Moral Values and Education

Abstract

A school curriculum seldom takes into account the significance of moral values, as against the various academic subjects. The negligence of teaching moral values in schools is leading to many problems in society. A person, to justify a situation, needs to know what is wrong and what is right. We need to prepare children for future roles in society. Moral values once imbibed, is permanent in a person's life, and thereby can counter the negative situations in the society, if need be. It teaches compassion, respect, forgiveness, honesty, among many other things. It actually is the distinct intention shown, decision made and action taken by a person, in proper consonance with the situation. Moral values is a strong campaign for universal peace and harmony.

Keywords: Morality, Values, Society, Respect, Education.

Introduction

It is an established fact that an educational system is thought to be perfect, only when it imbibes moral values among children and the youth. Whatever the type of social changes, the influence should be studied, keeping in mind its positive and negative aspects. In ancient system of education, moral values occupied the major part of the educational system. In India, for example, the students used to uphold principles of piety and gratitude towards their teachers. Similarly, the teachers also taught mental, physical and moral development, through various activities, like meditation, yoga, etc.

Need of the Study

Basically, moral education teaches diversity, respect for each other, tolerant attitude and several moral virtues. It is basically needed to teach a person to treat a situation based on the need of a particular society as well as culture, with the help of appropriate knowledge of right and wrong.

Objectives of the Study

Individuals, with moral values and education, will develop into strong individuals and be courageous enough to do right and stand for righteousness. This value should indulge in activities that might generate the feeling of brotherhood, which is essential for any good social cause. The students must be taught the significance of hard work, honesty, respect for elders, forgiveness, etc., and uphold a conducive environment for a peaceful society.

Findings

Education is said to be complete only when it leads to all -round development of a child. In fact, it is all-encompassing regarding mental and moral development. In modern times, moral education is the basic need, whereby degeneration of values can be stopped. It is important as it teaches mutual respect, diversity and pluralistic values. Moral means the code or custom of people, which acts as a social glue for them to live together.

The society needs to provide appropriate guidance through a type of education that will make them acquire religious and moral principles, thereby imbibing positive attitudes and values, and consequently helping them to make right choices and life-decisions in their future. Similarly, moral education helps children become productive and contributing to members of their respective societies. Any moral education should be in consonance with both the individuals and the societies.

According to Bandura's Social Learning Theory, regarding the modelling issue, parents must keep in mind that their children always look up to their parents, who might act as their role model, thereby displaying an example of proper and disciplined life. There are certain approaches which recently came to the forefront in today's society which seemingly is deviating from what is called 'morality in social values'.Hence the public education system tries to address the moral domain, namely character formation. There are various character education programmes. These

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programmes are included in the school curriculum. A distinct approach, known as infusion approach, in general, aims to restore the formation of character in mainstream schooling. In fact, this character education comes hand-in-hand with intellectual development, setting its goals, accordingly. This approach is based on the view that character formation can intensify the achievement of academic goals. The teachers need to inform the students that their efforts, their success, are all part of a process of character formation at large.

Hence, the curriculum acts a big source of character education. For e.g., all the narrative tales convey to the minds of young people ,the kind of people in our culture, who needs to be emulated. The curricula of schools contain our moral heritage as well as core knowledge. Speaking of hidden curriculum, a school's traditions, disciplines, procedures often have a strong impact on the student's sense of right and wrong. So, the moral climate of the school is seriously the need of the hour. Students should be able to make choices in order to become ethically mature persons in their future life.

If these are effectively practiced, moral education will equip students with a tool of judgement in diverse situations, making them more responsible citizens. The world is fast changing, and cultures are coming into conflict with each other. The differences can only be reconciled if they are trained enough, to deal with their ability of moral judgemental power.

In the Indian perspective, it has been observed by many that the lack of moral ethics and values marks to be the major cause of unrest and deteriorating condition of society. Among many other causes, restlessness, misguidance, and lack of self-control ,have been the major issue in today's society. Youth of today needs to be shown the right path. It is the all-round development through education that will make a complete human being. Lack of moral values brings about corruption, and hence education should try and address this at large. Teachers mould and build the future citizens of the society. Hence, the school should make sure to include the social and moral values in the mainstream education.

Conclusion

The various socio-cultural changes ,like transition from a joint family to a nuclear family, commercialization of educational system, media impact, input of information technology, globalization, westernization, parental pressure on children, excessive sense of competitiveness, - all goes on to create immense pressure on children, thereby leading to distortion of values. So, a society should always think about the role of education in providing a steady character to combat all these. Morality is the call of the day without which there will be a huge void regarding the completeness of social balance and stability.

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