

REVIEW ARTICLE



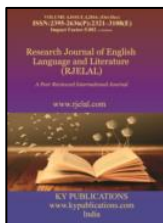
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IMPORTANCE OF ETHICS IN EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Education aims at the all-round development of the students. It enlightens the young minds and prepares them for bigger challenges of life. It equips their mind with knowledge and develops skills to fit in this global world. In the good old times, youngsters went to the ashrams to receive education and morals and ethics were inseparable part of their education. But unfortunately, education has somewhat moved away from its true purpose in this commercial world of today. The scene created at JNU bears a testimony to the fact that how much we have failed in inculcating values in our students. Thus, the results are evident before us and we daily come across such news in the newspapers about such incidents of crime which force us to think about the role of our educational system in today's world.

Keywords: Renunciation, Tenderness, Revolt, Individuality, Unconventional..

What are the causes of our failure leading to such kind of the degradation in the society First of all the educational policies are designed in such a way to impart education for the purpose of earning money in this commercial world. Educational policies fail to take into consideration the fact that the ethics and values are also part of the educational system. The students also join the educational institutes to have degrees not with the spirit to imbibe values which is really affecting their overall personality development after the completion of the course. Unemployment is also rising amongst youth leading to frustration and subsequently to many other problems. Corruption is also increasing and consumerism culture is developing in India. The degradation of values in today's society has forced us to rethink about the revival of moral values in education.

The question arises what are values? It may mean different things for different people. Milton Rokeach says "A value is an enduring belief that a specific mode of conduct is personally or socially preferable to an opposite or converse mode of

conduct or end state of existence" Thus, the essential values like love, compassion, truth, righteousness, peace and non violence are linked to different facets of human personality. In the field of ethics, we study people's moral standpoint. Ethics change from time to time what was considered right yesterday is not considered right today and what is considered as right at one place may be wrong at another place. So, we must try to focus on the strong spiritual foundation which doesn't change with time and space. It is high time to consider the role of values and ethics in changing the mindset of youngsters. Recent experiences of this crisis at different levels have highlighted the importance of strong value framework and ethics in the institutions. Research in these areas poses some serious questions as: what do the students learn in the educational institute, what form the basis of an institution and curriculum, what ethical and moral choices the teachers have to make? so the point to consider is how the education helps the student to create and change various norms and ethical standpoints on which they are based On a

social and political level, it is a matter of great concern what values and norms should be fundamental in education, questions about its content and function leading to consequences for individual and society. Research ultimately aims to contribute to education that is of an equal standard and which prepares students for living and forming a society characterized by diversity, complexity and change.

The governing bodies or the leaders of education make decisions every day that impact the lives of others, making the act of leadership a moral issue. Foster (1986) explained that, "Each administrative decision carries with it a restructuring of human life: Leadership implies intentional decision-making to enact change, rather than merely to continue and support current systemic processes, and such decisions are rooted in a leader's definition of what are positive changes, as well as the ultimate effects of such changes. It takes in view the fact that what needs to be changed, the outcomes and methods of change, as well as who will benefit from such changes, and how they are based on one's values. A leader's system of values, or deeply held beliefs, is the ethical framework from which a leader develops a vision, defines and shapes the change process, and takes actions to make his or her vision a reality.

The awareness of proper conduct and empowerment can be encultured into existing practices and values of our present system of education. As these students are in the foundation years of their life and growth of ethical practitioner occurs during this stage. Thus, the learning opportunities that can be afforded in classroom learning of ethics and professional behavior should be made a part of curriculum. In the age of electronic media, we have many other options open before us it is possible to make clippings on the life of great personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar lal Nehru, Mother Teresa etc. showing virtual depiction of their life and to inculcate the feelings of patriotism and love and compassion for humanity. Such kinds of things will have more impact on the young minds of students in this age of information technology. The other extension activities like visits to old age homes and school for destitute children can be organized to

arouse the feelings of love and compassion. There is considerable and well discussed literature available on ethics such as by Dewey, Bentham, Kant and Mill and there is need to adopt it in practice also for the benefit of students. It can be incorporated within the curriculum of teaching as a subject so that the students get acquainted with it through development of teachers for this subject.

A code of ethics thus provided can act as a framework of conduct which is culturally favoured in a society. So the code of ethics or statement of values can serve to empower the emerging professionals to aspire towards a higher goal of conduct. Therefore, the teacher must consider and balance the values associated with the subjects for the moral growth of the students along with the intellectual growth. In our profession as academicians, we have to make decision about what we teach and how we teach that We have to consider our role as teachers in higher education that do we meet our ethical obligations. As teachers, we have to consider who our students are, what is their background, beliefs and world views. How does the learning experience contribute to the achievement of the student learning outcomes attributes.

The Canadian university for teaching and learning in higher education advocates nine ethical principles in teaching that defines professional responsibilities of university teachers.

- Content competence,
- Pedagogical competence,
- Dealing with sensitive topics,
- Student development,
- Dual relationships with students,
- Confidentiality,
- Respect for colleagues,
- Valid assessment of students, and
- Respect for institution.

All of these initiatives in practical approach can prove to be very useful in inculcating values in our students.

The professional bodies providing guidelines for higher education, teachers and staff developers often make overt references to the ethical conduct of teachers. We, as teachers are the role models for our students and should be conscious of the vast responsibility that lies with our profession. The

colleges and universities have to shoulder the responsibility of changing the mindset of the students as the critical agents of learning. It involves the development of moral judgement and action to the point of a highly sophisticated expertise. University students are the emerging professionals who must have the capacity to critically assess a situation and decide on a path of conduct which supports the obligations towards their service too in future. In corporate sector also it has been seen that the newcomers face many difficulties in making moral and ethical choices. So, there is need to provide a strong foundation to the students who are the nation builders of tomorrow so that they are able to fit well in this global world.

It is therefore suggested that an effective ethics curriculum which builds capacity of students to be the moral agents should be developed and trained teachers who could understand its real importance should be appointed for this serious as well as responsible task. There is an urgent need to dig deeper, to ensure that our students are groomed with a proper understanding of right and wrong through the study of morals and ethics.

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