SJIF Impact Factor (2025): 8.688| ISI I.F. Value: 1.241| Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra2016 ISSN: 2455-7838(Online)
EPRA International Journal of Research and Development (IJRD)
Volume: 10 | Issue: 9 | September 2025 - Peer Reviewed Journal

REVIVING MORAL FOUNDATIONS: VALUE BASED EDUCATION UNDER NEP 2020

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ABSTRACT
Due to rapid advancement in the different areas of our lives there has been major leap in the intellectual domain of our education system. This race for advancement could miss the philosophical basis which is teaching the students the essential values of life and focuses only on the knowledge area. Different Educational Commissions and Committees in our country has emphasized on imparting value-oriented education. The NEP 2020 has implemented Value based education at the different stages to the student centric education. NEP2020 promotes Indian value-based education with an inclusive development of Holistic Education, Development of Knowledge-based Society, Emphasis on Knowledge-based Education and Bharat centric Education. This article discussed about the Value based education emphasized by the NEP2020 and its importance.
KEYWORDS: *NEP2020, Value education, Values, Value oriented education, Holistic Development*

INTRODUCTION

It has often been said that the main goal and purpose of education is to bring holistic develop to the child which would engage in the modification of the behavior of the child. Indian education system has always focus on this, going way back to the ancient Gurukula system where education was value-based imparting not only on the theoretical knowledge but also on values preparing the students for the ways of life. But the education system today has now become mainly centered and given core importance to only the cognitive development of the child. This has cause lack of morals in the society paving ways for different injustice and lack of principle in the individuals, corruptions at different levels are erupting and the philosophical foundation of the current education is becoming weak. And question arises on where these values have gone. Different Educational Commissions and Committees in our country has emphasized on imparting value-oriented education.

Values are the principles, virtues, and ideals which form the basis of our beliefs and actions. They are the guiding principles that shape our outlook of the world, our attitudes and conduct. If knowledge is left without being tempered by values and morals, the power generated by such knowledge would only be disastrous and catastrophic in its effects (Guidelines for Conduct and Assessment of Value Based Activities 2021). Values structure the integrated personality of the individuals and support them in sustaining the higher character (Narad 2012). Thus, education may provide knowledge to the students but without values the children are not ready to face the world. Swami Vivekanada has said "Education is not the amount of information that is put into your brain and runs riots there, undigested all your life. We must have life-building, man-making, character-making, assimilation of ideas.", this clearly shows how much importance values was given in education by our great thinkers. The UNESCO's Reports: 'Learning to Be' brought out in 1971 and 'Learning: Treasure Within' brought out in 1996 have underlined education for values of international understanding, peace and integral development of personality (Philosophy of Value Oriented Education- Theory and Practice).

The NEP 2020 has made Value based education one of its main pillars and measure have been taken to make values an integral part of the education. Developing an education system with values at the core will create students who are good global citizens., who are compassionate and caring, who work collaboratively to solve problems and have the resilience to face any uncertainties life may bring (The Hindu, 2022). The NEP2020 has focuses on five universal values based on the values identified previously by other government reports; these five vales are: Love, Peace, Truth, non-violence and Righteous Conduct. If these values are successfully being imparted there will likely be less dishonesty, ill will, injustice, exploitation and corruption in different areas. Therefore, Value Oriented education is not to be neglected as Education without values will miss its purpose that is to modify the child's behaviour to create a better society.

IMPORTANCE OF VALUE EDUCATION

Value Education is an important aspect of Education and without it Education is crippled. Education must focus on both character building and career building as it can be witness that stressing only on career building leads to lopsided development in the students. "Education based on the value is very necessary in our modern society because our life has become despondent." (Garg et al,2017). Degrees are being award without dignity and though knowledge is progressing and major leap has been made in the field of science and technology, humanity is diminishing. Value oriented Education is very much needed to keep us back on life track so that we can learn to progress as harmonious social beings. The NPE, 1986 has categorically stated, "The growing concern over erosion of

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essential values has brought to focus the needs for readjustment in the curriculum in order to make education of forceful tool for the cultivation of moral and social values" (Khan).
A summary of the importance on Value Education are as follows:

- It promotes moral values
- It provides holistic development in the students
- It teaches the student to understand the society thus providing social compatibility
- It develops character and provides self- values
- It helps in developing responsible citizens thus developing patriotism
- It helps in understanding nature and care for the environment
- It eliminated discrimination regarding caste, greed, religion and gender, teaching them to understand and respect others as well as oneself
- It eliminates injustice of different types at all levels
- It promotes critical thinking and helps in making sound decisions
- It imprints in the students the different Universal values required for social harmony
- It creates a peaceful and harmonious world
- It promotes ethical values, teaching students to appreciate and cherish one's culture and tradition
- It helps in attaining self -realization
- It provides lessons for practical life

VALUE EDUCATION IN INDIA

It has been mentioned that the history of value education originated way back to the Gurukula System where students were not only provided theoretical knowledge but prepared for the practical life. The main aim was to provide holistic development leading to the growth of personality, spiritual awakening, awareness about the surrounding along with self-control and discipline. But with Modernization and Globalization and explosion of science and technology the previous aims have loss its track in the education system, race for attainment of knew knowledge led to the emphasis of cognitive development neglecting other aspects and value education met its crisis this defeat the wholesome holistic development of the individual. Students became mere individual with knowledge rather than an educated person with wholesome quality. Youths have become self-absorb neglecting the ways of the society and giving more importance to their individual interest rather than the interest of the society, as human are social beings and teaching the students their responsibility in the society is one of the roles of education, education has failed its purpose. This has made Value Education a very complex and controversial topic and Value Education has become a need of the hour.

India is a very diverse country rich in heritage and culture and all of its culture and traditions are ingrained in value education. Value education also has its deep roots in the Indian philosophy where great thinkers have always stressed on moral, spiritual, social and the holistic development of an individual. So, Value Education is not new a new concept in the Indian Education system. Various Education Commissions and Committees throughout history have consistently emphasized core values in education. These include the Kothari Commission (1964-66), the National Policy on Education (NPE) of 1986, with modifications in 1992, the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development - Eighty First Report on Value-based Education (1999), and the National Curriculum Framework of 1988 and 2000. The Union Home Minister has also given a written reply regarding the inculcation of imparting values in school children where he mentioned "NCERT has developed curriculum, syllabi, textbooks and other curricular materials for elementary and secondary stages, integrating different aspects of value education and at the same time providing adequate space to study the contents of different subjects". The NCF has introduced the concept of Continuous and Comprehensive Education (CCE) for the framework of introducing values in schools.

NEP 2020 ON VALUE EDUCATION

Realizing the importance of values in regards to the declining morals in India major emphasis has been given to Value Education in the NEP2020. "The aim of education will not only be cognitive development, but also building character and creating holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with the key 21st century skills" (NEP2020). It suggested that all the curriculum and pedagogy to be reoriented and restructured to attain this goal. Skills and values across every domain will be determined in order to be integrated and incorporated at every stages of learning.

The National Education Policy 2020 has addressed Indian Value Based Education through the following ways:

- ***Holistic education:*** NEP 2020 aims to provide holistic development in the students promoting on character building and not only on cognitive development. It tries to foster the child to promote holistic development in both academic and non-academic spheres. A National Assessment Center called PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) is to be established. Board exams will also be redesigned to encourage holistic development and students will be able to choose many of the subjects in which they take Board exams, depending on their individualized interests (NEP 2020).

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- ***Inclusivity:*** the aim of NEP 2020 is to enrol every child in school. It tries to eliminate drop outs as well as bring back previously drop outs back to school. For this, the existing 10+2 structure will be replaced by the new 5+3+3+4 structure. For children under the age of eight, a national curriculum and pedagogical system for early childhood care and education will be designed. Project based learning and inclusion of technology and vocational education as well as life skills will also be implemented at the early stage.
- ***Bharat centric Education:*** the NEP 2020 promotes Bharat centric values which is the blending of culture and language in education. This measure is to be taken under the project 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat'. This is because it envisions the education system to be rooted in the Indian ethos
- ***Knowledge based society:*** NEP 2020 tries to impart practical and skilled based knowledge
- ***Learner centric Approach:*** NEP 2020 tries to adapt a learner centric approach promoting creativity along with education where the students would choose their subject of interest for the paths in life. And no hard differentiation between arts, commerce and science would be made. Vocational education would be given priority and integration of knowledge will be implemented.

Role of Teachers in Inculcating Value-Based Education in Line with NEP 2020

Teachers play a crucial role in inculcating value-based education which are discussed as follows:

- **Role Models:** Teachers acts as role models for students. They should embody the values they aim to instil in their students. By practicing ethical behaviour, demonstrating respect, empathy, and fairness, teachers create an environment that promotes value-based education.
- **Inculcating/Integrating Values in Teaching:** Teachers should integrate values into their teaching practices across subjects and curriculum areas. They can incorporate discussions, activities, and examples that highlight the relevance of values in real-life situations. This helps students understand the practical application of values and their significance.
- **Emphasizing Discussions and Reflection:** Teachers can facilitate discussions on moral and ethical dilemmas, societal issues, and current events. By encouraging students to analyse different viewpoints and engage in critical thinking, teachers promote values such as ethical decision-making, empathy, and social responsibility. Teachers should also provide opportunities for self-reflection, encouraging students to reflect on their actions and the impact they have on others.
- **Inclusive Classroom Environment:** Teachers should create a safe and inclusive classroom environment that respects and celebrates diversity. They should foster an atmosphere where students feel comfortable expressing their opinions, engaging in dialogue, and understanding different perspectives. This helps in developing values such as empathy, respect, and inclusivity.
- **Providing Value-Oriented Guidance:** Teachers should provide guidance and mentorship to students, helping them develop values such as self-discipline, integrity, and resilience. They can offer support in making ethical choices, resolving conflicts, and managing emotions effectively. By establishing positive relationships with students, teachers create an environment conducive to value-based learning.
- **Collaborating with Parents and the Community:** Teachers should involve parents and the community in promoting value-based education. They can engage in regular communication with parents, sharing information about classroom activities, and seeking their support in reinforcing values at home. Collaboration with community organizations and local institutions can provide students with real-world experiences that reinforce values and social responsibility.
- **Continuous Professional Development:** Teachers should engage in continuous professional development to enhance their understanding of value-based education and teaching methodologies. Participating in workshops, training programs, and networking with other educators helps teachers stay updated with current research and best practices in value education.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Value-Oriented Education is a crucial aspect of holistic development, but various studies and observations indicate that practical implementation has been lacking within the Indian education system. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's emphasis on integrating Value-Based Education is poised to reform the system significantly. This reform aims to develop students capable of rational thought and action, extending beyond mere cognitive advancement.

As education is the main weapon in the reformation of society reorienting and restructuring its curriculum and instil Values at its main core is a call of the hour. It is our duty that we acknowledge the importance of Value Oriented Education adjusting our mindsets on the real aim of Education which is modification of the child and not only on knowledge aspects. The government has taken measure by reforming its policy through the NEP 2020 and showing support by followings its measures and suggestion is the role of the people to produce reliable and responsible individuals in the society. Value education also places a significant responsibility on teachers to awaken and fulfil their most precious task: rekindling values in the minds and hearts of children. It is only through a united effort that we can achieve the true purpose of education and create a society grounded in strong moral values.

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In conclusion, policymakers should consider developing a standardized yet flexible curriculum for value education that accommodates India's diverse cultural landscape. Comprehensive teacher training programs focusing on value education can equip educators with the necessary skills to impart values effectively. Innovative assessment methods that capture the essence of value education should be developed to measure its impact accurately. Additionally, increased funding and improved infrastructure are essential to support the implementation of value education programs. Finally, fostering greater parental and community involvement can create a supportive environment for value education.

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