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## Relevance of human values in the higher education

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### Abstract

'Human society may not significantly sustain without human values'.

Education plays a vital role in the social and economic development of a society and the nation. The purpose of education in general and higher education in particular is to facilitate actualization of human potential, by making conscious of human values.

There is no denying the fact that the present society is facing a lot of crises. Human values crises are a known fact of the modern society. Hence, it is necessary to talk on the subject and bring about awareness of human values into the present education system. This is an attempt to explore the importance of human values in the Higher Education/Professional courses.

### Objective

- 1. Introduce value-based living:** To facilitate the development of a Holistic perspective among students towards life and profession as well as towards happiness and prosperity based on a right understanding of the Human reality and the rest of existence. Such a holistic perspective forms the basis of Universal human values and movement towards value-based living in a natural way.
- 2. National educational policy:** One of the fundamental principles of the N E P- 2020 is imparting ethics and human & Constitutional values like empathy, respect for others, democratic spirit, scientific temper, liberty, responsibility, pluralism, equality, and justice. Also to ensure dignity & integrity and high quality of practises supported with values.
- 3. The overall objective of higher education is to serve the mankind:** That will not be met if students are not introduced to aesthetics, well-being & values of the human society. Therefore it is important to learn holistic approach a study on human values.

**Keywords:** human values, higher education, social

### Introduction

Education is a core value; education is aspect of every knowledge. If handle carefully it gives solutions to all the problems, if it's not handled properly it creates problems to all the solutions.

Higher education is the pillar of career and leadership building, the values and virtues practiced in universities heavily influence the future leaders. Therefore Human values are essential to inculcate positive behaviour and actions.

### What are human values?

Human values are the virtues. They are the many positive dispositions that create bonds of humanity between people and thus have value for all of us as human beings. They are our strong positive feelings for the human essence of the other. It's both what we expect others to do to us and what we aim to give to other human beings.

Human values are the foundation for any viable life within society; they build space for a drive, a movement towards one another, which leads to peace. Human values are universal, they are shared by all human beings, whatever their religion, nationality, culture, personal history. By nature, they induce consideration for others.

Human values are for example brotherhood, friendship, empathy, compassion, love, openness, listening, welcoming, acceptance, recognition, appreciation, honesty, fairness, loyalty, sharing, solidarity, civility, respect and consideration. These human values have the effect of bonding, comforting, reassuring and procuring serenity.

The function of most of these basic values is to make it possible for every human to realise or maintain the very highest or most basic universal core values of life, love and happiness.

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Human values help in understanding the attitude, motivation, behaviour, and also influence one's perception about the world. They enable the interpretation of "right and wrong" and provide the ways to understand humans and organizations.

**Need of Human Values:** Human values inspire us to better put into practice our moral values, especially in conflict situations, when we tend to put them aside and become confrontational.

Value education is always essential to shape one's life and to give one an opportunity of performing on the global stage. Value education enables us to understand our needs and visualize our goals correctly and also indicate the direction for their fulfilment. It also helps remove our confusions and contradictions and enables us to rightly utilize the technological innovations. Value-based education aims at training the student to face the outer world with the right attitude and values.

(The need for value education among the parents, children, teachers etc, is constantly increasing as we continue to witness increasing violent activities, behavioural disorders and lack of unity in the society etc.)

#### **Why is the human value relevant to Higher Education?**

To understand Self & mutual developments.

To understand Inclusive & sustainable growth and Smooth function.

To build Confidence & mould themselves.

To understand relationship & environment.

#### **Incorporating Universal Human Values in Higher Education**

Higher education is leadership education. In the institutions, Students are members of a small society that exerts a tremendous influence on their overall development. Holistic approach A study on human values play a major role in inculcating their ethical behaviour.

To highlight plausible implications of such a holistic understanding in terms of ethical human conduct, trustful and mutually fulfilling human behaviour and mutually enriching interaction with nature.

Universal Human Values in Higher Education -Provides understanding of the attitudes, motivation and behaviours.

- Influences our perception of the world around us.
- Represents interpretation of "right and wrong"
- Provides a way to understand humans and organisation

Many institutions of higher education simultaneously show excellence in academic subjects, are green campuses with manifold ethics curricula, are active members in community engagement, and also are adept in providing value orientation to all stakeholders.

It is universally felt that the status of teaching profession requires to be raised to ensure its dignity and integrity. Accordingly, it is considered necessary that there should be a code of ethics which may be evolved by the teaching community itself for its guidance.

#### **The salient features of study of Human values**

1. It presents a universal approach to value education by developing the right understanding of reality through the process of self-exploration.

2. Through the study of Human values students are encouraged to self-explore the proposals by verifying them on the basis of their natural acceptance within oneself and validate experientially in living.
3. The prime focus throughout the course is toward affecting a qualitative transformation in the life of the student rather than just a transfer of information.

#### **Importance of Human Values**

Basic human values which are expected in all human beings, (irrespective of positions of the person) They are- Right Conduct, Peace, Truth, Peaceful co-existence, Discipline.

1. **Right Conduct:** Contains values like self-help skills (modesty, self-reliance, hygiene etc.) social skills-ethical skills (courage, efficiency, initiative, punctuality etc.) and Ownership.
2. **Peace:** Contains values like equality, focus, humility, optimism, patience, self-confidence, self-control, self-esteem etc.
3. **Truth:** Contains values like accuracy, fairness, honesty, justice, quest for knowledge, determination etc.
4. **Peaceful co-existence:** Contains values like psychological (benevolence, compassion, consideration, morality, forgiveness etc.) and social (brotherhood, equality, perseverance, respect for others,) environmental awareness etc.
5. **Discipline:** Contains values like regulation, direction, order etc.

#### **Expected outcome**

By the end of the course, Students are expected to become more aware of them selves, and their surroundings (family, society, nature) they would become more responsible in life, and in handling problems with sustainable solutions, while keeping human relationships and human nature in mind.

They would also become sensitive to their commitment towards what they have understood (human values, human relationship and human society)

#### **Vision for the Universal Human Order**

(Four entities of the Nature are Material order. Plan tic order, animal order & human order.)

Human order emphasizes on definite human conduct rather than indefinite Human conduct.

The students are able to develop an outline of holistic model of definite human conduct. Like self exploration, right understanding, value in human relationship, understanding harmony in the society,

1. **Self-Exploration:** it's a process of self-evolution, knowing oneself and through that knowing entire existence. The students start exploring themselves, to get comfortable with each other. They also start feeling that lack of understanding of human values is the root cause of most of the present-day problems; and a sustained solution could emerge only through understanding of value-based living. (Any solution brought out through fear, temptation of dogma will not be sustainable.)
2. **Right understanding:** it's about knowing human conduct and character and living accordingly. The students are able to see that lack of right understanding leading to lack of relationship is the major cause of problems in their family and not the lack of physical facility in most of the cases, For instant- if giving

higher priority to earning of physical facility in the life, giving less value to or even ignoring relationships and not being aware, that Leads to disorder.

- 3. Values in Human-to-Human Relationship:** recognizing one's relationship and fulfilling it, the students are able to note that the natural acceptance intention is always for living in harmony, only competence is lacking! We generally evaluate ourselves on the basis of our intention and others on the basis of their competence! We seldom look at our competence and others' intention as a result we conclude that I am a good person and other is a bad person.

**'Trust' & 'Respect' are the most important human values for establishing relations of peace**

1. 'Trust' is the Foundational Value in human Relationship, that quantifies and defines our inter-dependence in relationships with others.
2. 'Respect' –as the Right Evaluation- and only right evaluation leads to fulfillment in relationship.

**Understanding Harmony in the Society:** It's about being in harmony with oneself and entire existence.

Many present problems in the society are an outcome of differentiation like gender biasness, generation gap, caste conflicts, class struggle, dominations through power play, communal violence, and clash of isms and so on. All these problems can be solved by realizing that the other is like me as he has the same natural acceptance, potential and program to ensure a happy and prosperous life for them and for others through he may have different body, physical facility or beliefs.

**Incorporating Universal Human Values in Education**

In the academic domain, successfully experimented for several years with the course inputs designed on the basis of research efforts primarily in two modes.

- In the first mode, this input has been experimented mainly with the teachers in the institutional framework through Teacher Orientation Programs.
- The other mode also has been successfully experimented in a large number of professional institutions.

**Human Values Foundation Course in Higher Education**

IIT Delhi since 2001 involving extensive consultations with various stalwarts. From 2005, IIIT Hyderabad started conducting full-scale implementation experiments to introduce a two-semester course on human values for the engineering students

In 2009, UP Technical University (now called AKTU), Luck now decided to launch the foundation course in 'Human Values and Professional Ethics' in all its affiliated professional institutions which provided a sort of breakthrough in implementation of Human Values in Higher Technical Education. The first edition of this book was brought out at this juncture. It was followed by Punjab Technical University (PTU), Jalandhar in 2010. The foundation course was initiated in about 300 professional institutions after extensive teacher training. The work at P.T.U subsequently also included development of a post-graduate diploma and an M. Tech. Programme in this domain.

By now, more than 40 universities, with more than 4000 institutions, across 10 states in India, are offering this foundation course as a core part of their academic curricula. Recently, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) included Universal Human Values as an essential component of the model curriculum for technical education throughout India.

**Significant insight in this domain**

- It covers the entire expanse of human living from self to family, society, nature & existence and covers all dimensions of human life- thought, behavior, work and realization.
- Addresses the 'Self' – discusses the human being, particularly the Self and does not just focus on external realities. This turns out to be self-empowering since each individual is able to make decisions and find out what is of value to them in their own right.
- It relates to one's life and living – establishes relevance in a person's life and does not just deal with Information and skills. One can see the results of this understanding in human living at all levels-
- They are deeply held principles that guide our choices and influence our emotions. Values represent what we believe to be right.
- Value-based education is essential to bring about the desired transformation –individual transformation towards the development of human consciousness and societal transformation towards an un-fragmented, humane society.

Of course, the introduction of the foundation course in the present mainstream education system is only the starting point. From there, the journey has to go a long way. The next step is making transition towards value- based education, in which the whole content of education is designed on the basis of universal human values, i.e. education for the well-being of all. This would result into value-based living in the family, and ultimately in the whole human society.

Analysis:

**Right Understanding**

Human Values reflect the sense of right and wrong in a person. They also refer to appropriate courses of action, values define what 'ought' to be in society. Once we understand about what is really important for us, they become the basis for our desire and the action engaged with it. In order to make society as well as individual happiness and balance with his surroundings, there is need to explore the value domain through value education.

**Fulfillment of the Basic Human Aspirations**

In the current scenario, we are (human beings) generally trying to achieve happiness and prosperity by maximizing accumulation and consumption of physical facilities. The physical facilities are not seen in terms of fulfilling bodily needs but as a means of maximizing happiness. This has resulted in wrong assessment of wants for physical facilities as being unlimited. But this pursuit is self-defeating., as it amounts to trying to fulfill unlimited wants through limited resources. This effort is engendering problems at all the levels. It is becoming anti-ecological and anti-people, and threatening the human survival itself.

**Some of the consequences of such a trend are summarized below**

1. At the level of the individual – Rising problems of depression, psychological disorders, suicides, stress, insecurity, psycho-somatic diseases, loneliness etc.
2. At the level of the family – Breaking of joint families, mistrust, conflict between older and younger generations, insecurity in relationships, divorce, dowry tortures, family feuds, wasteful expenditure etc.
3. At the level of the Society – Growing incidences of terrorism and naxalism, rising communalism, spreading casteism, racial and ethnic struggle, wars between nations, attempts of genocide, fear of nuclear and genetic warfare, etc.
4. At the level of nature – Global warming, water, air, soil, noise, etc. pollution, resource depletion of minerals and mineral oils, sizeable deforestations, loss of fertility of soil.

**Conclusion**

Human Values play a very leading role in Present Educational Institutions. Human values are now withering very fast for which we humans are most responsible. Value based education should be emphasized ranging from school to university level of education. Human value is generally known to be a moral standard of human behaviour. Therefore, human values should be preserved and protected. Human values may be treated as keys to the solution of the global problems., Already some universities prescribed human values and moral values syllabus for improve the humanity of the students. It's a great achievement to present and next society and educational institutions.

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