

# Degradation of Values and Its Impact on Society

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For a holistic development of each and every human being in all spheres—physical, mental, psychic and spiritual, one needs a peaceful atmosphere. Science and technology have made our life easier, comfortable and charming but whole mankind is suffering from bareness of values. In order to save our culture and humanity from erosion, we must inculcate values of life inherent in the message of our culture. Values elevate human life to its highest expression, its highest capacity. Values are the standards to judge the right or wrong, good or bad, just or unjust. They are what we use to guide our interactions with others, with our friends and family, in our business and professional behaviour. Values are those characteristics in human beings that provide them motivation and guidance throughout their lives. All great civilizations have been built on the edifice of certain fundamental human values namely honesty, piety and justice. Our culture is changing under the impact of modern age. New values are coming up; the age old customs, values, tradition are breaking down. Everybody has accepted by now that change is unavoidable, change is necessary in life to keep us moving, to keep us growing. We can say that certain changes in culture are taking place due to demand of the situation. But the change we see in moral values in people is not positive but negative. Humanity and morality are two sides of same coin because individual without morality no longer a true human being but a beast. Ethics are primarily to help a person to live a just and righteous life. Crisis of value is affecting an individual, group, community, or the whole society.

House is the first learning environment for the child and parents

are the first teacher who make maximum impact on the personality of the child in the formative years of life, which remains all through the life. But in these days, quest for more money and better living, parents have to work longer and harder, spending lots of time in office and workplace. Consequently they have not much time to spend with their family especially with their children. So the present generation of children is very much unaware of their own culture. Nowadays, parents impose their desire and dreams on their children. Consequently mental stress rises exponentially leading to the act of suicide and state of depression. Every child is special. Every child has a special talent. So parent should provide care, love and help in enhancing their mental strength so that their confidence in themselves will increase. Parents should not force but rather encourage them because they are the future of our country. Realizing the need and importance of value, family should impart value to its members, so that it will help them to think right, to feel right kind of emotions and to act in the desirable manner.

Today our society is seeing a terrible amount of lack of value and it is due to the change of the lifestyle of people. We cannot say that modernization destroy our values. It is true that we can notice certain changes in our values but this is not in negative direction only. Some changes are beneficial for our society and culture and some others are dangerous. Few centuries ago "Sati Pratha" was abolished and widow remarriage was approved. These changes were the major achievement of Indian society. Now, a girl of our country is no more restricted to home and a woman to a housewife. Girls are getting opportunities for their better education and life style, same as the boys. These changes are empowering our girls and woman. In case of marriage, the changes are visible. Nowadays younger generation choose their life partner themselves, so younger generation has freedom of choice in contrast with the old culture of Indian society. Freedom is necessary but it should be in a limit. The younger generation is crazy about being modern and in their journey of modernization they are more attracted towards western culture. Regarding this they have accepted some freaky ideas of western culture. Why should one imitate western culture for bad things? We should take good things from western culture, their work culture, their dignity of labour etc, not

pub culture. Modernization is necessary but it should be in a way so that we are able to preserve our own culture and values.

Although the country has made rapid progress in various areas like scientific technology, economic infrastructure etc. but its value system has declined. This trend of decline in human values does not only pose serious threat to the future course of development of the country but even for its survival and respect. Modern value crisis is mainly due to the excessive overplaying of the importance of material values of life and consequent downplaying of other values like the moral, aesthetic and spiritual. The process of Modernization, Westernization and Materialism is eroding the core of human values. No one is talking about the duties and responsibilities of individuals and groups, towards each other and towards the collective whole. For example, in medical ethics a doctor should do his best to do good for the patient. A good and noble profession where one really requires the trust of people has been turned into a business. Again farmers use chemical fertilizer and pesticide excessively to grow more crops in a shorter time period which is dangerous to the environment as well as health of living beings. The world today is over-exploiting all natural resources without bothering about the own future generations. Deforestation, water and air pollution, excessive use of natural fuels and other resources is result of the human greed. Profit is given priority over conscience. Similarly, the rising rate of cheating and unfair means is seen among students in examination due to parental expectation, academic record or better grade and future employment. With time, definition of professionalism, emotion, respect, values all have changed and are changing so fast. With a few exceptions, people now run after name, fame and fortune without giving any thought to right or wrong, good or evil, moral or immoral. But humans are blessed with brain to think better. Therefore, we should realize that our prosperity lies in living in harmony with each other. In fact both at personal as well as social life, the human values of truth, non-violence, love, fellow feeling, justice and honesty appear to be fast disappearing and are being replaced by corruption, favoritism, injustice, thirst and greed for power and money. We are at a transition time during which it is essential that the values are maintained and nurtured. These values influence our thoughts and actions and motivate us to progress on

a right path. These values contribute towards all round development of society and the country. Values are guiding principles that shape our world outlook, attitudes and conduct. The impact of moral crisis is not only witnessed but also experienced by everyone everywhere. We can see the alarming degradation of moral values among people. Today's society is running towards material contentment and in doing so it has started losing the human values. Honest people are now pushed to the wall. Simplicity and etiquette were thing of the past. There is erosion of social, moral, cultural, economic, political values at all level. The erosion of values has led to spread of selfishness, unlimited greed, corruption, violence, frustration and crisis of character. We ourselves are to be blamed for this. Our existing environment including family system, education system and media including newspaper, T.V. etc. is presenting a skewed picture and misguided priorities. Today, education has a very limited purpose for the students. Their only aim is to get good marks in the examinations and to use their marks sheets for getting good jobs. They get mere bookish knowledge required for passing the examination and do not develop any value for upliftment of the society. Modern human society seems to be valued on the basis of material things and its position. Society respect those people who have money and power, but show least concern for his moral character. From all these, today's generation get the impression that money is everything. Again when we see the parents, they are also neglecting their responsibility of developing right attitudes and behaviour in their children. Parents give more importance only to their academic achievements-good marks so that their children get admission in a reputed college and finally good job and handsome salary. Our media and the cinema too are always presenting us the stories which show that men with values are suffering in life. Children are now exposed to so much information which in many ways have molested them of their innocence and have deprived them of a pure and healthy childhood. Politicians, who are the ruler and law makers, are always in breaking news for their involvement in various scam and scandals. Everything is polluted, so youth is increasingly getting inclined towards violence, social evil and lack of respect towards would around them. Their respect for teachers, parents, and society in general is vanishing. In such an environment, from where will one get the inspiration for

developing values? No one is caring to teach the excellence of Indian Culture and spirituality. If the society is to be saved from these degenerating tendencies, we should promote value based education to build character in children through spiritual, moral and ethical values. We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, heart is mellowed, intellect is expanded and one acquires an integrated personality because our hope lies in the proper upbringing of the youth. In past 10-15 years, our culture has changed a lot. These changes were very much necessary. Indian culture has an immense power to incorporate changes, keeping its other values intact. With technologies spreading all over the globe, we can learn different methodologies and cultures from different parts of the world. We should incorporate them in our culture too, but in a civilized way so that we can also preserve our own culture. Traditional values are to be preserved with add on values from modern experience. But we should no forget our rich cultural heritage, tradition and values. We should pay respect to our values with reasonable modifications in them.

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