flag hoisting and general activities are performed but nobody talks about national welfare & development.

Remedies to reduce the human values and professional ethics degradation among Indian youth

Einstein remarked once: “try not to become a man of success but try to become a man of values.”

- i. To be successful in life, important human qualities along with intellectual development should be the aim of value education. Value education is the positive effort towards bringing about a synthesis of different values in a human being. It is the teachers’ role to foster human values through his teaching in the classroom and follow those values. To the youth of today, the classroom messages are love, safety, security, belonging and warmth.
- ii. The government should legislate against media operators who publish indecent action in their publication. This is to ensure that only appropriate type of broadcasting will be televised and eventually reduces the stress of moral decay.
- iii. The educational system should provide compulsory moral and ethnic classes to all students. Teaching method should not just exam oriented but also practical with continuous education and evaluation.
- iv. Education is an ethical practice. The value transferred to students through the school as an institution also includes credentials, competition and a utilitarian approach to learning. All educational institutions agree upon essential competencies, albeit at varying academic levels.
- v. The school assembly, the curricular and co curricular activities, the celebration of festivals of all religions, work experience, team games, subject clubs, and social service programme –all this can help in including the value of cooperation and mutual regard, honesty, and integrity, discipline and social responsibility. Children should practice and learn rituals, tradition, religion and activities as well as modernization should be simultaneously maintained.
- vi. The co- curricular activities naturally helps in the smooth running of the school and makes the children strong, steady, healthy and creative. Active participation in co-curricular activities arouses curiosity, creates interest and inculcates values. Children should practice and learn rituals, tradition, religion and activities as well as modernization should be simultaneously maintained.
- vii. NGOs, and other social volunteer associations have to be strengthen to coordinate youth to bring stability among them and proper planning has to be introduced and implemented accordingly their potentialities.
- viii. Economic stability, employment and anti depressive, peaceful atmosphere and essential infrastructure should be provided as much as possible to the younger generation of society.



- ix. The commitment and responsibility of teachers is very essential to make the excellent teacher–student relationship and maintain peaceful school atmosphere. Teachers should be a model to the student in his character, behavior and all virtuous things. The teachers are expected to advice and guide the pupils regarding their general behavior in school and outside the school.
- x. Value inculcation programme should be organized in schools time to time which includes group discussion on social problems field research, modeling, games, simulations, and role playing will instill or internalize certain values. Moral development approach, analysis approach and in depth self analysis exercise facilitate to find moral and logical reasoning and make scientific investigation to decide value issues and adopt values in life, interactive lessons on Conceptual Frame Work current issues, community services, participation in school governance, extracurricular activities, and simulation show will encourage civic and citizenship values among students. Social organizations should concentrate on value based moral character of the society and accordingly steps have to be taken to organize common people irrespective of age.

Conclusion

If we want to see a society that has a very low crime rate and where all humans can live safe, we have to look into the human values and the professional ethics that our sculptures and religious masters preach. We have to take the responsibility of making our society and in turn our earth a beautiful place where all humans can live a life of respect and dignity with no fears in their mind. It is high time to find the major causes of decline in ethical values of education system which will give rise to unskilled professionals, undisciplined students. Corruption, privatization, unfair assessment, teacher absenteeism, undue political interference is the probable causes of ethical decline of Indian education system. The only way to stop this decline is to provide ethical or value orientation in Indian educational system. Thus there is an urgent need to re-introduce value based education, spiritual education, ethical education and need based education in the curriculum which should deal with increase in human values, ethical values, rational thinking, learning, research and moral development in education system.

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