Impart Value-Based Education

Dr. Savanam Chandra Sekhar
Associate Professor, Department of Business Administration, St. Ann's College of Engineering & Technology, Vetapalem – 523 187, Chirala, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA.
E-mail: tejachandrasekhar_1973@yahoo.co.in

Dr. R. Emmaniel
Professor & Head, Department of Business Administration, St. Ann’s College of Engineering & Technology, Chirala, Vetapalem – 523 187, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA.
Email: emmaniel_thebest@yahoo.com

Abstract

There is a need for imparting value-based education with a spiritual bent of mind in educational institutions to churn out good citizens. Imbibing the qualities of good conduct, self-confidence and high values would help students earn a significant place in society. Education without values is like a flower without fragrance. Students should realize that character building is equally important as career building. A good character in life is ultimate thing that stretches person’s self-realization. Therefore, students should learn not just from their curriculum, but from other spheres too to widen their knowledge base to emerge as bright citizens of the future. Mere ambition to excel in life was not enough, and value-based education must be imparted to help students emerge as leaders in their chosen fields. This article is useful to educational institutions, government and parents to impart value-based education from all fronts to make good citizens for the nation.

Key words: Career building, character building, educational institution, spiritual bent, value-based education.

Purpose: The purpose of this article is to elevate the prominence of education with spiritual bent.

Design/methodology/approach: A critical review has been undertaken to make the article so passionate by referring a set of literature from books, newspapers (The Hindu) and websites and compiled with the views of the author.

Findings: Educational institutions are sacred places where students build their character and career. Some intuitions found that they are being maintained with sub-standards in different
angles specifically lack of spiritual bent in education.

**Practical implications:** People often confused with education and spiritual obligation are different. The time spends on spiritual aspects is quite less than the time spent on education. It is advisable when educational institutions impart valuable education with a blend of devotion.

**Introduction**

Education is the vehicle of knowledge, self-preservation and success. Education not only gives a platform to succeed, but also the knowledge of social conduct, strength, character and self respect. The greatest gift education gives is the knowledge of unconditional love and a set of values. These values include the simple difference between right and wrong, a belief in God, the importance of hard work and self respect. Education is a continuous learning experience, learning from people, learning from success and failures, learning from leaders and followers and then growing up to be the person we are meant to be. Value based education is a tool which not only provides a profession but also a purpose in life. The purpose of life is undoubtedly to know oneself and be ourselves. Hence, it is high time to reconfigure education on the basis of values, since the present day’s system moulds technocrats and individuals but not citizens. An individual thinks about himself, whereas the citizen thinks for society. Elders and teachers should articulate the need to understand the value of human life and the necessity for students to understand the purpose of education respectively.

Value based education is a three-fold development of any individual of any gender and age, but most importantly of a child. Education tries to develop three aspects, physique, mentality and character. Even though physique and mentality are important, they are menaces without the third because character is the greatest of these.

**Greatest value**

Remembering God was the greatest value that one could possess in his or her life. It is God, the supernatural power, who guides a person in the right direction but not science and technology. A human being is salt of the earth and stand first in society. He is one of the most complex living organisms whose behavior is most unpredictable. A docile person may become a roaring tiger when provoked. He suffers from moods, anxiety and tension. A reasonable person may suddenly become a very difficult person to deal with. That is why some discipline in life or in an organization is a must. A person must be respected for his knowledge and not for his chair. Educational institutions should bind to nurture values, scruples, ethics, moralities and decencies in the student career. An educational institution is a sacred place where the builders of the nation produced.
Imbibe right attitude

Students should imbibe innovative and creative thoughts and adopt the right attitude towards the assigned job and practical oriented subject concepts, as these qualities would enhance their scope to gain lucrative employment. Students would become committed individuals to put their heart and soul into the work on hand. A simple stone becomes a great piece of art at the hands of these craftsmen. Educational institutions should inculcate the practice of crafting innovative and creative thoughts in students mind which essential for individual, society and nation development. They should provide a friendly atmosphere that minimizes conflicts and rigidities.

Interaction

Students not only exhibit their talents and skills as young managers and in resolving financial challenges, decision making and innovative thoughts with creativity in promoting a product or service in the realistic employment approach, but interact with each other. Industry-institute, society-institute, government-institute, and media- institute interactions are providing best ways to mingle one another and sharing views towards nation development.

Motivation

One man can take a horse to water but twenty men cannot make him drink! An organization may provide the best tools, machines and materials for working. But if the people are not motivated, the final product is likely to be of a poor quality. On the contrary, if someone is dedicated to his work, then he may even overcome the limitations of tools and other inputs required, to turn out quality products.

An organization is built on four pillars: technology, organization, information & communication, and motivation. Lacuna in any of these factors can prove detrimental to the efforts of the organization. While the first three factors are easily understood, motivation remains an esoteric science to many people. Theories suggesting human motivation are like different routes to reach a certain destination. What makes a person tick has not been satisfactorily explained, though the motivational theories and studies have attempted some logical explanation. Basically, a person wants to be treated as a human being with dignity. He wants the right environment to work out solutions to the problems himself.

Students should get motivated towards their deeds in their educational career. Motivation is the stepping stone of character building. Self-motivation in any work makes the task ease and one can reach the targeted goals by overwhelming impediments. Educational institutions must cultivate the practice of conducting motivational classes to the students on regular schedules.
Thumping challenges

Students’ beliefs about their ability to learn are shaped by messages and experiences at home, at school, and in the larger society. Low expectations can be subtly communicated by parents and teachers, and through school practices such as tracking, ability grouping, or curriculum that is not challenging. Students should take up thumping challenges in the career and work for innovations and development of the nation. They should think globally and act locally since the future of the country entrusted in their hands. They should get trained in facing challenges from all fronts. Challenges posed from internal and external environment can be confronted with a good character and career development.

LSRW skills

There are four basic skills – listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Effective LSRW skills are essential for good communication. Usually an interpreter has to emphasize on speaking skill, whereas a translator’s forte is writing skill. Spontaneous translation at international meets where different languages have equal status calls for good listening and speaking skills. Students should enrich these skills at educational institutions and make use in real life as and when necessary.

Extra-curricular activities

According to a recent study, students involved in extra-curricular activities are more likely to become leaders and good team players, while being outspoken. Co-curricular activities surely help students discover their latent talent. Most students are good at multi-tasking in an informal way, but find it daunting when they are actually on the job. It goes without saying that college life is full of stimulating and fascinating experiences. Out-of-class activities surely spur growth and personal development.

College is definitely the right place to hone skills in myriad activities, such as sports, music, dramatics and debates. Being a dynamic member of an NGO or a theatre group only adds to credentials. Whatever one chooses, it should be something he or she is passionate about in order to excel. Learning to stick to an activity is equally important. Being committed to an organization, even if it is not what it turns out be gives valuable lessons to learn. A perfect blend of extra-curricular activities, academics and social life should be considered by all students alike.

Girl’s education important

Female education is a catch-all term for a complex of issues and debates surrounding education (primary education, secondary education, tertiary education and health education in particular) for females. It includes areas of gender equality and access to education, and its connection to the alleviation of poverty. Also involved are the issues of single-sex education and religious
education, in that the division of education along gender lines, and religious teachings on education, have been traditionally dominant, and are still highly relevant in contemporary discussion of female education as a global consideration.

Today, in the developed world, women have surpassed men at many levels of education. For example, in the United States in 2005-06, women earned 62% of Associate’s degrees, 58% of Bachelor’s degrees, 60% of Master’s degrees, and 50% of Doctorates. Higher rates of high school and university education among women, particularly in developing countries, have helped them make inroads to professional careers and better-paying salaries and wages. Education increases a woman’s (and her partner and the family’s) level of health and health awareness. Furthering women’s levels of education and advanced training also tends to lead to later ages of initiation of sexual activity and first intercourse, later age at first marriage, and later age at first childbirth (and an increased likelihood to remain single, have no children, or have no formal marriage and alternatively, have increasing levels of long-term partnerships). It can lead to higher rates of barrier and chemical contraceptive use (and a lower level of sexually transmitted infections among women and their partners and children), and can increase the level of resources available to women who divorce or are in a situation of domestic violence. It has been shown, in addition, to increase women’s communication with their partners and their employers, and to improve rates of civic participation such as voting or the holding of office.

Girl child education is pivotal to usher in all round development of society and the nation as a whole. Sustained efforts to bring attitudinal change among parents towards girl child education and ensure improved access for all girls to education, especially in rural areas are inevitable. Education of girls has been a high priority with the Government of India. The National commitment to provide free and compulsory education to all children in the 6-14 years age group is now a Fundamental Right of every child in India after the passing of the Constitution (86th Amendment) Act in December, 2002.

**Hallmarks of a true student**

Man should stand out as a seeker of truth. The student should practice the truths he has learnt and use them for the good of the society. Citizens may be interested in students’ problems, but students should not get involved in the citizens’ politics. Students should aspire to promote the nation’s well-being, its security and happiness. Selflessness, absence of egoism, unostentatiousness and true love should be the hallmarks of a true student. A student’s life should radiate light all around. Vidya means light. It is to make this illumination available to the world that students should pursue education. Students should desire to enjoy the bliss derived from Vidya (education) and not the pleasures of Vishaya (worldly objects). Students should aim at being masters of their senses and not their servants.

A man may be a great Vedantin (philosopher). He may explore many things. He may expound new theories. But he should really, try to find out what he has accomplished as a human being. Without the cultivation of human values, all explorations and speculations are of no use. Today
the educational system, not only in India but in all countries, has taken the wrong turn. No single person is responsible for this situation. Parents have failed to bring up their children properly. The nation’s leaders do not set them a good example. Even teachers have failed in their responsibilities. When there are exemplary parents, exemplary leaders and ideal teachers, students would be ideal students. Students, who are selfless, pure-hearted and innocent by nature, are being dragged into politics, their minds are getting fill with bitterness and hatred and their hearts are getting polluted. Students in no circumstance should get into politics. After completing studies, one can take up a job or start up a business, or may take to politics. In entering politics one must do so to serve the nation and promote its welfare and integrity.

Teacher’s responsibility

Good teachers understand the concerns, aspirations, proficiency and limitations of teaching. At one side teacher develops his knowledge quality and reengineer academic excellence from time to time to enhance and sustain of quality in education. Quality teachers edify quality education from all fronts.

Apart from imparting education, the teachers should treat their students with affection on a par with their own children to help them grow into integrated personalities of nation building. A feeling of love and being loved by others, keeping in mind that a human being is a social animal, keeps a person going at the workplace. A person wants to be loved and respected to boost his ego. He does not want be a mere “face in the crowd”. He wants to be tall and tower among the crew by achieving excellence in his work and other fields too. This is all done with motivation. Teachers should enhance the thrust of motivation in doings and deeds of students in all spheres. Student motivation is influenced by both internal and external factors that can start, sustain, intensify, or discourage behavior.

Parent’s responsibility

Gone are the days more people chase behind few institutions for better education. Now the wheel come its full circle. Getting an engineering admission is not at all crucial. People have more options to select the best institution as per their desires. Many established educational institutions run after the people with lucrative packages for their patrons. At this competitive corporate environment, parents are in scuffle to take precise decision over acquiring good quality education to their children. Ignoring the fact that parents are key and immediate persons who influence the entire career of their children, most of the parents are in search of good institution. More than these, parents should churn their children career by providing healthy environment at home with spiritual blend. The community and the parents must take keen interest in the education of children. Education is the foundation upon which we have to build the society. It has to be the first social priority. It is an investment, which has the biggest multiplier.
Government’s responsibility

It is the prime responsibility of the government to enforce policies towards ethical education in higher education. Education policy in the light of value-based education should be enforced in the nation. It is quite evident that most of the advanced countries are following world class standards in providing quality education. In India, the value system in higher education is not so satisfactory. All barriers in value-based higher education should be eradicated on war footing measures. Imparting higher education focusing innovative and creative skills is immediate concern for government in the era of globalization. Government agencies should enlist the support of local community to enable a girl children access the residential education facilities provided and carve out a bright future for themselves and their families.

Criteria for quality education

Good criteria for quality and quality sustenance would half success in imparting value-based education.

**Intellectual Quality**
- Deep knowledge
- Deep understanding
- Problematic knowledge
- Higher order thinking
- Meta language
- Substantive communication

**Quality learning environment**
- Explicit quality criteria
- Engagement
- High expectations
- Social support
- Student’s self-regulation
- Student direction

**Significance**
- Background knowledge
- Cultural knowledge
- Inclusivity
- Connectedness
- Narrative
Adoption of teaching technology

There is a paradigm shift in teaching-learning process from conventional teacher centric to student centric approach. Teachers expose to feasible technological options and the appropriate pedagogical strategies for gainful adoption of digital technologies for teaching-learning processes. Faculty members should accept this change to improve learner performance and satisfaction. Therefore, adoption of teaching technology is the right direction in this information age. Education through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is also the national priority to increase access and equity especially in higher education. ICT is just a tool of teacher-learning process. By using this aid teachers get equip with latest updates and changing tendencies in their respective field and blend with spiritual touch certainly prudential for building right citizens.

Conclusion

Teachers are builders of the nation. Students are icons of the future. Educational institutions are sacred places. Students cherish their career in the wake of moral values with spiritual blend, innovative and creative talents and skills at the educational institutions along with emphasis on extra-curricular activities which are very essential for a person’s physical and psychological growth and development. Girl child education is inevitable in countries like India since it cope the family, society and nation at large for generations together. Teachers and governments, parents should feel responsible towards making the right leaders for tomorrow. Above all the role of educational institutions is inexorable in imparting value-based education at large to make superior human capital.

References


Historical summary of faculty, students, degrees and finances in degree-granting institutions: Selected years, 1869-70. (2005-06).