
MORAL EDUCATION: NEED OF HOUR

Shalini Gupta

Associate Professor, Department of Commerce, MPG College, Mussoorie

Abstract: *There are many problems that pose a serious concern in today's time, of them, one is declining Moral Standards. It is a poser which is gaining the attention of many people as well as organizations big or small. Is it, because the right direction and guidance aren't being provided to the upcoming generation? Isn't it strange that the land of Rishis and high spiritual gurus is finding it difficult to maintain the same high standards for which once it was known in the world?*

There is a crisis on every front whether it is social, political, or cultural. But can the inner conscience of a particular individual be monitored by anyone else? History is full of examples where people who achieved great heights are those, who were guided by wisdom and sacrifice. Indian philosophy in itself talks of the three **Krins** (debts). Which an individual has in one's lifetime, **DevKrin**, **PitraKrin**, and **GuruKrin** (If an individual right from childhood observes the basic rule of society we will see that peace and progress will follow. It will lead to the success and development of all allocated.

What does Moral Education mean? In words, it denotes following the right path and choosing the right way in one's life. It is not a new phenomenon that stems from modern times. For even in Katha Upanishad (VI.I) "the self-existent one created the sense organs (including the mind) with the defect of an outgoing disposition." We living beings perceive punishable things and mundane pleasures. Hence we get defective if we fail to attain up to our expectations. It was rightly said by Confucius, "When you see a noble man, try to equal him. When you see an evil man, examine yourself thoroughly. Only then you can achieve the

essence of success.” Yes, it is very true, and when one succeeds in realizing the divinity within oneself, only then achieve the consummation of human existence.

If since childhood one is expected to rise to high ideals, values, and missions in life one will see that dedication, sensitization, conscientiousness, and egalitarian outlook; an unbiased approach will become the very basis of one's character. Education of basic moral values cannot be a mere exercise of books, class, and other imposing measures. It has to be taught by setting examples to be followed by the disciples. Something that Gandhi did during the national movement. He renounced those things which he did not advocate whether it was untouchability, the lack of unity between different communities, violence, etc. As he preached Swadeshi, he wore muslin cloth. He advocated the use of Charkha to see that every village in India is self-sufficient. He led by example, which is why Gandhism is just not a mere philosophy but has become a way of life and saw the mobilization of a huge movement for freedom. It was a commitment with the people that were successful in the culmination of the Independence of India.

If we look at Rabindranath Tagore's Gitanjali, the highest music of spiritual success is the innocence which says give me the strength to surrender my strength to my will, with love. When one conquers his soul, he succeeds in all he does, that is because all his desires are incorporable. He is always in quest for the truth of existence. He is steadfastly striving toward the enlightenment of his soul. He fearlessly stands before God and says all this is yours, O Lord! Nothing is mine, Thou act the all that is why success which is spiritual will not lead us to self-centeredness.

It should be emphasized that the fabric of our lives should be woven with a thread of faith, effort, and hope. The lust for undying fame and the avarice for affluence should not overpower the guarding ethics of our culture. Only then we can call ourselves truly

successful person. It is required that one must attempt to reform oneself before preaching to others. But nowadays the political leaders, on whom lies the responsibility to leading the nations have nothing to offer, but skeletons of scandals, black money, undeserving candidates on high posts, and forgotten promises. What does one expect from a common man reeling under the pressure of corruption, dishonesty, and unfaithfulness? How can we teach honesty in class when we are well aware that it leads to more problems in the present times? But moral values still cannot be divorced from life completely. For unless there is a goal or a vision, we cannot reach the skies of success.

Small things have great value in life. If we donate blood it gives life. If one donates eyes after death it gives light to someone's world. If a patient's wound is nursed one achieves blessing. If you quench someone's thirst, you get his benison, if you let out a hand to someone stuck in darkness, it will mean a lot. We must always remember that the world is a stage and we are merely players. Let us brighten it - we will be blessed by someone's prayers. Their prayers are our ultimate success. What more do we want? An altruistic act is a truly sacred chant. Let faith dwell within you and God above. Today I can become an emissary of love, for even then great saint Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa said, 'God entailed is man and man entailed is God.'

In a country like India, where unity in diversity is proudly upheld, Moral Education will lead to greater acceptance of each other's language, colour, and creed. Religion which in today's time is the most controversial issue in public life should be examined. Instead of harping on the nonexistence of secularism. We should ask what the legitimate place of religion is in the political life of contemporary India and how the state should deal with it. The common culture that India needs today must be multicultural in its origin.

Ashoka during his time formulated the policy of Dhamma, a moral code which asked for equality, love, and compassion. He never tried using force for its acceptance but left it to the people to decide right and wrong. It resulted in success. For everyone willingly advocated and followed it. He had the values of the moral code carved on rock edicts in vital strategic places where people had a better chance to see them. It was the virtue of Ashoka that instead of force he renounced his kingship to lead by example. Something which is being neglected in the present times.

Moral values play an important role in every aspect of an individual's life. It is necessary for the holistic growth of an individual. It is not only, "social education which covers the way individual deals with other members of the community," but also a responsible attitude towards others and understanding of right and wrong behaviour, expected by the norms of the society. There are a number of factors that influence and mould human development like parenting, temperament, socio- economic conditions that can't be ignored. However, this paper focuses on imparting moral values through educational institutions. One can't be oblivious of the fact that children spend a majority of their time in their intuitions parting education. Thus, "A school is not merely a teaching shop, but a place which transmit values and attitudes."

The goal of education should be the holistic development of a person and not merely the knowledge of life skills to survive in this world. It should seek to complement knowledge with wisdom and ethics in order to awaken the self-realization in students and make them capable of rational thoughts and action, compassion and empathy, courage and resilience with ethical values and orientation. Diving deep into Indian traditions and values, laying focus on five integral teachings of all religions - love, peace, non-violence, righteous conduct and truth. Along with education, children shall be groomed into human values, cleanliness, a spirit of service, respect for others, responsibility, equality, pluralism, and justice. The need

for an hour is education deeply rooted in Indian traditions and values, which aims to create citizens who understand the oneness of the human race and are truly global citizens, committed to human rights and sustainable living.

Now efforts are being made by State Council for Educational Research Training (SCERT) to layout an exhaustive curriculum for teachers and students in which ethics will be introduced to the student as a subject, which can tell them how to conduct themselves well in society. Already Shikshak Mitras have been trained to disseminate socio-moral education to tiny tots at the District Institute of Education (DIET). The idea is to ensure all around development of future citizens of India. For Moral Education should begin at the primary level. If the foundation is not sound and solid one cannot look for a healthy growth. Therefore the task of giving the right direction in life to the child lies with the teachers. Human Resource Development gives us potential to develop the unique talent we have. But it has to be seen that only the deserving get chance and no hurdle is placed for those who deserve it.

Any decision to introduce Moral Education as a compulsory subject at graduate level will only be fruitful if the environment in colleges and university campus show signs of changes for better, for what teacher will do will have a direct reflection on the students. The path of morality is an uphill path and it is easy to condemn than to reform. It is easy to get angry than to restrain it. The studies reveals that moral education can facilitate the university student's social betterment, showing intrinsic and instrumental values of moral education.

It is indeed morality that raises a man from the kingdom of animals to the kingdom of God and religion gives him the knowledge of brotherhood and love of all. As water is necessary for life so is moral education for human being and existence of human race. If contaminated water is cause of many diseases, still cure is possible. Same is with the moral

values, without it the life lacks its meaning and the development of man is curtailed. Knowledge also gives us the power to decide right or wrong. Everyone in this world has its own entity which makes him unique in God's creation. A small act as a daily chore can contribute to your life and social welfare.

Success is sure to come for we learn what we see. Nobody is born evil or divine. Man is a product of environment. Whatever we have, we achieve it during our growing years.

Follow the righteous path – the Almighty will be your companion, Remember my Friend, You will never vanish in Oblivion.

References:

1. Emile Durkheim, Moral Education, Courier Corporation, 2012.
2. R. Cummings, S. Harlow, the Constructive Roots of Moral Education, The Education Forum 2000, 64, 300- 307.
3. A.P. Eisenberg, The Search for Integrity: A Leadership Impact Study, Ph.D. DePaul University, 1999.
4. Sarangi R, Moral education in schools: Bases and implications. New Delhi: Deep & Deep Publications, 1996.
5. Elliot Turiel, the Development of Social Knowledge, Morality and Convention, 1983.
6. R. Sarangi, Moral Education in Schools: Bases and Implications. New Delhi; Deep and Deep publications, 1996, p. 156