

Importance of Universal Human Values for Human Life: A Study

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Abstract - The human values are the virtues that guide us to take into account the human element when we interact with other human beings. Human values are acceptance, appreciation, openness, empathy, respect, consideration, listening, affection and love towards other human being. These values are necessity in today's society and education system. These values provide a meaning to the life of a human being. Usually, people become lazy and dull after being successful in this materialistic world, but if they have values, they would always have a purpose and guide in their life. Values are needed to teach the children from the early age at school. This will help them to lead a peaceful and harmonious life which is free from evils. Hence, the aim of this paper is to highlight the important of universal human value in human life and how the theories on values are given by different researchers.

Keywords: Importance, Universal, Human Values, Human Life

I. INTRODUCTION

Values act as representatives for human beings. We bring these values at every place where we go, including the place where we work. At the same time, the people at workplace influence us, with their values and attitudes. We find that different groups working at workplace, such as age and occupational groups have different values and attitudes toward their work [1]. A particular value may be very essential to one person from one's perspective but unimportant to another from his/her perspective. We find many circumstances that at all workplace workers show their knowledge differently, and we see that co-workers may have different attitudes towards organizational changes. These values work same for all human beings in the universe that's why these values called as Universal Human Values. When we think of our values, we think basic values which are important to us in our lives i.e., security, kindness, pleasure, independence, wisdom, success [2]. One person can hold different values according to their level.

Human values direct us to take action when we interact with other human beings of different age. Some examples of human values are: - honesty, integrity, respect, empathy, affection, acceptance etc. [3]. Values are additive and we go on adding values in life. But one must be able to distinguish between the good and bad ones [4]. Adding one negative value may cancel out our two positive values. Thus, the positive values show the standard an individual what should it have been. For example, it is rightly said that "Life is not

a bed of roses nor, it is like a sailing through the ocean and safely reaching the shore". We have to face many ups and downs in life [5]. A person with positive values does not get discourage even during his bad times. "Patience" and "Hope" are mainly two positive values. Just because of these values we see light even in darkness. Universal Values also play a vital role in deontological ethics (duty-based ethic) and teleological or consequentialist (consequence or result based) moral theories [6]. Figure 1 shows that how values work in everyone's life.

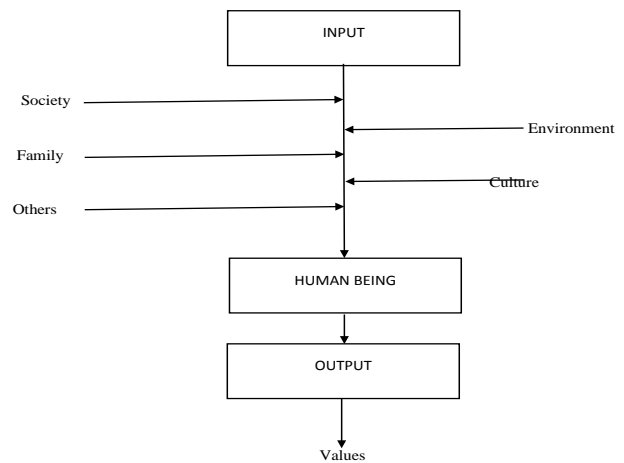


Fig. 1 How Values work? [6]

If good efforts are inputted in an human being by society, environment, family, culture or others, it result to values which help the human being for better living.

II. VALUES THEORIES

A. Rokeach's Theory

Milton Rokeach was a psychologist who set a model of belief system to classify beliefs, attitudes and values clearly. He claimed that all people own the same number of values to different degrees and the total number of values a person possesses is relatively small [7]. He organized the values in terms of importance.

He operationalized values as modes of conduct and end-states as

1. Instrumental, and
2. Terminal values [8].

B. Rokeach Value Survey (RVS)

RVS is an instrument designed for rank ordering scaling of 36 values, including 18 terminals and 18 instrumental values [9].

1. Instrumental Values

Instrumental values were further divided into two categories on the basis of mode of their conduct as

i. Moral Values: Modes of conduct are interpersonal.
Example: Forgiveness, Helpfulness.

ii. Competence Values: Modes of conduct are intrapersonal.
Example: Logic, Imagination [10].



Fig. 2 Instrumental values [9]

2. Terminal Values

Terminal values were also classified as personal and social values on the basis of end-states.

i. Personal Values: Self-centered end-states.
Example: Self-respect and inner harmony.

ii. Social Values: Socially-centered end-states.
Example: Equality, a world of peace [10].



Fig. 3 Terminal values [9]

Rokeach’s value survey was considered convinced towards Western values and narrow in number of dimensions assessed [10].

C. Hofstede’s Cultural Dimensions

Gerard Hendrik Hofstede was a Dutch social psychologist who compared cultural groups using quantitative measurement of values and derived four cultural-level dimensions from a study of one corporation with branches in 40 countries. These dimensions have been frequently used in organization research. These dimensions were

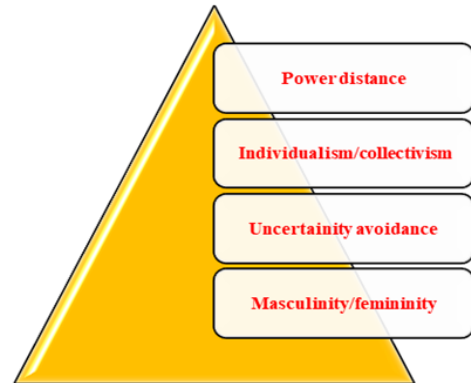


Fig. 4 Hofstede cultural-level dimensions [11]

1. **Power Distance:** It is the extent, to which a person considers, the inequality normal. Having close supervision, fear of disagreement with a supervisor, and lack of trust with co-workers symbolizes the manifesting in high-power distance cultures than in low-power distance cultures [11].
2. **Uncertainty Avoidance:** It points to the extent to which structured situations are preferred over unstructured ones [12].
3. **Individualism:** It is the extent to which the individual identity is preferred by a person rather than as member of group. In individual cultures, a person is expected to look after himself and is family [13].
4. **Masculinity:** It considers things, assertiveness and power whereas in femininity people, quality of life, cultivation and care are considered more [13].

D. Schwartz’s and Bilsky’s Early Research

According to Schwartz along with Bilsky defined values

1. Are belief or concept,
2. Pertaining to modes of contact or desirable end states, that
3. Transcends specific situations,
4. Guides selection or evaluation of people, behavior and events, and
5. Are ordered by importance relative to other values to form a system of value priorities [14].

They proposed seven distinct motivational types of values. They also identified the dynamic relationships among these values [15]. The values are

1. Pro-social
2. Restrictive conformity
3. Enjoyment
4. Achievement
5. Maturity
6. Self-direction
7. Security [15]

E. Schwartz’s Value Theory

Shalom Schwartz is a social psychologist who has published over 200 research paper on values. Schwartz theory of basic values give an understanding of what values are, the core set

of values, where they come from and how they relate to each other [16]. According to Schwartz value theory, values can be distinguished on the basis of motivation that the value expresses. This theory defines ten broad values. The universal values help humans to cope with the three requirements of human existence, which are

1. Need of the individuals as biological organisms.
2. Requirement for coordinated social interaction.
3. Needs of groups related to survival and welfare [17].

The type of values, their defining goal, their sources and examples are illustrated in the Table I.

TABLE I SCHWARTZ MOTIVATIONAL TYPES OF VALUES

| Type Of Value | Defining Goal | Exemplary Values | Sources |
|---------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Self-direction [18] | Independent thought and action-choosing, creating, exploring | Creativity, curious, freedom | Organism Interaction |
| Stimulation[19] | Challenge in life, excitement and novelty. | Daring, varied life, exciting life | Organism |
| Hedonism [20] | Sensuous or pleasure or gratification for oneself. | Pleasure, enjoying life | Organism |
| Achievement[21] | Personal success through demonstrating competence according to the social standards. | Successful, capable, ambitious | Interaction Group |
| Power[22] | Control or dominance over people and resources, social status and prestige | Social power authority, wealth | Interaction Group |
| Security[23] | Stability of society, of relationships, and of self and safety, harmony. | National security, social order, clean | Interaction Group Organism |
| Conformity[24] | Impulses and inclinations likely to upset or harm others and violate social expectations or norms, restraint of actions. | Politeness, obedient, honoring parents and elders | Interaction Group |
| Tradition[24] | Commitment, respect and acceptance of the customs and ideas that traditional culture or religion provide. | Humble, devout, accepting my portion in life | Group |
| Benevolence[25] | Enhancement and preservation of the welfare of people with whom one is in frequent personal contact. | Helpful, honest, forgiving | Interaction Group Organism |
| Universalism[26] | Understanding, appreciation, tolerance, and protection for welfare of all people and for nature. | Broad-minded, social justice, equality | Organism Group |

If finding ultimate goal and meaning of life is a basic need of human, then spirituality might be a considered as a recognizable value found in all societies [27].

III. STRUCTURE OF VALUE RELATIONS

Along with the identification of these ten values, Schwartz theory attempts to explain the dynamic relations among these values. Based on the motivations each value expresses the values can form a circular structure. The circular structure formed by different values portraying the pattern of relations of conflict and congruity among values is shown in Figure 5.

The structure is designed in a way that closer the values are in the circle, more is the similarity in their underlying motivations, and more distant the values are, more conflicting their underlying motivations are [29]. For example, power and achievement are placed together under the dimension of self-enhancement. These both values focus on seeking individual interests.

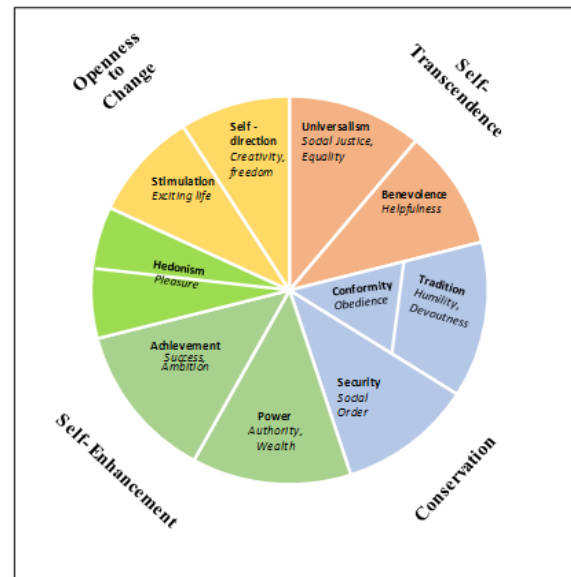


Fig. 5 The Structure of Value Relations [28]

Also, these two values are placed opposite to the dimension of self-transcendence containing the values of universalism and benevolence, which primarily serve collective interests [30]. Similarly, stimulation and self-direction (openness to change) are placed on the opposite end of the security,

conformity, and tradition(conservation). Hedonism is the value type that relates both self-enhancement and openness to change. Thus, it is placed in between these two dimensions [31].

TABLE II COMPATIBILITIES AMONG ALL THE VALUES [32]

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Power and Achievement | social superiority and esteem; |
| Achievement and Hedonism | self-centred satisfaction |
| Hedonism and Stimulation | a desire for affectively pleasant arousal |
| Stimulation and Self-direction | intrinsic interest in novelty and mastery |
| Self-direction and Universalism | reliance upon one's own judgement and comfort with the diversity of existence |
| Universalism and Benevolence | enhancement of others and transcendence of selfish interests |
| Benevolence and Tradition | devotion to one's in-group |
| Benevolence and Conformity | normative behaviour that promotes close relationships |
| Conformity and Tradition | subordination of self in favour of socially imposed expectations |
| Tradition and Security | preserving existing social arrangements that give certainty to life |
| Conformity and Security | protection of order and harmony in relations |
| Security and Power | avoiding or overcoming threats by controlling relationships and resources |

IV. CLASSIFICATION OF HUMAN VALUES

The human values are generally classified into six categories as shown inFigure 6.



Fig. 6 Types of Human Values [33]

A. National Values

National values can be defined as a representation of the nation with common cultural experience. These become held ideas about what might be acceptable, reasonable and as well as beneficial. During Victoria 2, there are three national values: LIBERTY, ORDER and EQUALITY [34].

1. Liberty

Liberty is the ability to do as one pleases, or a right or immunity enjoyed by prescription or by power and privilege [35]. It is the state of being free within society from

oppressive or controlling restrictions imposed by those having authority on one’s way of living, behaviour, or political views [35]. It is the basis of creativity. Freedom of thought helps in exploration of new ideas that can help in progress. In a diverse country like India, freedom with responsibility is must to have peace in the nation [36]. This value sets the country’s base mobilization rate at 2% and the base mobilization impact at 75% [37].

2. Order

There must be an order in a nation. This national value represents a national interest in orderly law-abiding society. Order-based nation’s value tradition, law, and hierarchy above all. These nations usually have people that fulfil their duty, if called upon [38]. Places where Order is the national value, people favour Conservatism, Reactionism and Fascism. Order sets the country’s base mobilization rate at 4% and the base mobilization impact at 100% [37].

3. Equality

Freedom and justice are incomplete without equality [39]. Equality means treating everyone equally, without taking into consideration the factors like colour, gender, caste, religion, race or status etc. We all are humans and are equal before the law. Equality considers the humanity above all. Everyone should have an equal opportunity but it depends on the human how he can access it [40]. It provides freedom from exploitation. This value is very necessary to diminish the discrimination from a nation.

Equality sets the country’s base mobilization rate at 6% and the base mobilization impact at 125% [41]. The focus on national value is shown in Figure 7.

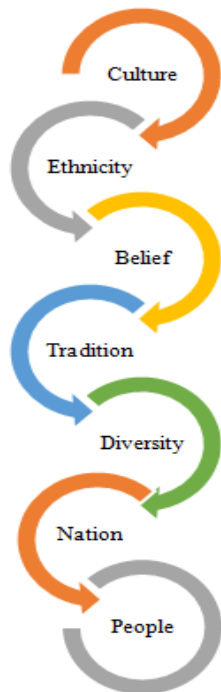


Fig. 7 Focus on National Values [41]

B. Personal Values

These are those set of values, which an individual defines for himself/herself. These are the virtues which are really important for a person. Personal values vary from person to person. They are not same for every person [42]. For example: if someone sharing values, he/she will be often seen sharing everything in his life. Maybe, the other person feels that he should not share the things which he had earned by his own hard work. He might not like to share things. Thus, personal values are based on personal perspectives [43].

Personal values are the values which makes us better human being in our own eyes as well as in other's eyes. These values built our self-esteem. These values help us to determine our behavior, words and actions. Living with values frame a fertile environment for happiness, peace of mind and success as values makes the life free from guilt, confusion or shame [44]. Values encourages us to do things which really matters to us. Therefore, it becomes very important for us to define, prioritize and live by our values. Our value defines us and helps us a lot in our daily life works. Every individual is involved in making a number of decisions on the daily basis. The decision we make, reflects our values [45].

For example: let's suppose, you are in a situation, where someone is offering you millions of moneys to do something illegal. If you prefer money than values you will accept. On the other hand, if your values are more important to you, they will never allow you to do anything illegal. This shows how values affect the decisions [46].

Values increase our productivity also. They prevent us from doing the wrong things and encourage following the right path. Following is the right path to accomplish your goal is like growing a crop without using any fertilizer. It sounds easy but it is not so. It needs a lot of hard work and patience. Same is with values [47]. Going by quality values requires a lot of persistence and patience. This is why people usually lose their values. They are not ready to work as much hard it requires accomplishing a goal by following the correct path [47].

Personal values needed to be changed sometimes. It is wisdom to adapt and change them when required. Big changes in life like marriage, divorce, job loss, death of near ones or illness can change your values or the order in which you prioritize them and they may shift [48]. Maybe you will not take care of your health but after the illness, you realized the importance of health later and prioritize it more [49].

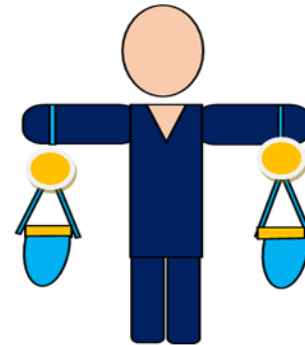


Fig. 8 Personal Value Icon [50]

C. Professional Values

Professional values are those core values and ethics which one adopts and demonstrate while working in workplace [51]. These include skills and traits that an employer wanted in an employee. These values impact how others view and interact with you. Having strong and positive professional values shows that you possess self-worth; confidence and a desire succeed. These values make able you to take more challenging assignments, which can help you to lead to your career advancements in the future.

Each organization has its own set of values [52]. Some of the professional values which every manager usually looks in their employees are: [53]

1. *Punctuality*: Employee must be punctual. You should be on the time at the workplace. Punctuality comes from having a routine plan [54].
2. *Politeness and Respect for Others*: These values create a peaceful environment at workplace, where everyone might have maximum productivity.
3. *Discretion and Confidentiality*: Every workplace has some secrets of its own. Protecting the sensitive information

is must require at every profession. Leaking of such information, result in a great loss.

4. *Honesty*: This value is most important in profession. Honesty builds the trust between employee and employer. Honesty is taken in account while preparing our resume or for an interview [55].

5. *Personal Responsibility*: In profession, if you have deadline to accomplish any task, then take the responsibility

and accomplish it by the time. If by chance you could not accomplish it, you should not blame anyone else, for your mistakes.

6. *Continuing Professional Development*: You should have a learning attitude and learn the things you don't know previously. Learning new skills and develop your knowledge helps you to have a better grip over your job [56]. The basic professional values are grouped in Table III.

TABLE III BASIC PROFESSIONAL VALUES [57]

| Value | Role |
|-------------------------|--|
| Love | For the team to love themselves and focus on the needs of others with absolute passion |
| Presence | To be focused and engaged with bold enthusiasm in all tasks. |
| Integrity/ Authenticity | To freely be who you are as models of good nature and character at all times. |
| Serve with Excellence | To be diligent and dedicated to over-delivering (efficiency, timeliness, quality) in customer's needs and expectations. |
| Growth/ Development | To consistently be up-to-date in the business process, programs and tools to better function as a team and serve our customers. |
| Fun & Enjoyment | To strive to express creative and spontaneous idea and exercises that will liven the attitudes of the team and the environment of the business growth process. |

D. Family Values

The traditional or cultural values that is applicable to the family's structure, function, roles, beliefs, attitudes, and ideals [58]. The moral and ethical principles traditionally upheld and passed within a family, as honesty, truth, faith, respecting the elders, compassion, love and sharing [29]. A family value plays an important role in well- being and structure of the family. It is very important to have good values in a family as children learn the values by observing the values from their siblings and parents. Values unite the family while bringing freedom to its members to pursue happiness, to give and receive love and to know the truth, thus, having clear and pure relations [58].

Some of the family values are

1. *Respect and Valuing Elders*: Elders are like the roots of our life. Grandparents are most experienced ones in the family. Everyone in the family should respect for the elders. Families having this value lead happiness and peace in relationships. They know the value of respecting [59].

2. *Co-Operation*: Co-operation is required to work in a team. If a family have co-operation, it can overcome any obstacle altogether. Thus, conflicts would be reduced.

3. *Love*: Members of a family must love each other. Only then, the family would have a meaning and purpose. Love provides the energy for all activities and work which we are doing[60]. Love teaches us to care for others, without expecting in return.

4. *Honesty*: This value requiresbuilding trust in the members of the family. We must be honest with our family. Dishonesty and lie can spoil the millions of relationships. In

a relationship both the persons should be honest, only then the relationship would be successful.

5. *Empathy*: Empathy understands the situation of the other person and realising his/ her pain and pleasures. This value is to be very important in a family [61]. All members must have empathy for each other in the family.

E. Moral Values

Moral values are the set of principles that guide an individual to evaluate right and wrong. These are used to justify right and wrong. These are some standards of good and evil, which govern an individual's choices and behaviour. People generally confuse the meaning of ethics with moral values. Whereas, Ethics refer to a set of standards of behaviour expected by a group of people, while moral values stresses on person's moral code [62].

For abiding the laws, it is very necessary to have moral values. Government makes rules and laws, which promotes the moral values. Nevertheless, making only laws is not abolishing the crime and injustice. Defining a punishment for crime does not affect the crime from happening. There must be some moral values. Moral values are more important than making laws [63]. Moral values not only make an individual a law-abiding citizen, but also a good human being. These values inhibit us from doing wrong evils. Defining a punishment does not stop the happening of crime, it can reduce. It could only be stopped when the person himself refuses to do so.

Moral values work on the principle of implying that not following good actions is reprehensible and puts the individual to shame for being morally incorrect [64].

Therefore, guilt is an important aspect of moral values. The basic human value is shown in Figure 9.

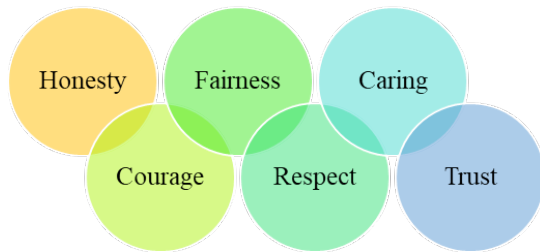


Fig. 9 Human Value



Fig. 10 Spiritual Values Keys [71]

The spiritual values are important because they support the purpose of life. By spiritual values we have our own unique experiences in this model world of constant change. It leads to continuous personal growth in consciousness, i.e., growth on size of mind. Mind is considered different from brain [67].

If practiced, these values ask us to stay with pride, greed, jealousy, lust, hatred, anger and addictions. We should only do the things, which we like when others do with us. Our behaviour should be only in that manner, in which we want others to behave with us [68].

We should first need to stop doing the things, which we advise others to stop. For example- if you do not like when anyone talks to you in loud voice, first, you should first stop yourself from doing the same. These values tell us that we cannot change the world, but we can change ourselves. Understanding of this kind of facts is spirituality [69].

Spirituality is the life time practice. It needs a lot of patience to build these values in us because we are always challenged by people who don't have these values and qualities. When we are in contact of these kinds of people mind easily loses focus and goes back to the old way of thinking. So, it is a continuous fight to quell your mind against the evils [70].

V. CORE HUMAN VALUES

Thinking with love is truth; feeling with love is peace; acting with love is right conduct; and understanding with love is non-violence. These values can be found in all cultures and all religions. These values are the eternal essences, to lift human life to its highest expression and highest expression (Figure 11) [72].

F. Spiritual Values

Like personal values, spiritual values also vary from person to person because the meaning of spirituality differs for all. As we all having a human experience, so we all are spiritual beings. Spiritual values are same as other values. These values in their highest form are the qualities of divine. Love, peace, harmony, wholeness, joy, gratitude, fulfilment, meaning, service, forgiveness, creativity, generosity etc. are some spiritual values. We all are seeking for reunification with divine in its purest sense [66]. The spiritual value keys are shown in Figure 10.

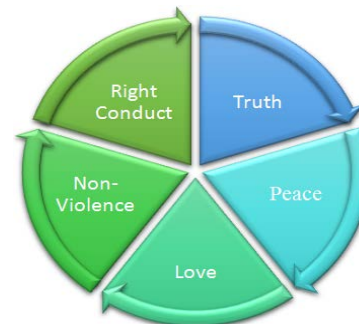


Fig. 11 Core Values [73]

A. Truth

Truth is one of the most important qualities to bring clarity in life. This value is in as by nature. By default, from the day we are born, we tend to speak truth. But as we grow, factors like greed, fear and hunger overpower our value of speaking truth. Therefore, life become confused and muddles as we grow.

Telling the truth means describing the things as they are in reality. Sometimes truth seems to be relative [74]. Truth becomes relative because of individual's beliefs, practices and concepts of right and wrong. Something is true if seen from certain beliefs and concepts. Relative truth is temporary. A truth is same for everyone. It does not change depending upon persons and situations [75]. Truth is based on reality and a fact, i.e., seeing the world as it is, is seeing truth. In truth there is no perception, priority or consideration. Without truth it is like you are walking in room where there is no light. Truth is the light. It makes the things clear. To see truth, it is first important to be free from beliefs and perceptions. Truth is unbiased. It builds trust in a relationship. One having the habit of telling truth can never be the victim of overthinking. Truth strengthens relationships as it vanishes the confusion [75]. Relationships

based on truth if have any clash then it is temporary. Even in the courts, the witnesses are asked to speak truth.

B. Peace

Peace is a quality which is not only needed among people, but among countries also, in order to make world a better place. It is very necessary to prevent wars. A war only leads to destruction of all non- living as well as living creatures. Winning a war is not the victory, but abolishing or eliminating a war is true victory. It will promote the peace. As an individual, it is first requisite to have peace of mind. A peaceful sustains a work more efficiently and quickly than a frustrated one. Peace of mind comes from satisfaction in life [76].

If seen from country's point of view; peace plays very essential role to achieve standard of life in the country. The countries having peace and harmony are deeply related to the growth, sustainable development, and healthcare. These countries have highly educated population on the earth. Also, these countries have long life expectancy and minimal unemployment [76].

C. Love

Love is the most beautiful energy of the world. Without love, life seems to be meaningless. Love gives us the energy to do any work selflessly. The true love is unconditional; do not expect anything in return. Any work done with love is more effective than usual. Love is state in which the mind and body are peaceful [77].

But usually, people have wrong perceptions regarding the meaning of love. They feel that selfless love is only related to giving the other person whatever he/she wants from you without expecting. No, love is doing what is right for you as well as the other person. There should be love in every relationship, whether it is of mother child, sister brother or husband wife, from both sides. When we have love for the other person, we can't be selfish. It makes us caring for us as well as the other person. It vanishes the hate part of life [78].

Love is the foundation of all human values. Love is the basis of life. We should have love and compassion for all the living creatures. Firstly, to experience the love, it is very necessary not be cynical and closed by fear, not to judgmentally eliminate others because of superficial qualities, false faiths and ulterior motives. Opening ourselves to the truth, faith, trust and compassion, will led to the love [78]. Making love a priority in life, giving more importance than money, makes a person an ideal human being.

D. Non-Violence

Non-violence means not doing any harm to one's self as well as others under any condition. It conveys the idea that

hurting the people, animals or the environment is not necessary to achieve a goal or outcome you wanted. Sometimes there is a confusion and contradiction between non-violence and passivity. Non- violence refers to do no harm, whereas passivity means doing nothing [79].

Mahatma Gandhi always promoted the non-violence. He led many movements on the basis of non-violence. During Indian independence there were many non-violent movements under the leadership of Gandhiji such as Non-Cooperation movement from 1920 to 1922, Civil Disobedience movement in 1930's, and the Quit India movement in 1940's [79].

Founded on a belief that all life is an interrelated and that when we understand our real needs, we are not in competition with anyone, there are six principles of non-violence [80].

The principles are

1. Respect everyone-including you.
2. Always include constructive alternatives.
3. Look for win-win solutions.
4. Be aware of long term.
5. Use power carefully.
6. Claim our legacy.

One of the main reasons for violence is proliferation of asymmetric relationships. Wherever, there is an oppressed party under the ruling one, there is violence. This means that when ruling force out of ambition, cruelty, or economic interests brings under another part of the population, natural balance breaks up and that particular society becomes violent.

E. Right Conduct

Conduct basically refers to behavior. Right conduct is the ideal behavior in which one should behave with all living creatures. Telling the truth; helping others; to practice non-violence; not to hurt anyone's feelings in thought, word and deed; not to abuse anyone and practicing love and compassion in each work. The deed which does do any good to others, or that act for which one have to feel shame should never be done. Doing those acts which may laud you in society is right conduct [81].

Right conduct is the truth in action. We receive the information through our five senses. Then, the information is interpreted by conscience. (Conscience is the person's inner acceptance of certain norms as right and important, it is the inner warning, which is experienced when one wanders from its right path. It generates a feeling of guilty when one violates them or is tempted to do so.) The action is taken thereafter. Right conduct is how we use our five senses. Three aspects of life skills are identified [81].

Self- help skills include self-care. It means how we look after and use our body and mind. Need to understand the

importance of exercise, meditation and having good diet and thoughts. Social skills include good manners, helpfulness and service in the community. Ethical skills like courage,

dependability and resourcefulness. Further, the grid of human values and sub values is shown in Table IV.

TABLE IV GRID OF HUMAN VALUES AND SUB VALUES [82]

| Truth | Peace | Love | Non-violence | Right conduct |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Trust | Patience | Friendship | Cooperation | Manners |
| Creativity | Concentration | Forgiveness | Consideration | Health awareness |
| Honesty | Positiveness | Kindness | Respect | Helpfulness |
| Determination | Self-Discipline | Generosity | Loyalty | Courage |
| Fairness | Self-Acceptance | Service | Justice | Responsibility |
| Reflection | Thankfulness | Compassion | Active citizenship | Perseverance |
| Truthfulness | Contentment | Tolerance | Global Stewardship | Independence |

VI. VALUES AND EDUCATION SYSTEM OF INDIA

In ancient times, India had a Gurukul system in which if any student wanted to learn from a teacher (Guru), he/she went to the guru’s house (gurukul) and stay there with the teacher until the teaching is completed. The student helps the teacher in all activities; thus, learn everything about running a house. A strong relation was built between the student and teacher. The learning was closely linked to life and nature. During Vedic period, importance is given to the teaching of values. But, after the arrival of Britishers, the main aim of education completely changed. Due to their need for cheap clerks, they developed a system of education which could only produce clerks and nothing more. They demolished the centres of value education in India [83].

India is considered as a land of religions, traditions and recognised worldwide for its culture and values. The downfall of standard of human values in India is raising a big question mark on our education system. In nurturing our ancient culture & values our today’s education totally fails [84]. The practical embodiments which give importance in human species; through which human behaviour is directed & controlled are known as human values. This crisis in ‘values’ has revived concern for value education in India.

A. Need of Value Education in Life of Engineering Students

Analyses of students of AGTI” s Dr. Daulat Rao Aher College of Engineering, Karad, it is found that there is a strong need of universal human values in the life of engineering students. In this study, students of the college were formally trained for a day on the topic of moral capabilities. During the questionnaire, 50 students were selected, out of which 25 were those who have attended the training and 25 were non- attendees.

The result of the study was that an engineering student tilts due to the continuous exposure of science and technology. There was a clear positive effect on education of universal human values on the students. There was a crucial change in the behaviour of the students who attended the training [85].

Below are some factors affecting degradation of moral values among Indian young generation [86].

1. Influence of Nuclear family and materialistic way of life.
2. Breakdown of elder’s control of children in families.
3. Influence of peer group.
4. Gender bias.
5. Attraction of change or modernization.
6. Influence of mass media.
7. Lacking of positive learning atmosphere in school.
8. Lacking if co-curriculum activities based on moral values.
9. Dirty policies.
10. Desire of self-exhibition.
11. Higher importance to materialistic achievement among school students.
12. Lack of academic syllabus related to human values.

B. Value Education

Value education is the learning through formal education about the self and wisdom of life in a systematic, self-exploratory and scientific manner [87].

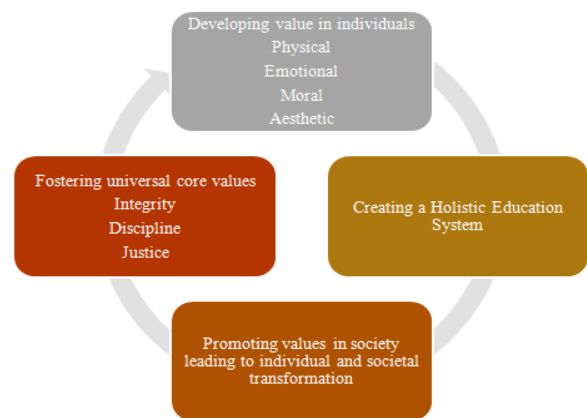


Fig. 12 Concept of Human Values [88]

Values education can address character moral development, religious education, spiritual development, citizenship education, personal development, social development and

cultural development. Some researchers use the concept value education as a bunch of concepts that includes moral education and citizenship education as shown in Figure 12.

VII. OBJECTIVES OF VALUE EDUCATION

The objectives of value education are: [89].

1. Overall development of child’s personality i.e., physical, mental, emotional or spiritual.
2. To make students responsible and co-operative.
3. Inculcation of good manners in students.
4. Development of respect for elders and society.
5. Preaching of a spirit of patriotism, devotion and nationalism.
6. Developing a democratic life and thoughts.
7. Make the pupils able to understand different religious faiths.
8. Promoting sense of brotherhood at social, national and universal level.
9. Developing faiths in pupils.
10. Teaching them to have faith in some supernatural power or God, that is, supposed to control this universe. That power always helps the pure souls.
11. Changing the priorities of the students and make them based on moral principles.
12. Generation of love and compassion in students. By development set of these qualities, they will have empathy and sympathy for all the creatures and environment. They will stop exploiting nature.
13. Making them free from jealousy, envy, lust, anger, greed, pride, hatred and addictions.
14. Make the life of future generations happy and satisfied.
15. Hence, make this universe a peaceful place where everyone can live with harmony.

Figure 13 shows the value education program.



Fig. 13 Value Education Program [90]

VIII. SUMMARY

The purpose of value education is the development of clarity on the aspiration and adequate competence to actualize it. Value education makes us able of understanding our aspirations and visualizing our goals for a fulfilling life. The present education system has largely become skill-

biased and not value based. This results into many problems as shown in Figure 14.



Fig. 14 Various issue due to lack of value education [91]

1. Value education is the crucial point which is missing link in the present education system.
2. To understand “what to do, when to do and how to do”, we need Value Education [92].
3. To develop a holistic perspective.
4. The prime need of value education is
 - (a) to understand human aspirations.
 - (b) to discover what is truly valuable in life
5. The guidelines for value education are shown in Figure 15.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Universal | • All time, all place, all individuals. Not sectarian. E.g., Respect |
| Rational | • Logical, appeals to human reasoning. It must be possible to discuss & ask questions. Not do’s & don’ts. |
| Natural | • Naturally Acceptable to human being & Natural (there is provision in Nature for its fulfillment) |
| Verifiable | • Through one’s own Natural Acceptance as well as in one’s experience. Not mystical |
| All Encompassing | • Covering all aspects of life, of human existence. |
| Leading to harmony | • Among human beings and with nature. Humanistic |

Fig. 15 Guidelines for value education [93]

The basic human aspiration is shown in Figure 16.



Fig. 16 Human Aspiration

The basic human aspiration for happiness & Prosperity is fulfilled by right understanding, fulfillment in relationship and physical facility, not just by physical facility as shown in Figure 17.

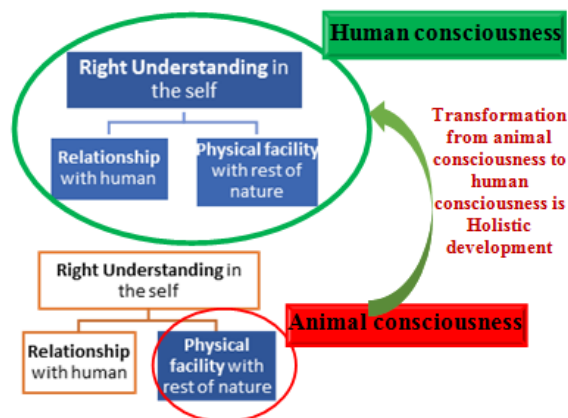


Fig. 17 Holistic development (Transformation from animal consciousness to human consciousness) [95]

IX. CONCLUSION

Values are reflected in our behavior. By practicing good values, a person can be an asset for himself as well as for the others. Values promote the humanity. They fill a person with compassion for all living creatures including plants, animals, humans and environment also. Values are the guiding lines in the life of a human being. They keep him growing. They help him to fulfill the true purpose of life, i.e., to discover oneself. There is need to promote value education to make this world filled with peace and harmony. For holistic development value education plays an important role in transforming animal consciousness to human consciousness. If human values are promoted to the extent they deserve to be, then there would be no place for evils like envy, pride, injustice, violence, possession and lust and everyone can live with continuous happiness and prosperity.

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