

Value-Based Education and Its implementation in Neplease Education System

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Abstract

The elements of a value-based education can be found not only in the subject matter, but in the learning styles, scheduling of the classroom, extra-curricular activities, and parental involvement. VBE is therefore organized so as to secure the fullest possible development of body, mind and heart; and a fruitful channelization of the life-energy in pursuits of growth of both internal and external personality. It offers a sufficient training of the mental faculties in the fields of various humanities and social sciences. It ultimately provides the requisite help through a powerful spiritual atmosphere, for the soul to come forward and gradually begin to govern a balanced, peaceful and spiritually awakened life. Therefore, the value based-education is instrumental to unfold and nurture the ideals of life. Education that does not help promote human virtues will not do any good to the society; it will rather mislead the entirety of humanity. So, value based education plays a vital role to achieve the required national goal, level wise objective, parental expectation as well as children's timely need. For these purpose, VBE and its training should be directly included in national curriculum, training curriculum as well as text book, teacher guide, training packages, newsletter, journal and other academic and professional development programmes.

Introduction

General education opens up our mind, but Value-Based Education (VBE here after) gives us purity of heart too. General education provides us with skills, but VBE provides us sincerity. General education extends our relationship with the world, but VBE links us with our own family members. General education makes our living better, but the VBE makes our life better too. General education teaches us to compete with others, but VBE encourages us to be complete. General education makes us a good professional, but VBE makes us a whole human. General education takes us to the top, but VBE takes the whole society to the top. General education gives us capacity of better learning, but VBE gives us the tool for a deeper understanding too. General education gives us *Anna* but VBE provides us *Bastavik Ananda*; general education may bring limitations but the VBE is for liberation. After all, right education means- "*Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktaye*" (*real peace*). It means that *knowledge* is what helps us to attain liberation.

We, the people of South Asia are very rich in value education. Our great and good past people had developed high level of value based education. Here are some statements which may help to understand something about VBE (Value Based Education).

- (a) *"The real difficulty is that people have no idea of what education truly is. We assess the value of education in the same manner as we assess the value of land or of shares in the stock-exchange market. We want to provide only such education as would enable the student to earn more. We hardly give any thought to the improvement of the character of the educated. The girls, we say, do not have to earn; so why should they be educated? As long as such ideas persist, there is no hope of our ever knowing the*

true value of education".-**Mahatma Gandhi**

- (b) "There is a part of a child's soul that has always been unknown but which must be known. With a spirit of sacrifice and enthusiasm we must go in search like those who travel to foreign lands and tear up mountains in their search for hidden gold. This is what the adults must do who seek the unknown factor that lies hidden in the depth of a child's soul. This is a labor in which all must share, without distinction of nation, race, or social standing since it means the bringing forth of an indispensable element for the moral progress of mankind." - **Maria Montessori**
- (c) "The kind of seed sown will produce that kind of fruit. Those who do good will reap good results. Those who do evil will reap evil results. If you carefully plant a good seed, you will joyfully gather good fruit." - **Dhammapada**
- (d) Teach this triple truth to all: A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity.
- (e) "No one has yet realized the wealth of sympathy, the kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure." - **Emma Goldman**
- (f) "The central task of education is to implant a will and facility for learning; it should produce not learned but learning people. The truly human society is a learning society, where grandparents, parents, and children are students together." - **Eric Hoffer**
- (g) "We have an obligation and a responsibility to be investing in our students and our schools. We must make sure that people who have the grades, the desire and the will, but not the money, can still get the best education possible." - **Barack Obama**
- (h) "Tat Viddhi Pranipaten Pariprasnena Sevaya, Upadekshyanti Te Gyanam Gyanins-tatwadarsinh" (Know the ultimate reality by being close to the wisest people; to attain knowledge from them be very humble, ask questions sincerely and serve these great masters with high respect.) - **The Geeta**
- (i) "Ati Sundar Manav Jeevan Yo, Ajha Sundar Parnu Kaso Gari Ho
Gari karya Sudha Raspaan Are, Gara Manav Jeevan Sarthak Re"! - **Dharani Dhar Koirala**

Need of VBE

VBE is highly needed in our modern society because our life is becoming more miserable. The quantity of education has considerably increased, but the quality has decreased. Why ? the number of educated people has reached at a high level, but murder, hatred, and selfishness have spread out like wildfire everywhere. Why ? many institutions are opened, but only few civilized people are produced. Why ? degrees are available for all, but the dignity has gone down. Why? trained people are produced from many institutions, but sincere people are very few. Why? many books are written; much research is done; many professional achievements are attained, but humanity is threatened. Why? therefore, we need VBE.

The rate of suicide is going up in our society day by day. One of the very common factors responsible for this is over pressure on students to get high marks in their exams. It is happening due to the result of unhealthy and unethical competition. Similarly, it is not only limited to a school level education, several suicide cases are taking place even at the top level of academic institutions worldwide. The highest purpose of education is now either disregarded or may be forgotten. The Vedas say - "Etat Desh Prasutasya Sakasat

Agrajanman, Swam Swam Charitram Shiksheran Prithivyam Sarva Manava..." It means that people who are born in this part of the earth should enlighten the entire world by presenting the example of their own character.

History of the VBE in

The history of 's education is not so old; it may go back around 100 years only. In addition, it was mainly influenced by the Indian education system. In the past, most of the educators were brought from in , mainly. And, only a few wealthy people from the upper class community had access to the opportunity of getting education from the Indian educators.

According to the past history of 's education system, it was basically based on the *Gurukul* system. Balaguru Shadananda, Swargadwari Mahaprabhu, Galeshwar Baba, Saint Gyandildas etc. offered several contributions to the *Gurukul* system in . Beside this, there was not any formal education system in. Similarly, many other *Pandits* and *Gurus* also provided *Gurukul* based education in the local communities as per their proficiency level.

During the *Rana* regime, it was quite strict to achieve education for ordinary citizens. Even at the time of such a fearful regime, *Gurukul* based education system was available formally or informally at the local level. Indeed, this system had also contributed to preserve our culture and tradition supporting the light of *Vidya*.

Universal value of education

Education is not only for news but also for views; it is not only for information but also for inspiration; it is not only educating but also enlightening. It is quite an integrated process. An educated person should have all kind of qualities. Education and training should make every individual capable physically, mentally, intellectually, emotionally, socially, creatively and spiritually. Therefore, some universal values ideals of “**love, peace, respect, tolerance, forgiveness, co-existence and non-violence**” should be accepted by all the educators worldwide. Theses values are truly indispensable, devoid of which, our society cannot sustain itself and people will forget humanity. And, we can easily imagine the future ahead and fore-see what our future will be like. No matter what our religious beliefs are, what our practices are, but there are ultimate goals which one has to achieve in life. Everyone always aspires to love, peace and happiness, and that includes a spiritually balanced life. Even a person who may not be spiritual should also believe and practice the ideals of love, peace, tolerance and service.

National and Cultural Values

One should recognize his/her nation and culture. Knowing about the world is quite good, but knowing about our own culture, history and traditions is more important. How can education cut off us from our own roots ? How can education impart only information but give no positive feelings for our own country ? Education which cannot develop any respect and love for our own family, society, country and humanity will produce selfish individuals, and selfish people can be violent and dangerous for humankind. Therefore, we need VBE which can impart a true, scientific, holistic and positive knowledge of culture, tradition, society and spirituality. In 's perspective, VBE can include festivals, *Sanskaras*, family systems, art, language, music, life style, diversity in unity, local archeology, temples, *Gumbs* and *Bihars*.

Through value-based education and training, we can flourish the eternal truth like “*Sarba Dharma Sambhab*”. Equal respect towards all the great world religions and faiths is the dire

need of the today's world. This will help eliminate all forms of discriminations prevailing in our society. Value-based education provides a strong foundation for getting rid of century-old discriminations based on language, caste, gender, class, region and religion. The society will then be harmonious.

International Practices of the VBE

The realization of VBE has become quite strong in last few decades on a global level. The negative forces like selfishness, hatred, terrorism, individualism, violence, intolerance, etc. have now become day-to-day problems in the world. The phenomena such as family breakdown, increasing of negative attitude and spread of health hazards like drugs and HIV/AIDS seem to be escalating worldwide, which have now terrified humanity. These are, of course, very threatening challenges to the peaceful existence of humankind. It seems that our future is dismayed and horrified now not because of anything else other than our own deeds, achievements and productions. However, some good activities and practices for the promotion of the VBE are going on all around the world. Some of the famous institutions working for the VBE are - The —, —, Brisbane Independent School-Australia, Brockwood Park Educational Centre-UK, Democratic School of Hedera -Israel, Hope Flowers Secondary School- Palestine, Osho Ko Hsuan School-UK, Shanti Niketan- India, School of Thinking, School of Total Education, Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education-India, Rishi Valley School-India, Robert Muller Centre for Living Ethics-UN, School of Philosophy-UK, Alternative Education Resource Organization (AERO), International Democratic Education Conference (IDEC) etc.

Implementation VBE

Talking about VBE is quite an easy job, but implementing it is a daunting task, which needs the strongest determination. Presently, 's education means just achieving around 80 % in academic exams and then going abroad in the name of further education. Actually, unless we can create a very healthy and pleasant educational environment, VBE cannot be implemented at academic institutions. First of all, we should all fully agree that without VBE we cannot have a safe society, a developed country and a harmonious family environment. Therefore, we need to find out some practical ways to apply VBE, e.g. starting VBE from junior classes, developing a strong commitment of all academic institutions, encouraging parents for their persistent support, producing more trained, dedicated and teachers, trainers, educators, students and volunteers establishing supportive administrative teams and so on. A well organized library equipped with relevant reference books and audio-visual cassettes of course helps as an additional and supportive means and resource to inculcate the value based education in the children.

Method of Teaching VBE

General education can be transferred, but VBE should be transformed. VBE is more teacher-based than text books. It is more awakening, not only informing. It is life-oriented, not exam-oriented. Therefore, we need to create a special environment in institutions to transform VBE in students. First of all, we need trained, committed and spiritually motivated teachers for VBE. The pedagogical methods for implementing VBE may be stories, poems, prayers, songs, *mantras* and *bhajans*. Similarly, special camps can be organized. Likewise, special *Satsangas* can be helpful. It is apparent that all the festivals hold several values such as environmental, social, scientific and spiritual. It is therefore imperative to

integrate festivals into teaching /learning process so as to make children realize importance and values of the festivals. The whole process should be very peaceful, harmonious and motivational. One should get answers by asking himself or herself. The whole environment should be free from stress, fear and confusion. Extreme materialistic attachment has made our life very narrow; therefore, one should be able to open up the mind and heart freely and infinitely. Actually, VBE does not require any set text books; rather than that, the whole institution should be based on VBE. It should be applied through various methods in order that everyone can understand it and follow it automatically and positively.

Practices of VBE in

Although it is quite challenging to apply VBE at present in , a few schools and colleges have been working on the promotion and implementation of VBE formally or informally. A few major obstacles to the application of VBE are lack of good governance, unhealthy education environments, pressure of private money-making institutions, and unstable political situations. However, few institutions are coming up slowly with a deep realization of VBE. At present in Nepal, some educational institutions namely Hindu Viddya Pith (HVP) Nepal, Sai Education foundation, Chetana Vidyashram, Alok Vidyashram, Budhaneelkantha Ashram school, DAV, , Pranavananda Ashram school, St. Xavier's, St. Mary's, etc. seem to be working towards this direction. Perhaps these institutions might be struggling with several constrains. Nevertheless, they are working determinedly for the promotion and application of VBE at their level.

Informal Contribution for VBE in

There are many other institutions in which are working informally for VBE. These institutions are still not recognized or noticed by the government, but their contribution for VBE at the local level is really praiseworthy. On the one hand, the private schools are selling the dreams of going abroad; and on the other hand, the government schools, with highly politically-motivated teachers, are good for nothing and are the centers for the slogans of political parties. Who will then take the responsibility for VBE? Therefore, some institutions have come up with a strong zeal for saving and implementing the VBE. They are committed to promoting the ancient *Gurukul* education system through informal packages even in this modern materialistic time. These institutions are Satya Sai Bal Viakas Kendra, Bal Vihar of Chinmaya Mission, Children's Study Club of Shanti Sewa Ashram, Centers of Om Shanti, Krishna Pranami Sewa Samiti, Art of Living, Gayatri Pariwar, etc. They have been working constantly for VBE to restore values in society and impart good lessons of humanity.

Consequences of the Current Education System in

The present Education system of has, no doubt, produced a number of students. Similarly, many challenging and competitive subjects have been introduced that have increased the level of education. Many demanding subjects are now taught in; many good and competitive universities and colleges are now formally established in different parts of the country. This is what we can regard as good future. Nonetheless, the main question about VBE is still not addressed by any modern universities, colleges and schools. Why is such an essential and fundamental education ignored? Is it because parents are uninterested or because of unhealthy financial competition amongst academic institutions? Is it because the government does not have any policy, guidance and control ? Therefore, modern

education is producing more selfish youths. Brain drain is massively increasing; negativity is expressed at every level. Violence, hatred, crime and enmity are now like common problems; civic sense is disregarded at every level; human rights are completely violated. Social and cultural values are forgotten and love for nation and nationality sounds like a joke. So, the big question is here– "where are we heading to?"

Likewise, the present political situation in Nepal has damaged the spirit and sensitivity of VBE. Everyday activities such as strike, destruction etc. have formed very negative attitudes in the mind of our children. Truly speaking, they do not see any future in their country. They are grown with despair and hopelessness and are raised with the pollution of burning tyres.

Commitment and the way forward

It is quite essential to take necessary steps for VBE on time. Just patching up problems will not ensure us a safe and peaceful future. We have realized very clearly that brain drain is a serious problem for. Violence has now reached even our personal life. Frustration amongst youths is very common, and negativity and suicide are now common. The family system is getting weaker day by day; the children are crazy for violent movies. The cases of sexual harassments are increasing. So, the government should take bold steps; educators should come forward with very pure hearts and intentions; schools and colleges should work on it collectively; parents must decide now what they want for their children and we should know what we hope from our own children.

Conclusion

There is a famous saying : "better late than never". So, we must start now. Educators worldwide are now quite worried; therefore they have started various packages and discussions at their level. Names could be any- Holistic Approach to Education, Global Education, Democratic Education and Home Schooling System (USA), Alternative Education etc. They are all working for VBE directly or indirectly, formally or informally. So, we must awake and work now. It will also be helpful to establish the concept of New , if we foster VBE. In fact, the bright future of our nation depends on the children as there is a saying : "If you plan for one year, plant rice. If you plan for ten years, plant trees. If you plan for 100 years, educate children". Our ancestors gave us the highest message of VBE - "*Satyam Gyanam Anantam Brahman*". Therefore, after the completion of education at *Gurukul*, the *Gurus* finally used to sermonize their students in the graduation ceremony - *Satyam Vad, Dharmam Char, Swadhyayan-ma Pramad, Matridevo Bhav, Pitridevo Bhav, Aachryadevo Bhav* etc. Consequently, the time has again come to revive and restore our ancient knowledge based on VBE in this modern age without being biased, extremist, prejudiced and orthodox. It is only ancient knowledge and *Vidya* which will change the attitudes of our children making them complete human beings. And, in return they will change the entire human society.

"Vidya Dadati Vinyam, Vinayat Yati Patratam; Patratwat Dhanama-pnoti, Dhanat Dharma Tat Sukham"

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