



DETERIORATION OF VALUES AMONG ADOLESCENTS: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

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Abstract

An idea to conduct this study is emerged after discussing an incident of Delhi metro with colleagues where two adolescent girls are fighting with 'Water and Slippers'. We know the Delhi Metro has provided a convenient and efficient mode of transportation for millions of people every day. However, there are instances where some passengers behave inappropriately. Recently, a number of offensive videos on the Delhi Metro have gained popularity, including one of two girls engaged in a physical fight. The video shows the girls challenging each other while holding slippers and water bottles, exchanging heated words and insults. This video has been widely shared and viewed by many. A video has emerged on Twitter showing a fight in the ladies coach of the Delhi Metro, leading to concerns about the safety of passengers. It is unclear when or where the incident occurred, but it depicts two girls arguing and threatening each other, with one wielding a 'steel bottle' and the other holding 'slippers'. Despite the presence of other women in the coach, who attempted to intervene, the fight continued unabated. The video also captures a girl complaining to the metro driver about the situation. In response to recent complaints of misbehavior on the metro, authorities have decided to increase security by deploying security personnel, including police and CISF, inside the coaches. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has also instructed its flying squad to be vigilant and announced plans to deploy plainclothes policemen in the metro for added security. What is this...? Where are values and morals in our adolescents. ? Our adolescents are fighting with water and slippers and using abusive languages even in many cases they are doing masturbation, kissing, strong hug, singing loudly in Delhi metro which is a public place.

We know that future of a nation relies on its children, and values play a significant role in shaping their character and personality. Currently, the decline of values among adolescent students in India is a concerning issue. This problem has its origins in the past and has grown in magnitude over time, leading to various negative aspects in society. While the youth is often seen as the driving force of a nation, the current generation is being negatively influenced, not only impacting Indian society but also affecting future generations. As a result, we may face a more alarming and violent situation in the coming years. Therefore, it is essential for everyone to find a solution to this problem and establish India as a peaceful and harmonious nation. This study focuses on the causes and proposes strategies to address this issue.

Keywords: Values, Adolescent Students, Deterioration

Introduction

The social life of people is essentially an organized system of behavior within human society. In Indian culture, values play a significant role and differentiate Indians from others around the world. Our lives are influenced by moral, social, ethical, and cultural values that guide us on how to interact with others. These values include honesty, generosity, transparency, patience, self-esteem, trust, and a sense of belongingness. Additionally, social and cultural values shape our behavior in terms of greeting, respecting others, maintaining modesty, promoting group harmony, supporting social welfare, fostering cooperation, embracing brotherhood, patriotism, and respecting all religions. This is exemplified by the phrase "*Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina*".

Indian values have certainly undergone numerous changes over time. In the past, people placed great importance on their values and culture, but in the modern era, the significance of these values appears to be diminishing. With the influence of modernization, westernization, industrialization, and urbanization, Indian values seem to have been overshadowed. Selfish motives, individualistic thoughts, and ego-driven behaviors have replaced the great Indian values. The younger generation shows little faith or trust in traditional moral and cultural values, instead glorifying Western values as the only correct ones. Even the older generation struggles to convince their children of the importance of Indian values, leading to a generational gap in values between the Indian and Western cultures.

It appears that today's young generation has been influenced by an alluring portrayal of western values, which are seen as shallow and inappropriate for our society. Despite this glorification, the youth still prioritize these values because they believe they offer more freedom, flexibility, self-promotion, innovation, and confidence.

For example, young people today prefer to greet others with a simple wave or a casual "Hi" or "hey what's up" instead of following our cultural tradition of folding hands and bowing the head with respect while saying the meaningful words "*Pranam*" or "*Namaste*". The younger generation has not made an effort to understand the importance of our own values and instead blindly follows foreign values, even feeling ashamed to embrace our traditional values. Our ideals are meaningful and have been aimed at promoting harmony and affection among the people of our country. However, it is not fair to solely blame the youth in this situation, as they have adopted the ways they have seen in front of them. They have been exposed to various mediums through which they have learned Western values. Here, we are overlooking an important aspect of this scenario, which is that as elders, parents, and guardians, we may not have properly introduced our Indian values to the younger generation. It is also possible that we have not guided them properly and taught them about the profound implications of our own values. There may have been something missing in the way we raised them, resulting in the lack of faith in Indian values among the youth. In simple terms, this situation is a result of the lack of guidance, parenting, and teaching, including the education system, in which we did not instill our value system. The media also plays a negative role in this issue, as it portrays a glamorous image of the West, which attracts the Indian youth from an early age. Now, the internet is also promoting these same values through social platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, and Instagram. Therefore, we should also consider the other factors contributing to this scenario.

The importance of parenting and the inclusion of values in education are emphasized in this passage. Parenting plays a crucial role in shaping a child's personality, and teaching moral, social, and cultural values at a young age can help develop a strong, confident, disciplined, and amiable individual. Similarly, education should not only provide knowledge but also instill values and wisdom. In schools and colleges, students should be taught about the usefulness of values and be given a value-based education that incorporates Indian values. These values act as a shield, promoting positive attitudes and behaviors and setting individuals apart from others. Indian values, rooted in good intentions and virtues, are highly respected for their belief in treating guests with generosity, showing respect to others, helping and thinking of others' welfare, valuing honesty, and caring for elders. It is important for the younger generation to be aware of and appreciate their own values, and this can be achieved with the right atmosphere, guidance, and

motivation from parents, elders, teachers, and educated individuals in society. The passage emphasizes that one's identity is built on the foundation of their values, not foreign values.

The main question is whether certain values, like altruism, are inherent and not solely determined by biology, and whether other values, like acquisitiveness, should be considered virtues or vices. Value refers to the level of significance of something or an action. It is used to determine the best actions to take or the best way to live. It can also be seen as treating actions as abstract objects and assigning value to them. The concept of value encompasses right behavior and living a good life. Actions that are highly valuable can be considered ethically good, while actions of low value can be considered bad. The value of an action may depend on the ethical values of the objects it impacts. An object that has ethical value can be referred to as an ethical or philosophical good.

Type 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 current education system resembles a factory that produces a large number of educated individuals who are ineffective in dealing with real-life challenges. Nowadays, education mainly focuses on earning money or getting a job, completely neglecting values and morals. This approach has led to numerous long-term problems in the Indian education system. Surprisingly, many well-educated individuals are engaging in antisocial activities. The relationship between teachers and students lacks trust, and students lack empathy towards others and have a selfish attitude towards their family, society, and nation. Therefore, it is crucial to reconsider India's ancient education system. Nowadays, all countries understand the significance of education in various sectors like politics, economy, military, and culture, so they actively participate in organizing, overseeing, promoting, and regulating education. Despite various commissions, committees, and policies implemented after independence to improve the Indian education system, the progress has been unsatisfactory because the curriculum mainly focuses on the social and intellectual aspects of education, giving less importance to values and morals. Consequently, the impact of Indian education falls short of meeting its desired needs and aspirations. Indian students are self-centered and primarily concerned with job security. They often fail to respect the sacrifices made by Indian freedom fighters, defy their teachers' authority, and lack sensitivity towards social and cultural heritage. Furthermore, students are not prepared to take on life's responsibilities, as they find themselves helpless in challenging situations. While their knowledge may seem extensive and sharp, their skills, values, morals, and spirituality development are limited due to the current education system. If this system persists, it will result in a deteriorating teacher-student relationship, increased violence in society, corruption, crime, disrespect towards parents, the breakdown of joint families, and a decline in the institution of marriage, potentially leading to an increase in live-in relationships. Everyone desires literacy, but excellence is seldom considered.

Justification of the Study

The changes in learner behavior have sparked the curiosity of researchers who seek to understand the unpredictable shifts in student behavior. Students now feel isolated in their virtual lives, relying on gadgets and the internet. These shifts in values and thinking are evident in their actions and work. Consequently, researchers have begun analyzing the behavior patterns of school-going students to uncover the causes behind these changes.

Statement of the Problem

Deterioration of Values among Adolescents: An Analytical Study

Objectives of the Study

- To study the causes of deterioration of values among adolescent students.
- To study the remedies to reduce the value deterioration among adolescent students.

Operational Definitions of Key Terms Used

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.

Research Methodology

This research is qualitative in nature and involves a documentary study. The researcher gathered information from various sources such as senior secondary schools, colleges, research journals, books, and websites.

Findings

The findings of the study are presented below, based on its objectives:

- *To study the causes of deterioration of values among adolescent students.*

The study aimed to understand why adolescent students are experiencing a decline in their values. Values are the principles, convictions, and standards that people adopt as their guidelines in daily life. Values are important in pursuing what are right and meeting societal expectations. There is an increase in violence, exploitation, corruption, terrorism, and political corruption, which is contributing to the deterioration of the value system. Various causes are responsible for the loss of values among adolescents.

1. **The home environment:** In Indian society, parents play a crucial role in shaping their children's personalities.

- Parental behaviors have a significant influence on children's moral development.
- In today's society, parents are more focused on their children's academic achievements than on cultural, traditional, and moral values.

- Working parents may struggle to instill discipline in their children and provide them with emotional attention.
- Parents who fail to set behavioral standards for their children end up raising morally flawed individuals.
- Parental control over children is decreasing, resulting in increased autonomy for adolescents.
- This leads to diversion and engagement in undesirable activities like visiting nightclubs, engaging in unwanted discussions, and getting involved in undesirable affairs.

2. **Influence of peer group:** Peer groups have a significant impact on the development of moral concepts.

- Students spend a considerable amount of time with their peers in schools and colleges.
- They seek their support, guidance, and advice, and tend to accept their views over conflicting views from parents.
- This influence can lead adolescents to engage in immoral activities such as bribery, theft, truancy, kidnapping, and drug abuse.

3. **Inadequate education system:** India lacks proper educational infrastructure to teach values effectively to the future generation. The following are the major issues in Indian education system:

(i) *The lack of a positive learning environment:* Children learn important values and principles from their families and society before they enter the formal education system. However, educational institutions are failing to provide a positive atmosphere for students due to inadequate direction from administrators. These institutions have forgotten their responsibility to enhance students' beliefs and behaviors for a bright future.

(ii) *The absence of morals in the academic syllabus:* While the current education system focuses on intellectual development, it fails to instill moral values in students. Our academic syllabus is not designed to teach future generations about different moral values, which is a flaw in the system.

(iii) *Limited extracurricular activities centered on moral values:* Both curricular and extracurricular activities play an important role in a student's life. However, the range of extracurricular activities has been narrowed down to just sports, competitions, games, dance, and music events. Morning meetings, prayers, discussions on social problems, and other cultural activities have disappeared. Even on important days, such as the birth or death anniversary of national heroes, there are holidays instead of meaningful debates or learning opportunities on moral topics.

4. *The influence of mass media* has a significant impact on shaping the personality of young people. Television, print media, internet blogs and websites, and cinemas all play a role in this. Role models, such as movie actors and actresses, also have an influence. However, many forms of media, images, movies, and games not only normalize violence but also glorify it. The presence of violence and vulgarity in these entertainment avenues can have a negative impact on the next generation if the majority of young people consume them.

5. *The fast pace of the economy* is rewarding materialism and a focus on money. This creates an environment where socially undesirable goods and excessive fashion are marketed to vulnerable individuals. In such an unfavorable atmosphere, it is not surprising that adolescents do not prioritize high standards and personal values.

6. Gender bias is a significant social issue in India. It is unfortunate that even in the 21st century; parents still differentiate between their sons and daughters. In our society, sons are often preferred over daughters. Certain activities, such as going to the market alone, laughing in public places, or wearing western attire, are considered disgraceful for girls but not equally applied to boys. This unequal treatment gives boys unnecessary freedom, making them believe they are superior and can do whatever they want.

7. During adolescence, young people begin to analyze issues, develop viewpoints, question the status quo, and strive to develop their own personalities. The desire for self-exhibition can sometimes lead young people towards criminal and immoral behavior, such as smoking, drinking, using abusive language, quarrelling, and engaging in sexual abuse.

8. *Corrupt politics*: Many political parties have a habit of exploiting the younger generation for their own gain. They manipulate them into participating in various movements, promising employment and making them greedy for more. This harmful influence on the youth has a negative impact on society, leading to instability and corruption. In educational institutions, student unions encourage unethical behavior, such as physically attacking teachers for failing exams or going on strikes to fulfill unnecessary demands. This erosion of ethical and moral values harms society as a whole. (Anita, 2014).

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

Here are some suggestions to address the decline in values among adolescent students:

- 1) The government should pass laws against media companies that promote indecent content in their publications. This will ensure that only appropriate content is broadcasted, reducing moral decay.
- 2) Changes should be made to the curriculum to emphasize social, moral, cultural, and national values. Subjects like history, geography, social sciences, language, literature, and arts should be included to teach values such as cooperation, unselfishness, truthfulness, and hospitality.
- 3) It should be mandatory for schools to provide moral and value education to all students. Value education should be included in the curriculum from the beginning of formal education. The teaching method should not only focus on exams but also incorporate practical and continuous education and evaluation. Nationalism and patriotism should also be part of the value education curriculum.
- 4) Additional activities like school assemblies, extracurricular activities, celebrations of different religious festivals, work experience, team games, subject clubs, and social service programs can promote values like cooperation, honesty, integrity, discipline, and social responsibility. Children should learn and practice rituals, traditions, and religious activities while embracing modernization.
- 5) Teachers should promote high human values in a global context. They should help students relate value education to real-life situations, enabling them to distinguish between lies, fantasies, and truth. For example, a child should understand the concept of property and that stealing is wrong.
- 6) Moral values can be developed through both formal and non-formal systems. Organizations like NSS, NCC, Boys' Scouts, and Girls' Guide can greatly contribute to this development. Emphasis should be placed on cultivating moral conduct and habits suitable for modern living to ensure successful adaptation to life situations.
- 7) Apart from teachers, parents and communities should also be mindful that adolescents should not engage in antisocial activities. They should protect them from the negative effects of society that may hinder their personal growth.
- 8) It is crucial to provide economic stability, employment opportunities, an anti-depressive environment, and essential infrastructure for adolescents in society.
- 9) NGOs and other volunteer associations should be strengthened to coordinate with adolescents and plan and implement programs that cater to their potential.
- 10) Parents should be vigilant and prioritize the holistic development of their children, focusing on spirituality and moral values to instill good values in them.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the joint family system partially fulfilled the need for value education, but now that this system has disappeared, it is the responsibility of schools and colleges to play a crucial role in imparting values. Knowledge without values is not only useless, but also dangerous for society. This puts our young generations in a difficult situation as they face numerous challenges, such as crime, antisocial behavior, terrorism, and corruption. Morality is the key to combating these issues. Therefore, it is important to strengthen the value orientation of adolescent students in order to build a moral and harmonious society. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to teach children moral principles and values so that they can become better and responsible citizens. Education itself must take on this responsibility for the betterment of humanity.

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