

Importance of Education in Human Life: a Holistic Approach

Dr. Ajay Bhardwaj

Sr. Assistant Professor, Dept of Communication, Dev Sanskriti University, Haridwar, India

Abstract

The present research paper clarifies the importance of education with a holistic approach. With the advancement of science and technology the human civilization so far has travelled a long way with so many success stories of development in its hand. Whether be personal, social, political, economic or cultural development, the role of education can't be underestimated. Today we have education on every aspects of life which paves the way for the holistic development of the individual, society and the nation. Education is of course, a boon for the human life. But it is equally true that the education should not only be learning concept. Fundamentally, it should be ensuring values imparted to all students and of course, value based education is very important if we want to have good citizens. So in our entire curriculum, it should be ensured that value based education is incorporated into the chapters in the interesting way so that the children and students learn it at every step of their schooling. Value based education plays a pivotal role in the holistic development of students as the results of several such experiments have shown.

Key words: Education, Curriculum, Learning, Holistic development

Article Received: 09-05-2016, **Published:** 13-06-2016

Conflict of interest: None declared

***Corresponding Author:**

Dr. Ajay Bhardwaj, Sr. Assistant Professor, Dept of Communication, Dev Sanskriti University, Haridwar, India

E-mail: dsvvajay@gmail.com

International Journal of Science and Consciousness (IJSC): a Bio-Psycho-Spiritual approach
Published by the Research Foundation for Science & Consciousness, Uttarakhand, India

Importance of Education in Human Life

Introduction:

Education is an essential human virtue, a necessity of society, basis of good life and sign of freedom. Education is important for integration of separate entities. If we are in our academic career, then we might be hearing the words like '**Education is Must**', 'There is no Life without Education' etc., right? So, why all such words come from people around us? What is the importance of education in our life? First, what education really is? Here is definition of education by Dictionary.com. "The process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, esp. at a school or university: "a new system of public education. Well, the education is not limited to schools or colleges only, nor it is limited to age. The things happening in the practical life also educate us.¹

Expressing his views on education Swami Vivekananda has how beautifully remarked: education is the manifestation of perfection already present in a man. Education – what a huge meaning it has in our life, but sadly the meaning is reduced to the fact that it will go on to become our source of bread and butter – nothing more and nothing less. Is this what education stands for in our life? Is not education a way to make life better? I believe that education is not an accessory to life but it is a necessity.

Education is the vehicle of knowledge, self-preservation and success. Education not only gives us a platform to succeed, but also the knowledge of social conduct, strength, character and self respect. The greatest gift education gives us is the knowledge of unconditional love and a set of values. These values include the simple difference between right and wrong, a belief in God, the importance of hard work and self respect. Education is a continuous learning experience, learning from people, learning from success and failures, learning from leaders and followers and then growing up to be the person we are meant to be. Value based education is a

threefold development of any individual of any gender and age, but most importantly of a child. Education tries to develop three aspects: physique, mentality and character. Even though physique and mentality are important, they are menaces without the third because character is the greatest of these. Education plays a huge role in precisely this area.²

Value based education is a tool which not only provides us a profession which we can pursue but also a purpose in life. The purpose of our life is undoubtedly to know oneself and be ourselves. We cannot do it unless we learn to identify ourselves with all that lives. It is very aptly said that: "Know thyself" was written over the portals of the antique world. Over the portal of the new world, 'Be thyself' shall be written."Education gives us this very knowledge, the most supreme knowledge of knowing oneself, which helps us to make our life better and purposeful. Why don't we have a system of having an opinion about every aspect of life and of the world makes a person complete, well rounded and knowledgeable and if we do not give this opportunity to the students who are on the verge of adulthood then we are robbing ourselves of ideas rich in enthusiasm and innocence.³

It has been observed scientifically that we learn more effectively by listening and observing than plain cramming. Our educational system needs to evaluate its priority and understand that learning should not be coordinated with cramming. We take pride that our educational system is far more advanced and progressive in terms of academic standards in comparison with the U.S.A. or U.K. But in terms of creativity, independent study and an objective approach towards a subject we feel inadequate in experience. The objective of education in a country like India, which has a glorious heritage and can boast of diversity in geography, culture, values and beliefs very rarely seen in this wide world, should be to educate a student of the value system which is indispensable to live a successful life. There has been a lapse in our

value system which the educational institutes should inculcate in a student – that is why there are increased incidences of teenage pregnancies, MMS scandals, student prostitution and academic pressure related suicides.

It has been said that ignorance is bliss. Then again, without education we never experience true bliss. What good would be our life if we fail to pass on something substantial to the generation that is building itself? It would be a shame not to realize that the purpose of education is bliss and that ignorance is nothing but unpleasantness in the face of opportunities that the world has to offer to us.

A balanced approach towards a student's academic career will enhance one's life and make him/her a better contributor to our society, country and to human civilization.¹ Why is moral education important for children? How do folk tales, anecdotes and snippets create an impact? "Value-based education inculcates a sense of connection in children to their roots. The messages from epics keep them engaged, besides helping them nurture a morally-strong India. Indian culture should be made an integral component of school education to inculcate values in children."⁴

Why education is so important in our life?

The first thing that strikes me about education is knowledge gain. Education gives us the knowledge of the world around us and changes it into something better. It develops in us a perspective of looking at life. It helps us build opinions and have points of view on things in life. People debate over the subject of whether education is the only thing that gives knowledge. Some say education is the process of gaining information about the surrounding world while knowledge is something very different.

They are right. But then again, information cannot be converted into knowledge without education. Education makes us capable of interpreting things, among other things. It is not just about lessons in textbooks. It is about the lessons of life. Education is must for every person living in this world. Doctors, scientists,

farmers, artists, writers and full-time nomads all work together to make this world a beautiful, diverse place. It has the power to make your world beautiful. Yes education is a very important part of the life. The importance of education in life can be understood well under the following points:

Education Makes Better Citizens

Man is nothing but an animal. It is the education that teaches him many things, teaches the manners, rules and regulations of life etc. All these things result in converting man from an animal to well-mannered citizen.

Brings Confidence

Nothing in the life can be achieved if we don't have belief on ourselves. Education is what brings self-confidence in us. We get the confidence of doing the things on our own. Our self-confidence then helps us in passing all the difficulties that come on way to our aim. Education also makes us better in communication with others.

Ensures a Bright Future

An educated person lives a happy life always. He/she has a bright future that on one can pull from them. Education wakes the hidden talent and skills of any person. This hidden talent and skills give us employment and a completely secure future. It is the education that helps us in achieving new heights in our life.

Character Building

Education helps people grow as individuals. It opens your mind to many things that you haven't been exposed to before, and classrooms allow for healthy discussion on difficult subjects. Education helps build social skills, problem solving skills, decision making skills and creative thinking skills. It introduces you to different cultures, religions and thought processes that you may never be exposed to otherwise. Education also provides a stepping stone to the real world, offering many different courses on proper financial techniques, life planning and personal development.

Time Management

Time management helps a lot in our success in life. Assignment completed in time limit helps us every where whether we are in home, office, exam hall etc. Education helps a lot in time management. Learning how to work well under pressure is an equally valuable piece of knowledge. In most jobs, we won't be given an entire month to finish an assignment. Someone will drop a stack of papers off on our desk and expect us to be finished by the end of the work day. If we've never experienced that sort of time crunch, it can be difficult to get ours gears working fast enough to complete your assignment. Whether be an artist, or a musician, or a carpenter, we can learn many different time management techniques and character building skills without ever needing to set foot in a classroom after high school.⁵

Value based education

Value education is the process by which people give values to others.³ It can be an activity that can take place in *any* organization during which people are assisted by others, who may be older, in a position of authority or are more experienced, to make explicit those values underlying their own behavior, to assess the effectiveness of these values and associated behavior for their own and others' long term well-being and to reflect on and acquire other values and behavior which they recognize as being more effective for long term well-being of self and others. There is a difference between literacy and education.⁶

Values education can take place at home, as well as in schools, colleges, universities, jails and voluntary youth organizations. There are two main approaches to values education, some see it as inculcating or transmitting a set of values which often come from societal or religious rules or cultural ethics while others see it as a type of Socratic dialogue⁴ where people are gradually brought to their own realization of what is good behaviors for themselves and their community.⁷

There has been very little reliable research on the results of values education classes, but there

are some encouraging preliminary results.⁵ One definition refers to it as the process that gives young people an initiation into values, giving knowledge of the rules needed to function in this mode of relating to other people, and to seek the development in the student a grasp of certain underlying principles, together with the ability to apply these rules intelligently, and to have the settled disposition to do so⁸ Some researchers use the concept values education as an umbrella of concepts that includes moral education and citizenship education.⁸ Themes that values education can address to varying degrees are Character, moral development, spiritual development, personal, social and cultural development Another definition of value education is "learning about self and wisdom of life" in a self exploratory, systematic and scientific way through formal education.⁹ Educational institutions should focus on imparting knowledge, skill and value-based education to students to achieve total empowerment of the youth who are the future of our country. The wealth of a country is assessed on the basis of resourceful human beings that the country has rather than the physical and material wealth. Hence, the focus should be on how to convert the youth population of the country into resourceful population so that they could become the assets and not a burden on the society.¹⁰

It encourages them to empathize with people and to have a go at every day issues through values, and it is the important things in life that underpins the whole education we cover in school "Neil Balliston says that in a Values-based school, children develop a secure sense of self. They become more empowered to take responsibility for their own learning. Research shows that children develop academic diligence when they are involved with a Values-based school. They develop relational trust. They become articulate and able to talk freely and well. Through silence, quietness children can understand much more deeply their work and their lives.¹¹

From the social perspective, Values-based

Education promotes effective learning and underpins the continuous improvement of personal, social, moral and economic wellbeing. It is an investment in individual capability and self-responsibility and its product, therefore, promises significant value to society.¹²

Conclusion:

No doubt education occupies a prominent role in human life. Not to speak of spiritual life we can't even enjoy the worldly life without education. If professional knowledge develops our professional skill, the spiritual knowledge makes us achieve the supreme goal of life that is self-realization. Besides it is true that the formal school and college education can make us engineer, doctor, teacher, computer expert only. Such formal education, of course, is needed and it has its importance in our life. But it is equally remarkable that such formal education can't make us a good human being. It is education with values which can make us a good human being, divine human being and can help us achieve the supreme goal of life as well. India is badly in need of Value Based Education and Teaching System which inculcates among the young students values that they need to imbibe and embalm within them. Value based education imparts morality, integrity, character, spirituality and many more. It builds the qualities of humility, strength and honesty in a person. They become better citizens of a country. People with high ethical values will never cheat others. People are taught to co-operate with each other. They make their life happier and work hard to make others happy. Our history and mythology taught us of excellent values education. We the Indians, talk loud of our cultural heritage, we talk a lot of the characters of Ram, Krishna, Raja Harishchandra, Sita, Savitri and for that matter many more Bhuddha, Mahavir, Kavir, Ravidas, Chaitanya, Ramkrishna, Vivekananda and Ramanujan. Good that India have these great men- god heads and godly as a part of our heritage. We have not to go out anywhere to seek for ideals. We have them all in our mythology and history. But what is needed is that they be not decorations on our walls but should be a

source of enlightenment within. And how would that enlightenment come- from where and in what form?

Value-based education is the only means which can give to our young the right direction. There is need for value based Education system in India. Education system should have a holistic approach to education. Education without values no doubt can produce degree holders, doctors, engineers and so on but can it really produce enlightened human beings which considered the main motto of education. This is a million dollar question before our present education system. There is need for imparting proper values among students. A child learns a lot from the people around him. If the social environment is not good, then it becomes very difficult for him to display ethics and values in his behavior. We hear it all around that children, students are going astray. News papers report how polluted is the environment of our educational institutes. And how the students are involved in violence, drug addiction and anti discipline activities. The only way to solution of these problems is the value based education. It should be incorporated on a large scale in our present educational curriculum from primary to higher education. It has to be a part of life and life is a constant education and the process of living is a process of learning.

References:

1. <http://blog.udemy.com/education.importance>
2. theviewpaper.net/value-based-education
3. www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhrapadesh/vbe
4. Powney, J., Cullen, M-A., Schlapp, U., Johnstone, M. & Munn, P. (1995). *Understanding values education in the primary school*. York: Reports Express. p.vii
5. <http://myessaypoint.com/importance-of-education-in-our-life#ixzz43ZCf7fXl>
6. Minnis, F. (1991). Socrates for six-year-olds. Booklet accompanying the BBC

- programme of the same title. BBC, London.
7. Saterlie, M. E. (1988). 1984 and beyond: a reaffirmation of values. A report of the task force on values, education and ethical behavior of the Baltimore County Public Schools. Board of Education of Baltimore County, Towson, Maryland.
 8. Leicester, M., Modgil, C., & Modgil, S. (Eds.), *Moral education and pluralism: Education, culture and values* (Vol. 4, p.171-180). London: Farmer Press.
 9. Cheng, R. H. M., Lee, J. C. K. & Lo, L. N. K. (2006). Values education for citizens in the new century: meaning, desirability and practice. In R. H. M. Cheng, J. C. K. Lee & L. N. K. Lo (Eds.), *Values education for citizens in the new century* (pp.1-35). Sha Tin: The Chinese University Press.
 10. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/value-education
 11. timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/vbe
 12. www.valuebasededucation.com

Cite this paper as: Bhardwaj, A. (2016). Importance of Education in Human Life: a Holistic Approach. *International Journal of Science and Consciousness*; 2(2): 23- 28.