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Degradation of Moral Values among Young Generation: A Contemporary Issue in India

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Abstract

Degradation moral values among young generation are an important contemporary issue in India. Morality is about the appropriateness of goodness of what a person does, think or feel. Morality helps one to make right moral judgment and thus present morally acceptable behavior. Young generation is the driving force of a nation. But now a day youth is adversely diverted through different immoral activities like smoking, drinking, delivering abusing words, quarrelling, sex abuse etc. today's youth generation would be future citizen of India. Therefore, it is imperative and a duty of everybody to find out the solution of this crucial problem to establish India in the world of peace and harmony that is very much depends over the hand of young generation. Here the author highlights the causes, consequences along with few remedies to encounter the problem.

Keynotes: Moral values, moral judgment, immoral activities, young generation.

Introduction: Today, the degradation of moral values in our society has become an emerging issue. It is very much observed among our young generation. Indian Education system during Vedic period had given due importance to the teaching of 'Moral values' to the children. Morality is about the appropriateness of goodness of what a person does, think or feel. Morality helps one to make right moral judgment and thus present morally acceptable behavior. Morality originating from the Latin word 'moralitas' refers to "manner, character, proper behavior" which differentiates intentions, decisions, and actions between those that are good and bad. They are acceptable standard of general conduct or behavior when judged by an average person or the society at large. Morality plays a healthy synthesis between people, co-operate each other in a harmonic manner, understand the right or wrong differentiation makes a value based society. Moral values reduce social problems like unrest, social erosion, crime, separatism, class conflict, isolation, lack of well being and after all collective distance (Yadav, 2014). The different formal and non-formal agencies of education system of a nation like family, school, club, church and society etc. plays an important roles to in calculate moral values among the future generation. The child fulfill

the expected norms of the society depends on the way as he or she has been brought up by his or her first point of contact (the parents) with the world. Unfortunately, due to several social and economic factors, many families are disoriented, disorganized and confused and therefore have failed woefully to play this vital role. In past social organization of the society played responsible role in framing and implementing value based moral responsibilities. The changes in the family structure, advent of westernization, the media revolution, dirty policies etc. are speculated to have played a determining role in redefining the value systems in the Indian society.

Objectives of the study:

O₁: To know the factors affecting degradation of moral values among Indian young generation.

O₂: To know the consequences of moral degradation among Indian young generation.

O₃: To know the remedies to reduce the moral degradation among Indian young generation.

Methodology: This study is a qualitative in nature. It is a documentary study .Here the investigator collected the data from different research journals, books, websites etc.

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

O₁: To know the factors affecting degradation of moral values among Indian young generation.

Values are the principles, standards convictions and beliefs that people adopt as their guidelines in their daily activities. They are a set of consistent measures and behaviours 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 degradation of the moral value system.

There are several factors which are responsible for forgetting the basics or values of a good human being or a responsible citizen of the society among the young generation.

Parental behaviours: In the present Indian society, parents play important and dynamic role in the personality development of their children. Parental behaviour influence on their children for moral development. Today educated and non educated parents gives more concerned with their children's academic achievement than cultural, traditional and moral values. Working parents fails to inculcate 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 days parental control over their children decrease day by day, as a result of it autonomy of young generations are increasing rapidly. Consequently the youth are being diverted by external force and engage themselves in night club, rocking, unwanted discussions and so many undesirable affairs.

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.

Defective education system: Almost 70 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 incalculate 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 extra curricular activities based on moral values: Both curricular and extra-curricular activities are great important for the student's life. But now the scope 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 discussion 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.

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.

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 unfavourable atmosphere it is not surprising that youngsters do not hold high standards and personal principles.

Gender bias: It is a very important social issue in India. It is very unfortunate that at the age of 21century 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.

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 behaviour like smoking, drinking, delivering abusing words, quarrelling, sex abuse etc.

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).

O₂: To know the consequences of moral degradation among Indian young generation.

1. The future growth of any country depends on its youth. Unfortunately, youth in India is getting increasingly inclined towards violence, social evils and lack of respect towards elders & teachers which can break-down social harmony as well as national integration.
2. Creative mind of youth diverted towards unsocial activities like smoking in public place, misbehaving in class, drug addiction, misconduct in the household, juvenile delinquency and sexual abuse etc.
3. Many youths today are involved in gambling, bribery, corruption and currency offences. There is human trafficking. The most devastating aspect of human trafficking is that some of the people are used for prostitution, pornography, crime and armed conflict, hazardous child labour and ultimately domestic servants.
4. The alarming percentage of criminality and antisocial behavior increase in India with the change in social structure and individual motives. Invention of new modes of scam and frauds are being emerged which denotes that youth are tending to get more interested into easy way of attaining wealth, power and fame etc. giving least consideration to human values.
5. Social values are uprooted by commencing antisocial activities so regional movement, conflict, bias, enmity etc. take leading role over all downfall of the society.

O₃: To know the remedies to reduce the moral degradation among Indian young generation.

Some remedies to reduce the moral degradation among Indian young generations 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 inculcate into the curriculum of value education.
4. The school assembly, and extra curricular activities, the celebration of festivals of all religions, work experience, team games, subject clubs, and social service programme –all 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 younger generation of society.
9. NGOs, and other social volunteer associations have to be strengthen to coordinate youth to bring stability among them and proper planning has to be introduced and implemented accordingly to their potentialities.

Conclusion: Today we have entered into 21st century and our country is somewhere lost under the influence of western culture. Knowledge without moral 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. Moral orientation of youths 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.

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