

DEGRADATION OF MORAL AND ETHICAL VALUES AMONG YOUTHS IN PRESENT SOCIETY: AN EMERGING ISSUE.

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Abstract:

Degradation of moral and ethical values among young generation in present society is a rising issue. Moral ethics and values are the fundamental element of the human society. Moral values are taught to be imbibed by members of the society to enhance character and personality development and promote good moral health and behavior in individuals. The young generation is the future of tomorrow. It is pertinent to acquire moral standards and values that will help the youths to upgrade their personalities and lead themselves towards the progress of the society. However, people are badly diverted through immoral and unethical practices that have a critical and adverse effect upon society at large, which resulting in a social crisis. Therefore, it is necessary to find out the proper solution of this crucial problem to establish peace and harmony in society. This paper focuses on need and importance of moral values, reasons for the loss of values and ethics and suggestions to minimize the degradation of values & ethics among youths to make them a civilized, better and responsible citizen.

Key Words: - Degradation, moral values, youth, immoral activities.

Introduction

Youths are the future of nation. The future of a country depends upon the moral values imparted to them during their studies. Values are indispensable for a society, devoid of which, our society cannot sustain itself and people will forget humanity. Moral values are defined as guidelines, worthy ideals or set of principles that assist a person in distinguishing between right and wrong. Values such as justice, integrity, determination, loyalty, truthfulness, honesty, comparison, helpfulness, love, respectfulness etc should be assimilate by every individual. These values direct the path, build a good character, personality and help people develop a strong sense of right choices and decisions. Value can be inculcated to our future generation through different agent of education such as family, school, club, society or community etc. Moral values only help us to tide over crisis in life, resolve challenging situations and issues. Moreover, people's identity and cultural continuity can be determined only through values. But unfortunately, due to several social and economic factors many families are disoriented, confused and our society is disorganized. At present, society has been experiencing conflict regarding value based moral degradation especially youth. There is absence of ideology in the society which can bring them a value-based livelihood and vision. As a result, our society is marked by violence, greed, theft, anti-social behaviors, cybercrime, corruption, terrorism etc. discipline is lacking among teenagers.

As we know, India is the most ancient civilization, we

are proud of our rich cultural heritage but now we have forgotten those ideals, values and principles which were so valuable to our ancestors. With the changing times and growing attraction towards the western culture many people neglect there set norms of morality. The culture is degrading day by day due to the effect of rapid westernization.

Modernization and westernization raises our standard of living but this declines our value of life. The young generations are busy preparing for their livelihood and enjoying life. They are disinterested towards social problems or family affairs. The old people are generally neglected. Moreover, in modern times due to rapid change in the world and urbanization we witness the rising problem of loneliness.

It is not only youth which shows less moral values. Even adults are growing less ethical with time. Mostly the parents are working and spend less time with their kids. So there is less interaction between them. The lack of interaction has almost stopped the transfer of values from elders to youngsters.

Thus, it has been determined that, due to several factors like changes in the family structure, advent of westernization, the media revolution, dirty politics etc have played a determining role in reanalyzes the value systems in the present society.

Objectives of the study:

Objective 1: To Know the importance of moral values and ethics among youths.

Objective 2: To know the causes of moral degradation among youth of present society.

Objective 3: To know the consequences of moral degradation among youths.

Objective 4: To give some suggestions to reduce the moral degradation among youths.

Methodology: This study is qualitative in nature and the data have been collected from various Journals, reference books and web resources.

Findings: According to the objectives of the study findings are discussed below: -

Objective 1: To Know the importance of moral values and ethics among youths.

A man without sound morals is unfit and unacceptable for the society. A person is identified by his moral behavior, his sound character and personality. Moral value is very essential in these days for the all-round development of the youth and welfare of the society. Osaat (2004) in Ekpiwre (2008) defines values as 'things considered worthwhile, desirable, right and good and thus craved for and applied on a daily basis to enhance existence by the people.'

Moral values such as truthfulness, honesty, humility, obedience, integrity, responsibility, sympathy, tolerance, courtesy, hard work, loyalty, equality, sacrifice, respect for elders, spirit of service, love, care and cooperation etc are essential for character and personality development of young people. These kind of ethics and values help to develop democratic qualities such as dignity of individual, social and individual justice, brotherhood and equality among students for the success of democracy. Moral education has long been recognized as a central element of such development. Value based education must be an integral part of today's educational institutions so that students may develop empathy and compassion for others. In other words, moral val-

ues help the young people in finding out the true purpose of life. It inculcates in them a sense of concern for the well-being of others and motivates them to work towards the development of society. For the growth of the society, it is necessary to remove the conflicts in the name of caste, creed, religion, culture and customs. And it may be possible only when we start following the path of life through moral values. Moreover, moral values prepare the young boys and girls to control their instincts, emotions and sexual urges and also helps to develop positive and social attitudes by creating awareness among them about the ill of the society.

Objective 2: To know the causes of moral degradation among youth of present society.

To know the cause of moral degradation among youth of present society: -

Values are ideals, principles, standards convictions and beliefs that people adopt as their guidelines in their daily activities. At present time, moral values are as important as scientific and technological activities and progress. It helps young people deal with different situations and challenges in life. But morality in youth has highly declined with changing situation of society. The youngsters are the future of tomorrow. So, the lack of moral values among them is a serious issue.

There are various reasons responsible for degradation of ethical and moral values among youths. These are discussed below: -

A) Breakdown of parental control of children in family:

Parents role is the most important in developing character and personality of the child. Parental behavior has great impact on their children for moral development. But now a days,

it has been observed that parental control over their children decrease day by day, as a result of it, autonomy of young generations is increasing rapidly. Parents fails to inculcate discipline to their children due to various reasons. Due to work pressure, working parents don't have much time to share and impart ethical values to their children. Another root cause of lack of moral values among adolescents is the disruption in their families. When the basic unit i.e. the family is unstable and parents are distant from their wards, child search other place to share their feelings and emotions. They depend on other sources like friends, watching TV, mobile, movies, bad literature etc. This sort of isolation, lack of proper care, love and affection from family has been endangering and spoiling their lives resulting unrest and agitation and sometimes they may engage in many unethical practices like smoking, gambling, drug trafficking, visiting night club etc.

B) Influence of mass media:

Mass media influence personality and thought of young generation. Youth watches the vulgarity and violence shown in the entertainment sector such as Television, Print media, internet blogs and websites, cinemas, social media etc and their values are impacted. Young generation cannot develop positive attitude towards their future life.

C) Defective education system:

i) Lack of positive atmosphere for learning:

The main aim of educational institutions is to develop, modify the behavior of students in right direction. But now educational institutions are unable to provide such positive atmosphere to students because education system is becoming more professional which never teach moral perspective of

education. The administrations of such institutions are not properly directed.

- ii) **Lack of value oriented academic syllabus or Curriculum:**
In our education system, there is absence of academic syllabus related to human values and ethics. The modern youths receiving education are losing their idealism and living in spiritual gap. In present curriculum system, emphasis has been given for intellectual development of students rather than moral and spiritual values in them. Higher importance is given to materialistic achievement among students. Focus of youth have now shifted from generating values to earning money. They don't find the importance of value and moral education.

- iii) **Lacking of extra-curricular activities based on moral values:**

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Both curricular and extra-curricular activities are essential element for the development of student's life. But now the scope of extra-curricular activities has been limited to only games, sports, literacy, quizzes, dance, musical events only. There is lack of activities especially related to morality and ethics related to. Moreover, less interest is given on celebration of national festivals which deteriorate the importance of value and ethics in mind of young generation. Discussions over social problems and other cultural and religious activities have been disappeared.

D) Peer group influence: -

Students and youths are highly influenced by their peer's groups. School and college going students pass more time with their friends, seek their support and readily accept the views and advice of them. This led to conflict with their parents' views which lead them to indulge in immoral activities

like bribery, dacoits, truancy, kidnapping, drug abuse etc.

E) Economic changes:

Due to rapid change in economic growth of our country sometimes make the people more materialistic and money minded. Socially undesirable goods, excess in fashion are marketed skillfully to the credulous people. In the backdrop of such unfavorable atmosphere young generation donot hold high standards and personal principles or values and changes in our economic system negatively influences the adolescent's moral development.

F) Dirty Politics:

Today's youth are captured by political parties to strengthen and developed their own structure. There are students' union in colleges and universities who are inspired by different political parties which are using them for serving their own interest. They make the students involved in different movements with the assurance of employment and numerous greed and promise. Being inspired by those, the youth don't hesitate to engage themselves more in unethical activities such as bad behaviors with their teachers if they failed to achieved whatever they want, making strikes for fulfilling their unnecessary demands. As a consequence, youth is being adversely affected and their society is being polluted by an unstable situation.

Objective 3: To know the consequences of moral degradation among youths.

Moral degradation in our society has reached such a level that calls for concern. Moral decadence among youths has a direct negative impact on the family and society at large. Today's

youths are getting increasingly prepared towards violence, social evils and lack of respect towards elders and teachers which can collapse social harmony as well as national integration.

Moreover, the problem of drug abuse among the youth is increasing day by day. The youths are more curious now-a-days. They are a bundle of cheerful but undirected energy, drives pleasure in taking risks and experimenting with new things. To fulfill an addictive need, numerous youngsters don't hesitate to involve themselves in immoral activities like stealing, pick-pocketing, gambling, delivering abusing words, molesting women etc which leads to degradation of moral norms of our society. Apart from these serious crimes like kidnapping, murder, robbery, burglary etc have become serious matter of present society due to deterioration of moral ethics and values among our young generation. Thus moral degradation leads to the creative mind of youth diverted towards anti-social behavior and thereby social values and norms are uprooted and regional movement, conflict, bias, enmity etc take leading role over all downfall of the society.

Objective 4: To give some suggestions to reduce the moral degradation among youths.

At present development of moral values among young generation is the real need. As we see society is diminishing in case of values, it is necessary to develop different programs for promoting values in the society.

Some suggestions to reduce the moral degradation among young generations are as follows: -

1. All the schools should execute suitable programmes to make students aware about the importance of value education. Value based education must be included in curriculum as compulsory subjects from beginners to all stages of formal

educational system. To be successful in life important human qualities along with intellectual development should be the aim of value-oriented education. Moreover, nationalism, patriotism etc should be included in the curriculum of value education. Programmes like celebration of festivals of all religions, group discussions on social problems, extra-curricular activities, work experience, social service programmes should be organized in school. These may help to co-operation, honesty, integrity, non-selfishness, truthfulness, desire to serve, leadership qualities, courage, social responsibilities, spiritual values and serving the poor. Children should practice and learn rituals, tradition, religion and activities as well as modernization should be maintained at the same time.

2. Teacher play vital role to foster human values through their teaching in the classroom. They should cherish high human values and develop faith in democratic, socialistic and secular values. They should encourage their students to achieve success but honestly and it is very essential to establish an excellent teacher student relationship and maintain a peaceful school atmosphere.
3. Parents have the greatest influence in shaping the child's life. Children learn the basic values of behavior, code of conduct and living from their parents. From the childhood onwards parents and teachers should give proper moral guidance to them. Parents must spend more time on discussing the basis of their moral principles and should take care of their children with care and disciplines. They should be more concern about their children's activities. These interactions inside and outside the home in which children feel safe and secured and where anger and enmity are not

present, they develop a strong sense of self which develops into a strong moral base.

4. Moral values can be enhanced by both formal and non-formal systems. Various organizations such as NSS, NCC, Scout & Guide can greatly help to foster moral and ethical values among young generations.
5. NGOs and other social volunteer associations should take the responsibility to co-ordinate youth to bring stability among them and necessary planning has to be suggested accordingly their potentialities.
6. Political and social organizations should concentrate on their activities and directing youths' energy in positive way. Elder members of society should be aware of the fact that youths should not indulge in antisocial activities. They should stay away from all sorts of unhealthy effects of the society.
7. Strict actions must be taken by government against those who indulge in addiction, crime or violence. Especially criminal and violent youngsters must be punished accordingly.
8. Government should check on media operators who publish obscene action in their publication. Television and Broadcasting department should be given importance on lesser telecast of films or shows encouraging violence among youths.
9. Government and social organizations should give importance on development of economic stability, provision of employment and at the same time anti-depressive, peaceful atmosphere and essential infrastructure should be provided as much as possible to younger generation of society.

Conclusion: -

In modern era ethical and moral values are degrading. People have become self-centered. There is lack of discipline

among children and even they don't respect to their elders. Moral values and ethics are observed to be missing now a days. Knowledge without moral values is not only meaningless but is dangerous too for the society. It is considered that youth power is the motivation of a nation. A good nation is built up on the strength of the youth. Without youth there can be no sustenance of society. But due to various circumstance our young generations are in a great difficulty, they face huge challenges today. So, it is necessary for the youth to develop and understand the meaning of moral values deeply. Imbibing good cultures and ethical values in society, young generation can develop Vitus like self-control, tolerance, helpfulness, selfless service, practice of prayer, harmony and to cover all people. Education is considered as the great instrument to develop all these qualities in every individual. Value based education is highly essential in our modern society as our lives have become more pathetic. Moral principles of youth need to be strengthened to build up a moral and peaceful society. Edgar Hoover has said, "when morals declines and good men do nothing, evil flourishes".

A society unwilling to learn from past is doomed. We must never forget our history. Thus, values truly essential without which our society cannot sustain itself and people will forget humanity. It is very much required to make and implement some constructive approaches for the youth. It is the responsibility of parents, teachers and society to inculcate moral values among youth. If the society contribute towards the welfare of the future generation, the future of our world will be better. Moreover, educationists have to desire success in educating youth through acts, for the future leader of the world. A balance of love, care, discipline, sympathy and encouragement should be given to them to guide through the difficult stages of youth. The teenagers them-

selves are equally responsible to take an action in changing their attitude and apply good values in themselves. As we live in the digital age, it is high time we keep our moral values and ethics high to create a just and equal society and increase happiness or healthy atmosphere all around.

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