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**Contemporary relevance of Madan Mohan Tarkalankar:  
The Worshipper of Value-based Education**

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**Abstract**

*If a man be conceived of as a tree, the values he embodies are its flowers or fruits. It goes without saying that the values [worth] of a man lies in the values he carries in his character. Needless to say, what is applicable to a man is absolutely tenable to a society he lives in. Any discussion on Value-based Education without the mention of Madan Mohan Tarkalankar is completely incomplete. He played an important role in the propagation of this Education. On top of all, whatever he preached in the nineteenth century is/should be beacon-light of our present society. Whenever we seek to follow in the footsteps of Gopal or determine to be Sushil (composed) or Subodh (gentle) we embrace the lesson taught by Madan Mohan Tarkalankar, we come to realize why honesty, truthfulness, reverence, punctuality and discipline should be given the first priority in our life. Each and every line of Sishusiksha (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> volumes) and writing about female education steeped in value Education. In this paper value education in the light of Tarkalankar's writings and works has been discussed. At the same time its present relevance has also been explored.*

**Key Words: Values, Foot-steps, Gentle, Discipline, Value education.**

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**1. Introduction:** According to swami Vivekananda Education is not the amount of information that is put into some one brain and runs their undigested all through the life. If some one have assimilated five ideas and made them life and character, he has more education than any man who has got by hearts a whole library. "The ass carrying its load of sandal woods, knows only the weight and not the value of the sandal wood". If education is identical with information the world and Encyclopedias are the Raises. In this context Swamiji pressed on values Education. According to him values education refers to the assimilation of life building, man making and character making ideas, Great man like-M.M.Tarkalankar has stressed many times on value education through his writings and it is quite relevant today.

**2. Background of the study:** Value education aiming at infusing character qualities, should be included in our National education system. Moreover nowadays, student's lack, access to human qualities and character building habits through books, teachers, parents, and elders or otherwise. So value based education is essential for students and others.

**Need of Value Education both for the person and the Society:**

- i. Value Education is an urgent requirement for character building of a student.
- ii. It is also necessary to more an ideal citizen of the country.
- iii. Moral education can only make a man capable of overtaking difficulties in personal life and make him or her successful one.
- iv. At the same time value education is helpful in making an ideal Society.
- v. It is also necessary for the development of society and culture, where men can live peacefully.
- vi. It is urgent for the people to live in a collective society as a social being.
- vii. In respect of endless deadline and degradation of humanity value education is the immediate need of our time.
- viii. In such a world where terrorism, religious fanaticism, genocide etc are common features, moral education is very important.
- ix. Social tolerance and cooperation is only possible, when there is normal and value based education.
- x. Above all, we need moral and value based education in every step to live in today's complicated life.

**Objectives of value Education:**

- i. To improve the integral growth of human being.
- ii. To increase awareness about our national history, our cultural heritage, constitutional rights, national Integration. Community development and environment.
- iii. To create attitudes and improvement towards sustainable life style.
- iv. To create and develop awareness about the values and their significant role.
- v. to know about various living and non-living organism and their interaction with environment.

**3. Objectives of the paper:** M.M. Tarkalankar is the pioneer educationist of 19<sup>th</sup> century Bengal. He wrote many books and Primers for the Education of the Children of Bengal. In this paper his writings particularly concerning value based education will be discussed. Various features of moral teachings in his writings will be investigated. His teachings were not only important in the past, even today they are extremely relevant. So, it is very much necessary to explore his works and writings in present situation. In today's world, moral Education has great importance and in that respect the teachings of the above mentioned great man is very much relevant.

**4. Methodology:** Descriptive and historical methodologies have mostly been adapted to elaborate the writing.

**5. Short life history of Sri M. M. Tarkalankar:** Madan Mohan Tarkalankar was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> January in 1817 in Bilwagram in the district of Nadia. He had started his education at Sanskrit college where Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar was his classmate. After completion of education he served in Sanskrit college and Fourt William College as a teacher. Then he joined as Judge Pundit in Murshidabad. Finally he became the deputy Magistrate in the sub-Division of Kandi in the District of Murshidabad. He died of cholera in 1858.



**Born: 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 1817    Died: 9<sup>th</sup> March, 1858**

**Photo Curtsey::** Madan Mohan Tarkalankar Smriti Raksha Committee, Bilwagram, Nadia.

**6. Instances of Value Education from his writings:** Modan Mohan Tarkalankar wrote three books for the Education of learners-“sishusiksha in 1849, 1, 2 and 3 volumes.

In volume 1 he has just given Ideas about Bengali letters and Alphabets and included some rhymes. In such a rhymes he has given some unique messages:

*Only educated person can avail cars.*

*Every one obeys Scholars.*

*Each and everyone should obey and serve their parents and elders.*

লেখা পড়া করে যেই

গাড়ি ঘোড়া চড়ে সেই।

লেখাপড়া যেই জানে।

সবলোকে তারে মানে।

পিতামাতা গুরুজনে।

সেবা কর কায় মনে।।

In his widely known “Prabhat Barnan” he gave some advice to child learners about making good habits, he advised them to wake up early and perform their duties.

পাখী সব করে রব রাতি পোহাইল।  
কাননে কুসুম কলি সকলি ফুটিল।।

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উঠ শিশু মুখ ধোও পর নিজ বেশ।  
আপন পাঠেতে মন করহ নিবেশ।।

## Volume-1

Along with many grammatical examples, he has introduced many sentences of great values. In these sentences he has given messages to the learners, which have great moral values.

As example- “Evil works cause bad reputation”  
[কুকাজ করলে অখ্যাতি হয়]

“Disorder calls decay”  
[অনিয়মের রাজ্য নাহি রয়]

“Obey your parents”  
[পিতামাতার অবাধ্য হইও না]

Always follows honesty”  
[সদা ন্যায়পথে চলা উচিত ]

Lying is very bad”  
[মিথ্যা কথা বড় দোষ]

“Education is great wealth”  
[বিদ্যাধন পরমধন]

There is only one monk among thousand”  
[সহস্রের মধ্যে একজন সাধু হয়]

“True friend is very rare”  
[যথার্থ মিত্র অতি দুর্বল]

“There are many friends in good times”  
[সম্পদকালে অনেক আত্মীয় মেলে]

Escapist are coward”

[বিপদে বিষণ্ণ হওয়া কাপুরুষের লক্ষণ]

“Try to keep your promise”

[কদাচ যেন ব্যাকের স্বলন হয় না]

“Those who tries become successful”

[যত্ন করিলেই সকল সফল হয়]

“ Inferior are busy for their own interest”

[অধমেরা আত্মসুখে রত থাকে]

Help the needy”

[আর্তজনে দয়া করা কর্তব্য]

“Cruel are like beast”

[নির্দয় লোক পশুর সমান]

“Do not believe the dishonest person”

[কুজনের কথায় নির্ভর করিলে দুঃখ ঘটে]

Do not Quarrel with others

[কাহার সহিত দ্বন্দ্ব করিওনা]

“Women must be educated”

[স্ত্রী লোকের বিদ্যাশিক্ষা করা আবশ্যিক]

### **Shishusikha Volume 3:**

In part 3, he has introduced many stories with a moral message to the learner.

i. In a story he tells about a good boy who obeys his parents and does his duties sincerely. The writer called him “Sushil”. The message of the story is –everyone loves the good boy.

ii. On the contrary those boys who disobey their parents, don't do their studies are called Wicked boy .No one like such baby, as a result they have to face difficulties throughout their lives. The message of the story is—“No one likes the wicked boy.”

iii. Gopal is a student. One day he saw a Necklace and brought it to her mother. He felt sorrows that have left it. Next day he hands over it to his teacher and ultimately the owner of the Necklace got it. Every one praise Gopal for his honesty. The message of the story is—don't be greedy.

iv. In a story, two brothers Ram and Shyam do their works properly and collectively. They share everything and live peacefully with their parents. They do not quarrel each other. Certainly their behavior makes their parents happy. Good boys love every one equally—is the message of this story.

v. In another story, Rakhal, a little boy expressed his sympathy about the blind beggar in front of their door. He urged to his mother to help the beggar with clothes and money. The beggar wished him good luck in return. "Help the blind man."—is the message of the story.

vi. Some wicked boys collect birds from the banyan tree and play cruelly with their lives. After enjoying they throw them out and dogs, cats and other animals consume the birds. Day by day they do the same. For that no one likes them. On the other hand, elders criticized them and compare them with the wild animals.

Moral: Cruelty is inhuman.

vii. When a man or a boy lies, no one can believe him. Even his parents, friends and relatives can't believe them. Every body hates them. Krishnadas a cowboy had a habit to go near the forest with his cows and goats. It was like a daily routine .One day he started shouting and said,"Save me, save me, the tiger has attacked." Villagers came to help him; soon after they felt that the boy was joking. They rebuked him and returned to their village. One day the tiger really attacked him, but no one responded. Thus he became the victim of his own bad habit.

Moral: To lie is sin.

viii. Once a boy lived a village. He was intelligent also. But he had a bad habit of stealing everything. He had a habit to steal pen, paper, coin, pencil etc. from his friend's bag. But his parents did not make him alert not to do so. One day he stole a Necklace from jeweler's shop. As a result he was convicted and sent to jail. He was forced to live a miserable life there.

Moral: "stealing is very bad."

ix. Ants and honey bees are industrious. They don't waste their time. Ants are little in size but not idle. Always they are busy. If they find some food grains, they collectively go there and collect to bring them to their home. They save it for the future. Honey bees also do the same from dawn to dusk, they collect honey from flowers. Even when they come to home, they invest their efforts to make their hives more strong and beautiful.

Moral: Effort is the key to success.

x. The crane brings up its chicks with much care. It does not leave its chicks until they are capable of procuring their own food. The crane brings them out of the nest and teaches them how to fly. It carries them its wings if they are unable to fly. The crane also brings them on the bank of the river and shows them frogs and tadpoles as their foods .They do not allow them to consume those frogs which may give them travel.

When the city of Delt was under fire a mother crane tried to escape with its chicks but. This was because the chicks were so small that they could not fly with her and ultimately the mother crane was burnt to death along with the chicks. The cranes rare up their chicks over coming all adverse condition even at the risk of their lives. The chicks do not forget it

when they grow up. When they get old, the children cranes carry them on their back to distant places.

Moral: We should have respect and admiration towards our parents and try to do away all their miseries and sufferings.

xi. Once a man had a pet dog that was very loyal to him .The dog remain with his master whenever he went. He used to guard his treasure with much care. One day the man left behind a sack of treasure under the custody of his pet dog. The pet dog sat beside the sack of treasure at the absent of his master. In the meantime a car arrived on this spot and signaled the dog to move away but the dog did not. The driver got down from the car began to bit the dog but the dog did not move away leaving the sack of treasure. So the driver ran his car over the dog and crushed it to death.

Moral: - The dog is always faithful to his master.

xii. If every person show kindness to the poor and disabled and kept away from envy, hearted etc. the society will be happier place to live. If he does not get involved in anger and greed and follows the path of honesty and sincerity he will be able to make this world a happier one. If anyone does not hate other or try to malign others, he can make this earth free from wars which shed blood. All these make each and every person happy and prosperous.

Moral: religious persons are the pride of the world.

**7. Concluding Observation:** Sishusiksha, vol.-1, 2 & 3 were published from 1849 to 1853. Soon it became very popular. It is rightly said that M M Tarkalankar had brought “Rationality and Modernity” in place of traditional and middle-aged mentality. He gave priority to justification in place of custom, and values in place of rituals. He simplified the process of learning for the children. He arranged the vowel first and then consonant. Then he introduced the process of word and sentence making.

These texts were full with different branches of knowledge. There are some things about the nature, the animal world, language and rethoric, world of sciences and even with moral education. Though the matter of moral education in children books of that time was nothing new. Actually it was started from the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Moral education came into being in Sishusiksha-1 gradually. There are different types of sentences –affirmative, negative, imperative etc. some are filled with moral messages –

- a> If you depend on other help, you will lose your prestige.
- b> If you lose your prestige, you will be hacked.
- c> Over eating invites diseases.
- d> Read the books, prepare lessons.
- e> Do not be idle.
- f> Obey your father, help your mother.

In the last two lines of the widely known poem “Prabhat Barnan”, we can see the presence of moral advices clearly. In these lines learners have been advised to rise early and start their own task.

## **Volume-2**

In the introduction the writer said that with example of the each compound letter a sentence with moral values has been added. Through these sentences he added some moral advices to the children. Such as don't speak rudely (কটুবাক্য নাহি কবে), evil work causes bad reputation (কুকাঙ্গে অখ্যাতি হবে), to lie is sin (অসত্য পাপের চর), don't be complicated (বক্রভাবে ভালো নয়) a modest man is respected everywhere (নম্রলোক পায় মান) Foolish person knows no limit (মূঢ় এর দিকবিদিক বোধ নাই), Greed causes decline(লোভ অনর্থের মূল) etc

In the introduction of the 3<sup>rd</sup> part of Sishuskisha Sri Tarkalankar said” In this part various proposal about modern education have been included boldly.” In this book Tarkalankar narrated different stories about the nature, animal and human being. In these above mentioned stories he analyzed the variety of subject. He added moral messages with these stories. Even today, these advices are relevant for the growth and development of our child.

Actually we can see to propagate the moral values of advices in Tarkalankar's Sishusiksha. One for the personal development of the child. Such as- making good habit, character building, good behavior etc. The other part has social dimension. These moral values have stressed to build up the social values of the learner, which are inevitable for the growth and development of the child and for his society.

He took great initiative in case of female education. Female child were not allowed to join school or colleges at that time. In such a situation M.M. Tarkalankar sent his two daughters—Kundamala and Bhubanmala to join as students in the Calcutta female school established by Mr. Bethune in 1849. Certainly it was a revolutionary step in those days. It proves that not only by writings but also in real life he stressed on morality and value education.

In the case of widow re-marriage his role was praiseworthy. He took an important role to make it reality along with his friend Vidyasagar. He had supported /stood firmly beside Sirish Chandra vidyaratna who was the first man to marry the widow Kalimati.

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