

Education-UG-6th Semester (EDNHDSE-4)

Value Education

Unit 1: Value - An Introduction

Value-Meaning

Values are principles, fundamental convictions, and ideals, standards of life which act as general guide to behaviour or as a reference point in decision making. Values are beliefs about what is right and what is wrong and what is important in life. Value literally means something that has a price, precious, dear and worthwhile, one is ready to sacrifice for.

It is a set of principles which guide the standard of behaviour. Values are desirable and held in esteem. They give strength to a person's character by occupying a central place in his life. It reflects ones attitudes, choices, decisions, judgments, relationships, dreams and vision, The guiding principle of life which are conducive to all value development. It is like the rails which keep the train on track. Without values, life will be chaotic.

Values are virtues, ideals and qualities on which actions and beliefs are based. Values are guiding principles that shape our world outlook, attitudes and conduct. The moral values present a true perspective of the development of any society or nation. They tell us to what extent a society or nation has developed itself

The Hindu vision of life gives four goals, ideals and core values for a better quality of human life. They are *artha* (economic values of wealth), *kama* (psychological values of pleasure), *dharma* (moral values) and *moksha* (liberation). These four goals embody the formulation of human values.

Thus, values are collective conceptions of what is considered good, desirable, and proper or bad, undesirable, and improper in a culture.

Value-Definitions

John Dewey - "Value education means primarily to prize to esteem to appraise, holding it dear and also the act of passing judgment upon the nature and amount of its value as compared with something else."

C.V.Good - "Value education is the aggregate of all the process by means of which a person develops abilities, attitudes and other forms of behaviour of the positive values in the society in which he lives."

M. Haralambos - "A value is a belief that something is good and desirable".

R.K. Mukherjee - "Values are socially approved desires and goals that are internalized through the process of conditioning, learning or socialization and that become subjective preferences, standards, and aspirations".

Zaleznik and David - "Values are the ideas in the mind of people compared to norms in that they specify how people should behave. Values also attach degrees of goodness to activities and relationships".

I. J. Lehner and N.J. Kube - "Values are an integral part of the personal philosophy of life by which we generally mean the system of values by which we live. The philosophy of life includes our aims, ideals, and manner of thinking and the principles by which we guide our behaviour".

T. W. Hippie - "Values are conscious or unconscious motivators and justifiers of the actions and judgment".

Value-Characteristics

- ✓ These are extremely practical, and valuation requires not just techniques but also an understanding of the strategic context.
- ✓ These can provide standards of competence and morality.
- ✓ These can go beyond specific situations or persons.
- ✓ Personal values can be influenced by culture, tradition, and a combination of internal and external factors.
- ✓ These are relatively permanent.
- ✓ These are more central to the core of a person.

- ✓ Most of our core values are learned early in life from family, friends, neighborhood school, the mass print, visual media and other sources within the society.
- ✓ Values are loaded with effective thoughts about ideas, objects, behavior, etc.
- ✓ They contain a judgmental element in that they carry an individual's ideas as to what is right, good, or desirable.
- ✓ Values can differ from culture to culture and even person to person.
- ✓ Values play a significant role in the integration and fulfillment of man's basic impulses and desire stably and consistently appropriate for his living.
- ✓ They are generic experiences in social action made up of both individual and social responses and attitudes.
- ✓ They build up societies, integrate social relations.
- ✓ They mold the ideal dimensions of personality and depth of culture.
- ✓ They influence people's behaviour and serve as criteria for evaluating the actions of others.
- ✓ They have a great role to play in the conduct of social life. They help in creating norms to guide day-to-day behaviour.

Importance or Need of Value

According to **Mahatma Gandhi**, Value Education is needed for.....

- Lack of respect for the sanctity of human life
- Breakdown of parental control of children in families
- Lack of respect for authority, seen through the brazen breaking of the law and total disregard for rules and regulations
- Crime and corruption
- Abuse of alcohol and drugs
- Abuse of women and children, and other vulnerable members of society.
- Lack of respect for other people and property

According to **Indian sociologist, R.K. Mukherjee**,

- Value is the foundation for understanding the level of motivation.
- It influences our perception.

- Value helps to understand what ought to be or what ought not to be.
- It contains interpretations of right or wrong.
- These influence attitudes and behaviour.
- It implies that certain behaviours or outcomes are preferred over others.
- These allow the members of an organization to interact harmoniously. These make it easier to reach goals that would be impossible to achieve individually.
- These are goals set for achievements, and they motivate, define and colour all our activities cognitive, affective and connective.
- They are the guideposts of our lives, and they direct us to who we want to be.
- Values and morals can not only guide but inspire and motivate a person, give energy and a zest for living and for doing something meaningful.

According to **National Policy on Education (1986)**,

- Tremendous advance in science and technology' has resulted in a complete change in the lifestyle of the people.
- Science and technology is being used to produce weapons of mass destruction endangering the very existence of the human race instead of using it for the betterment of human life.
- Erosion of traditional values.
- Life in the future is going to be faster and more complex. The student of today have to face such moral situations in future, in which, instead of depending on others, they may be required to take their own decision.
- The present youth has special problems. It has started to question the conduct of elders — especially political leaders. They do not see the relevance of the values preached.

Other Need or Importance

- Full development of child's personality in its physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects,
- Inculcation of good manners and of responsible and cooperative citizenship.
- Developing respect for the dignity of individual and society.
- Inculcation of a spirit of patriotism and national integration.
- Developing a democratic way of thinking and living.

- Developing tolerance towards and understanding of different religious faiths.
- Developing sense of brotherhood at social, national and international levels.
- Helping pupils to have faith in themselves and in some supernatural power that, is supposed to control this universe and human life.
- Enabling pupils to make decisions on the basis of sound moral principles.
- to teach the values of the culture and society
- to enable them to distinguish between right and wrong
- to form the conscience of youngsters
- to continue the traditions of the society
- to make meaningful the practices and beliefs
- to connect to every human being in the right way

