

Can an education which is not of use to society or the Nation be called education at all? Of what use is the acquisition of all kinds of knowledge if one has no good qualities and has no moral values?

What for is academic knowledge acquired? Is it for deceiving others? Is it for promoting one's selfish interests? Or is it for selfish enjoyment of pleasures? An education that serves no useful purpose in daily life is utterly worthless. The students today are divorced from all that is ennobling.

That is why Value Based Education to school children is the need of the hour.

Education lends beauty to man. Education is man's most precious wealth. It confers happiness and is the teacher of teachers. Degrees alone do not signify education. One also has to acquire humility, discipline and good character. The students of today are concerned with acquiring wealth, strength and position, but not good qualities. Education is not intended only to stuff the brain with information. It has to transform the heart and make it pure. The five values of Satya, Dharma Shanti, Prema and Ahimsa should be a part of Value Based Education and must be imparted to school children regularly. The five terms are like the '**Five life-breaths**' for a man. Without imparting these values to school children, humanness will be destroyed. In school students, today should be taught to cultivate the **gem-like** qualities namely– the spirit of sacrifice, humility, the spirit of selfless service to society, friendliness, discipline, adherence to truth, non-violence and faith in God. The boys and girls who have these qualities alone, will be the Nations treasure of virtue and ensure the future. Students should be taught along with the school curriculum to promote the Nation's well being, its security and happiness through Values. Selflessness, absence of egoism, unostentatiousness and true love should be the hall marks of a true students. And inclusion of Value Based Education will surely help. By inculcating Values, the student in the long run can foster the sense of oneness, draw out one's divine qualities and promote the blossoming of human personality. How can a nation progress? Students must realize the greatness of 'Bharat'. Value education would enable them to develop patriotic feelings as well. One can have the knowledge of 'Bharatiya' Culture. It will confer 'Atma-Anandam' (Spiritual Bliss).

God manifests in the heart filled with Love. Education should foster values in students. There are crores of students and educated persons with high degrees in this world. After acquiring many high degrees what are they doing for the welfare of the world? Are they giving even a little help to the poor and suffering masses? There are others who have amassed Crores of rupees, but they do not give even a penny in charity. Even after earning, so much money they have no satisfaction, they keep on thinking of acquiring more and more money. One who exercises control over his desires can accomplish any higher goal in life. Wherever we see, we find people indulging in selfishness. What are such people making of education? No doubt, one should acquire worldly education, but what for? This education only helps one to meet worldly requirements like food, clothing and shelter. Educated people today crave for worldly pleasures which develop in them evil qualities like Kama, Krodha, Lobha, Moha, Mada and Matsarya i.e. desire, anger, greed, delusion, pride and jealousy. Man's senses can give him only outer happiness. But if he wants inner bliss, he has to put the

five Human Values into practice viz Satya (truth) Dharma (righteousness) Santhi (peace), Prema (love) and Ahimsa (non-violence).

It is therefore, the responsibility of the schools to ensure the fact that each and every school imparts “Values” through education and thereby achieve the above-mentioned factors in the long run.

Education is no book-worm affair, the process must include the study and appreciation of all trades, professions and guilds. It must encourage the acceptance of the good and the rejection of the bad. Value based education is not a distinct and separate discipline, it is part and parcel of all types and levels of education.

It is Quality and not Quantity of students that should be increased in schools. As inclusion of ‘Values’ in school education is relegated to the background, therefore students today lack the capacity to discriminate between right and wrong. The authorities feel that education is progressing in the country. Crores are being spent on education. What is the return for all this expenditure? There is a general decline in character and students have no respect for teachers, gratitude is a far cry. This is the ‘progress’ that is witnessed today.

Absence of ‘Human Values’ leads to decline in spirituality. Schools should make an effort to develop the strong faith that the body had been gifted to uphold human values. Since ancient times, Bharatiya (Indians) stood for peace, forbearance and forgiveness. Knowledge imparted in schools is like the bulb and Value based education in schools would be like the current flowing through it. Only when positive and negative meet darkness is dispelled. So, we must develop positive along with negative. Good values are latent in every student, which is positive but schools need to give an opportunity to bring them to forefront. Just because value education is not given importance, accumulation of negative aspects is in excess amongst students today.

Qualities like anger, hatred and jealousy only create differences. These evil qualities generate a lot of negativity in the tender minds of students leading to the loss of mental peace. Value based education can certainly play a major role in empowering the students not to give room for these evil qualities. The objective of True education is to destroy narrow mindedness, develop equality and finally lead to world peace.

To inculcate values, one has to experience it at different levels and internalize. In order to achieve that, the young students need to think about these values, reflect on them, use and make them a part of their personal and social lives. Values combined with “Life Skills” education can make school children aware about the effect of their behaviour and choices which would ultimately help them in developing socially conscious Decision-Making Skills. Value enhanced Life Skills will help everyone in the world, as everyone

in the world has the right to live with dignity and respect. It would also help to resist peer pressure, taking informed decisions and making healthy choices.

Therefore, values along with Life Skills in schools is a must and it will enhance the child's abilities for adaptive and positive behavior, to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life. The ten core life skills are - Self Awareness, Critical Thinking, Creative Thinking, Problem Solving, Decision Making Empathy, Interpersonal Relationship, Dealing with Emotions, Dealing with Stress and Effective Communication.

In the present times with the increase in urbanization and globalization, the students seem to be quite confused. Stress could be observed and it is mainly for achievement and performance from teachers and specially parents. Children are seen to externalize their frustrations through aggression and violence. Ultimately, low in self-esteem, low in self-image, low in adaptability, poor Problem Solvers and poor Decision Makers. But with the knowledge of Life Skills or rather the Life Skills based education will empower children to face the challenges that would come in their walks of life. It would help the students to cope with various facets of life. Moreover, since non-human values play a vital role now-a-days, more than human values, therefore the necessity to impart this knowledge to students in schools along with values should not be neglected. Teachers, in schools should be active promoters and facilitators of Life skills and Values. Value Based educational games, stories, Role-plays, Audio and visual activities need to be introduced in schools and this could be a way to motivate the children and lead them towards the right path. Adopting of innovative strategies according to demands of the situation is required. And once, teachers can install divinity through value education in the hearts of every student, there will be no place for enmity because heart is a single chair, not a musical chair or a double sofa. In order to install divinity in the heart of every student, practice of Human Values along with Life Skills is of utmost importance.

Value Based Education in schools along with Life Skills should be made mandatory and thereby develop those qualities which will bring all of us closer to each other and teach us to practice Human Values which will in the end bring Unity and Harmony.

Value Education in school will also help the students to practice unity in thought, word and deed – which is the mark of all great people. In school, it is the teacher's duty to teach what is good and wholesome for the students. A real student is one who respects the teacher.

The Values imparted in school will empower the children to adhere to good conduct, adhere to truth and dedicate their lives to righteous ways. People speak about Education in Human Values but what is needed is the three main Human Values- education which embraces head, heart and hands. Education should

imbue students with certain ideals. They should realize that there is only one caste, the Caste of Humanity. There is only one religion, the Religion of Love. There is only one language, the Language of the Heart. If these basis ideals are followed, there will be no room for petty differences and misunderstanding. If human values take root in the educational system, the emerging products from our institution will have the following attributes: they will want peace with justice in a world that acknowledges the rule of law and in which no nation or individual need live in fear. Lastly, one cannot do away with the knowledge of the ten core 'Life Skills' recommended by the World Health Organization which are mentioned above. It also should be an integral part of school education along with Human Values which would sanctify the educational system.

.....