

## **DETERIORATION OF VALUES AMONG ADOLESCENT STUDENTS**

**\*Richa Mishra**

### **Abstract**

*The future of any nation depends on its children. Values play an important role in shaping the character and personality of the children. The deterioration of values among adolescent students in India is at present a blazing issue. The root of this issue is not a recent phenomenon; its trace can be indented in the society of the past, the magnitude of which has spread over largely in recent days. The expression of this kind of degradation is being reflected in different undesirable aspect of the society. Although it is measured that youth power is the driving force of a nation, the instances of which may be cited from forceful movement of the past. But the youth of now-a day is adversely diverted which does not only influence the Indian society but also it stimulates the coming generation of our civilization. Consequently, we have to face an alarming and more violent situation in the coming decades. Therefore, it is very much essential and a duty of everybody to find out the solution of this oppression to establish India in the world of peace and Harmony. The paper highlights here the causes and few strategies to encounter the problem.*

**KEYWORD:** *Values, Adolescent Students, Deterioration*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Our root of civilization depends upon customs and rituals. Indians are highly emotional and civilized and follow rules. In ancient India system of education is based on Gurukul Parampara in which scholars has to follow the words of Guru who taught them in all aspects. India has particularly been known for its great normal values, folk-ways and culture, may it be nationally or internationally India has won many of the hearts on the basis of its vast and wonderful culture. By the term 'culture' we can simply know that; a culture is a complex whole of vivid values, ideas, folk-ways, mores, customs, morals, laws, arts and other capabilities and skills obtained by human being as a member of the society. In a wide sense culture is the

way of the social life of the people or precisely it is an organized system of behavior of the human society. Now, values are an important part of the Indian culture, we have various values which superbly differentiate the Indians from the rest of the people of world. Almost every aspect of our lives are guarded and directed by moral, social ethical and cultural values which teach us the right way to behave with others. Like; we have moral values of honesty, open heart, kindness, humility, generosity, transparency, truth, patience, satisfaction, self-esteem trust, belongingness that we are supposed to follow while leading our lives then on the other hand we have social and cultural values who direct our social behaviors such as value of greeting, obeying, giving respect, modesty, group harmony, social welfare, cooperation, brotherhood, patriotism, and respect for all religions etc as shown in “Sarve Bahvantu Sukhina”.

Indian values unquestionably have undergone many modifications and shifting, people have been applying the values according to their suitability and ease. However, in the old Indian society people were more eager to follow and give importance to their values and culture but now in the modern times values are somewhere losing their importance. In the modern times when firm waves of modernization, westernization, industrialization and urbanization have impacted the lives of the people, the effect of the Indian values seem to have been dimmed in that. The great Indian values seem to have been replaced by selfish-motives, individualistic thoughts and egoistic drives of the human beings. The young generation of the country seems to have no faith and trust in the old established moral and cultural values their mind-sets are structured in such a way that praises only the western values and it is the only right thing. Even the old generation of our Indian society feels helpless in reforming the so called westernized mind-sets, thus some of them have accepted this fact and some are still struggling with their young ones to convince them about the importance of the Indian values. Youth tries to display this as a generation gap but actually it is gap between values followed by them is Indian and Western.

The young generation of today seem to have been influenced by the fascinating picture of the western values which are apparently hallow and unsuitable for our society even it is only glamorized, still the young generation gives more importance to those values since they believe that western values administer more freedom, flexibility, self-promotion, newness and confidence to them. For instance, the

young generation feels more comfortable in waving a simple hand or uttering a simple 'Hi' or even a slang "hey what's up" for greeting someone instead of following our cultural value of greeting with folded hands and bowing down the head with respect and saying the meaningful word; 'Pranam' or 'Namaste'.

The young generation have not at all tried to understand the essence of own values and blindly following the foreign values even they feel shame in following our traditional values. Our ideals are so meaningful and have been aimed for the welfare of the human beings only, which intend to bring harmony and affection among the people of our country. But blaming the youth alone would not be acceptable over here, they have adopted the ways which they have seen in face of them they have many mediums through which they have learnt the western values but here we are losing one important aspect of this scenario and that is that it might be possible that we being the elders, parents and the guardian have not properly introduced our Indian values to our young generation, it might also be possible that we have not guided them properly and taught about the great implications of our own values! There might have been something missing in the process of their rearing that has resulted in the lack of faith of the youth in the Indian values. In simple that this situation is result of stoppage of our guidance, parenting and teaching may the education system in which we did not inculcate our value system in them. Role of media is also not supportive in this whole issue as media represents glamorous image of western to Indian who attract them since the stage of learning. Now Internet is also promoting in the same line as facebook, whatsapp, twitter and instagram like social platform also publicizing western values. Thus, we should also consider the other part of this scenario.

Following points should be taken into consideration:

**Parenting, Values and the Youth:** the famous proverb in Hindi as "Bachhe Palna Bachho ka Khel Nahi". Parenting is an key aspect of the rearing of a child because through parenting the parents create a personality of their child. Nature of parenting determines the kind of personality of the child thus, if the parenting is accompanied with the teaching of moral, social and cultural values at a very premature stage of the child, there is no doubt that the child would certainly become a powerful, confident, self-reliant,

disciplined, generous and an amiable person. Parents should teach their young ones the significance of our values and support them to apply those in their practical lives.

**Inclusion of Values in Education:** education makes us a different person with a holistic vision, new ideas and thoughts and wisdom and values make us morally, socially and ethnically distinct thus education should be accompanied with the knowledge of our great values ideas and thought as well. In schools and colleges students should be taught about the usefulness of values and should be imparted a Value based education. This value based education system must be planned in such a way which inculcate Indian values in students and make them feel proud to be the part of the value system and understand what our 'Rishi - Muni' and saints find and deeply rooted in our social system.

Values work like a shield for the people that facilitate the best standards of attitudes and behaviors for them and make them different from other human races. Indian values have always been admired and respected because they are based on good and pure intentions and also based on the virtues. It is only in India that we believe even the guests as a form of God and treat them with generosity and lavishly, we bow down our heads to give respect to others, we have learnt to help and think of others welfare, we belong to a ground where honesty is really considered to be the best policy and where the act of giving care and love to the elders and old parents is thought to give us heavenly blessings. Then how could the young generation stay so ignorant and unappreciable towards own values? All they need is the right atmosphere, guidance and motivation of the parents, elders, teachers, and other educated and enlightened people of the society who can teach the youth that identity is created on the foundation of one's values and not the foreign values.

**Values** can be defined as broad preferences concerning appropriate courses of actions or outcomes. As such, values reflect a person's sense of right and wrong or what "ought" to be. "Equal rights for all", "Excellence deserves admiration", and "People should be treated with respect and dignity" are representatives of values. Values tend to influence attitudes and behavior and these types include ethical/moral values, doctrinal/ideological values, social values, and aesthetic values. It is debated

whether some values that are not clearly physiologically determined, such as altruism, are intrinsic, and whether some, such as acquisitiveness, should be classified as vices or virtues.

Value denotes the degree of significance of something or action, with the want of determining what actions are best to do or what way is best to live (normative ethics), or to describe the significance of different actions. It may be described as treating actions as abstract objects, putting value to them. It deals with right behavior and living a good life, in the sense that a highly, or at least relatively high precious action may be regarded as ethically "good" (adjective sense), and that an action of low value, or fairly low in value, may be regarded as "bad". What makes an action valuable may in turn depend on the ethic values of the objects it increases, decreases or alters. An object with "ethic value" may be termed an "ethic or philosophic good".

### **TYPES OF VALUES**

- a) Religious Value
- b) Social Value
- c) Democratic Value
- d) Aesthetic Value
- e) Economic Value
- f) Knowledge Value
- g) Hedonistic Value
- h) Power Value
- i) Family Prestige Value
- j) Health Value

**The present education system** seems like factories which is producing many educated persons but they are ineffective in the struggle of life. In present scenario, education means how to earn money or job and the aspect of values and morals is completely neglected. This approach has increased many long-lasting problems in Indian education system. Today most of the antisocial activities are being dedicated by well-educated new generation. The relationship between teacher and student lack confidence towards each

other. Students lack humanitarian attitude towards other persons, family, society and the nation. Thus, there is greater urgency to think about ancient education system in India.

At present, almost all countries of the modern world are competing in almost every sector: political, economic, military and cultural. All countries well realize that one of the most important aids in this competition is education, so these countries have become more actively involved in organizing, supervising, encouraging and controlling education.

After independence many commission, committee, policies were setup to improve Indian education system, but the improvement is not satisfactory because the curriculum is based on social and intellectual dimension of education and less weightage is given to values and morals. So the impact of Indian education is not fulfilling its desired needs and aspirations. Indian Students are self-centered and their prime target is job security at the first opportunity in the present time. They have scant respect to the sacrifice of Indian freedom fighters; disobey their teachers, never sensitive to social and cultural heritage etc. Students are not compromising in life's responsibility as they found themselves helpless in life's testing circumstances. The student's knowledge seems to be memorized and sharp but their skills, values, morals and spirituality developments are limited in present education system.

If the present education system is allowed to continue, it will fast result in suspicious teacher student relationship, increase violence in the society, corruption, crimes, disrespect of the parents, the fabric of joint family will be torn thereby result in nuclear families, the sacred institution of marriage is gradually diminishing and which will fast result in live in relationship. Everybody wants to be literate, but no one is thinking about excellence.

### **OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS**

#### **Values**

**Values** can be defined as broad preferences concerning appropriate courses of actions or outcomes. As such, values reflect a person's sense of right and wrong or what "ought" to be. "Equal rights for all",

"Excellence deserves admiration", and "People should be treated with respect and dignity" are representatives of values.

### **Deterioration of Values**

Erosion of values in the children and the youth. Students seem to lack values and drift away from the traditional values of our country. **Deterioration of values** is a phenomenon in which a degradation or loss of moral values takes place within a particular society.

### **Adolescent Students**

Students study in Secondary/Senior Secondary/Higher secondary/ pre-university (for 14- to 19-year-olds) in schools and colleges.

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROBLEM**

### **WHY RESEARCHER CHOOSE THIS PROBLEM?**

Researcher has various academic problems which are related to present education and social issues of country like

#### **Topics**

Conditions of Govt. Schools

Rural Education

Beti Bachao Beti Padao

Aggressiveness in behavior of students in India

#### **Area**

Education

Education

Govt. Policy

Educational Psychology

In spite of following topics researcher's interest is created in knowing the current change in the behavior of students, which is unpredictable. Even students felt alone living in virtual life with the help of gadgets and Internet. This brings a shift in values and thought process which is further reflected in their actions and working. To know the causes of this entire researcher started analyzing school going students and their behavior pattern and try to understand the reason behind it.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- ❖ To know the causes of deterioration of values among adolescent students.

- ❖ To know the remedies to reduce the value deterioration among adolescent students.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This study is a qualitative in nature. It is a documentary study .Here the investigator collected the data from different secondary and senior secondary schools, graduating colleges, research journals, books, websites etc.

## **FINDINGS**

On the basis of the objectives of the study findings are discussed below-

### **To know the causes of deterioration of values among adolescent students.**

Values are the principles, standards convictions and thinking that people adopt as their guidelines in their daily activities. They are a set of consistent measures and behaviors that individuals choose to practice in the pursuit of doing what is right or what is expected of them by society (Bhakta & Dutta, 2017). There are violence, exploitation, corruption in public life, terrorism, political corruption are increasing day by day resulting in worsening of the value system.

There are various causes which are responsible for the loss of basics or values of a good human being or a responsible citizen of the society among the adolescents.

1. **Home environment:** In the present Indian society, parents play important and dynamic function in the personality improvement of their children. Parental behaviors influence on their children for moral development. Today educated and non-educated parents gives more anxious with their children's academic achievement than cultural, traditional and moral values. Working parents fails to instill discipline their children, endow their children with less emotional attention, make few demands on their children for better behavior and allowed them to regulate their own activities; are the ones who end up raising the moral flawed children. Now a day's parental control over their children decrease day by day, as a result of it autonomy of young generations are increasing rapidly. Consequently the adolescents are

being diverted by external force and engage themselves in night club, rocking, unwanted discussions and so many undesirable affairs.

2. **Influence of peer group:** Peer groups play a vital role in developing the concept of morality. Students of schools and colleges pass more time with them, discuss with them frankly and seek their support, guidance and advice; so they readily prefer to accept views of peer group rather it conflict with parents views which lead them to indulge in immoral activities like bribery, dacoits, truancy, kidnapping, drug-abused etc.

3. **Defective education system:** Almost 71 years was gone after independence of India but there is lack of proper educational infrastructure, essential elements from which our future generation can learn different values properly.

**(i) Lacking of learning positive atmosphere:** Before entering into formal education system children live with their families. They learn various ideals, basic principles, determinants & parameters of behavior from family & society. The main aims of educational institutions are to modify, enhance & strengthen the learnt believes ideals & behaviors of the students in right direction. But now, education institutions are unable to provide such positive atmosphere because the administrations of such institutions are not properly directed. They have forgotten their moral responsibility of providing education service as base of student's bright future by enhancing their own values.

**(ii) Lacking of moral value related academic syllabus:** Present education system educated students but unable to inculcate moral values within them. In the present educational system, provision has been given for intellectual development of students. It is a fallacy of our present education system. Our present academic syllabus is not appropriate to aware our future generations about different moral values.

**(iii) Lacking of extracurricular activities based on moral values:** Both curricular and extra-curricular activities are great important for the student's life. But now the range of extra-curricular activities has been limited to only sports, literary competitions, Quizzes, few games, dance or musical events only.

Morning meetings, prayers, literary works, discussions over social problems and other cultural activities have been disappeared. Today, on the occasion of birth or death anniversary of legends of our nation there is holiday. Teachers & Students stay away from debate of these topics and if there is open debate on such things so people are more focused toward win not on the real importance of discussion or learning of morals.

**4. Influence of mass media:** Undoubtedly Television, print media, internet blogs and websites, cinemas, role models (movie actors or actress) play an important role in shaping the personality of the youth. Many Medias, images, movies and games that not only neutralize violence but often glorify it. There is so much violence, vulgarity in all these entertainment avenues and if a majority of youth watches these, the impact of the same on the next generation can't be positive.

**5. Economic change:** The economy is moving at such a fast pace rewarding the materialistic and money minded. Socially undesirable goods, excesses in fashion are marketed skillfully to the gullible people. In the backdrop of such an unfavorable atmosphere it is not surprising that adolescents do not hold high standards and personal principles.

**6. Gender bias:** It is a very important social issue in India. It is very unfortunate that at the age of 21 century parents differentiate between their son and daughter. Sons are more preferred than their counterpart in our society. Going to market alone, laughing in public places, wearing western clothes are considered disgraceful for girls but these are not equally applied for boys. This unnecessary freedom to boys make them think that they are superior and can do whatever they want.

**7. Desire of self exhibition:** Adolescence is a time period when youth begin to analyze issues, develop view points, rationalize, and question the status quo, rebel and struggle to develop a personality of their own. Desire of self exhibition often takes a youth towards crime and immoral behavior like smoking, drinking, delivering abusing words, quarrelling, sex abuse etc.

**8. Dirty politics:** Most of the political parties have a tendency to capture young generation for using them for serving their own interest. All the political parties involving them into different movements with the assurance of employment and numerous greed and promises. Being inspired by those, the young generation is being adversely affected and the society is being polluted by an unstable situation. There are students union in colleges and universities which make the students engaged more in unethical activities such as hitting teachers if they failed in examinations, making strikes for fulfilling their unnecessary demands resulting in deterioration of ethical and moral standards of the society (Anita, 2014).

❖ **To know the remedies to reduce the value deterioration among adolescent students.**

Some remedies to reduce the value deterioration among adolescent students are as follows:

1. The government should legislate against media operators who publish indecent action in their publication. This is to ensure that only appropriate type of broadcasting will be televised and eventually reduces the stress of moral decay.
2. Some changes should be made in the curriculum keeping in view the social, moral, cultural and national values. The subjects like history, geography, other subjects of social science, language, literature and arts should be included in the curriculum ; they helps to inculcate the values such as cooperation, unselfishness, desire to serve, truthfulness, hospitality, leadership qualities, social justice, sharing courage, faith in God and serving the poor.
3. The educational system should provide compulsory moral and value education to all students. Value education should be inserted into the curriculum as compulsory subjects from beginners to all stages of formal education system. Teaching method should not just examination oriented but also practical with continuous education and evaluation. Nationalism, patriotism etc. should be inculcated into the curriculum of value education.
4. The school assembly, and extracurricular activities, the celebration of festivals of all religions, work experience, team games, subject clubs, and social service programme and this can helps in the value of cooperation and mutual regard, honesty, and integrity, discipline and social responsibility. Children

should practice and learn rituals, tradition, religion and activities as well as modernization should be simultaneously maintained.

5. The teacher should cherish high human values in global context. He should develop faith in democratic, socialistic and secular values. He should relate value education to concrete situation so that a child can distinguish between lie, fantasy and truth. For instance, a child should understand the concept of property to make a sense that stealing is wrong.

6. Moral values can be developed both through formal and non-formal systems. Organization of various activities such as NSS, NCC, Boys' Scouts and Girls' Guide can greatly help in this regard. Emphasis should be laid on the cultivation of suitable moral conducts and habits appropriate to modern living. This will result in successful adjustment to life situations.

7. Besides teachers, parents and communities should be aware of the fact that youths should not indulge in antisocial activities. They should stay away from all sorts of evil effects of the society which may prevent them to fulfill their vision.

8. Economic stability, employment and anti depressive, peaceful atmosphere and essential infrastructure should be provided as much as possible to the adolescents of society.

9. NGOs, and other social volunteer associations have to be strengthen to coordinate adolescents to bring stability among them and proper planning has to be introduced and implemented accordingly to their potentialities.

10. Parents should be vigilant and very careful about upbringing of their ward and work on there holistic development of child and whose orientation should be spiritual and moral through which they can inculcate values in them.

## **CONCLUSION**

There was a time when the need of value education was fulfilled at least to some extent by the joint family system itself, but now that the system has been totally eclipsed, the schools and colleges are required to play an important and significant role in the matter of value education. Knowledge without values is not only useless but is dangerous too for the society. That's why our young generations are in a great dilemma; they face enormous challenges today. Morality is the most deterring factor of crime, antisocial behavior, terrorism, assault, cyber crime, corruption etc. It is imperative to realize the potential perpetuating threat of decrease of morality in the society. Value orientation of adolescent students needs to be strengthened to build up a moral and harmonious society. So there is a set of need of moral principles and values to be imparted in children to make them a better and responsible citizen. It is the historical need of the hour that education itself has to bear the cross for the well-being of mankind. 'Education must come forward as the savior of mankind.'

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