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## **TEACHER-THE TRUE SPLENDOUR OF CREATING ETHICALLY AND MORALLY SOUND SOULS**

Dr. Gunwant Kaur Brar, Asst. Prof.

Shivalik Institute of Education & Research , Mohali

ਅੰਦਰ- ਛੁੱਠੇ ਪੈਜ ਬਾਹਰਿ ਦੁਨੀਆ ਅੰਦਰਿ ਫੈਲੁ ॥ ਅਠਸਠਿ ਤੀਰਥ ਜੇ ਨਾਵਹਿ ਉਤਰੈ ਨਾਹੀ ਮੈਲੁ ॥

ਜਿਨ੍ਹੁ ਪਟੁ ਅੰਦਰਿ ਬਾਹਰਿ ਗੁਦਤੁ ਤੇ ਭਲੇ ਸੰਸਾਰਿ ॥ ਤਿਨ੍ਹੁ ਨੇਹੁ ਲਗਾ ਰਬ ਸੇਤੀ ਦੇਖਨ੍ਹੇ ਵੀਚਾਰਿ ॥

Those who are false within, and honorable on the outside, are very common in this world. Even though they may bathe at the sixty-eight sacred shrines of pilgrimage, still, their filth does not depart. Those who have silk on the inside and rags on the outside, are the good ones in this world. They embrace love for the Akal Purkh, and contemplate beholding It. -----Guru Nanak in 'Asa Di Vaar' (SGGS, Page, 473-15).

India is a land of diversity - social, cultural, religious, racial, linguistic and geographical. The main hallmark of this nation is unity which absorbs all the diversities. A common values system helps to create an identity that bonds people together. We have since time immemorial emphasized on traditional values like spirituality, strong family ties, deference to elders, recourse to nature, artistic expression, respecting even the tools of one's trade, joyousness, hospitality and peaceful co-existence epitomised in *Vasudev Kutumbakam*( a Sanskrit phrase that means that the whole world is one single family). This is probably what has come to be defined as a 'Global Village' today.

### **Values Seeds**

Values are like seeds that sprout, become saplings, grow into trees and spread their branches all around. Building up of values system starts with the individual, moves on to the family and community, reorienting systems, structures and institutions, spreading throughout the land and ultimately embracing the planet as a whole. Building values is an integral factor in the process of internalization of values because one can only give what one has within. Building values is somewhat similar to building a house, brick by brick. That is why Values Education is to be recognized as a fundamental need. Values based education for all members of society needs to be seen as a valuable investment.

**Moral Values** are the worthy ideals or principles that one follows to distinguish the right from the wrong. These ideals or virtues are considered worthy in building up the character of an individual. Moral Value refers to the good virtues such as honesty, integrity, truthfulness, compassion, helpfulness, love, respectfulness, hard-work, etc.



The moral values in life hold great importance from the point of personal, social and spiritual development. Values, morals and ethics are inextricably tied together. Values are what we learn from childhood; the 'stuff' we acquired from our parents and immediate surroundings. Values are the motive power behind purposeful action. Moral values are meant for making the quest to find the higher self an easier. Unfortunately, many amongst us may find it difficult to follow values such as truthfulness, honesty, forgiveness in our lives because we have not perceived the subtle gains that come to us by following these values. Or, maybe, we are careless to realize the importance of values in life. Ethics, on the other hand, are how we actually do behave in the face of difficult situations that test our moral fiber. Ethics are the code or principles on which one's character depends.

The quality of our lives is not determined by the happenstance of genetics or by the influence of environment; it is not measured in material possessions or in the trappings of youth; it is not dependent on personality or social acclaim. On the contrary, the intrinsic value of the lives we lead reflects the strength of a single trait: our personal character. Russell W. Gough, author of book titled: *Character Is Destiny*, describes the steps to personal growth from examining our lives to taking responsibility for our actions, from discarding selfishness to embracing the greater good, from becoming a better role model for our loved ones to finding the courage to do the right thing naturally and consistently. By cultivating the habits of virtue, we will strengthen not only ourselves but, more important, our families and our world.

We Indians are very religious and we lavishly spend on religious celebrations and pray for our well-being. But we rarely bother for ethics without which we cannot move even an inch towards true religion or get any favour from God. In daily life, we conveniently forget the real spirit of religion and work for petty personal gains. Ethical conduct is the foundation-stone of every religion. As per Sikhism there are five basic elements of ethics. These are: Wisdom, Truth, Temperance, Humility, Courage, Justice, and Contentment. Four of the eightfold path of Buddhism — right speech, right action, right livelihood and right effort — are all about ethical conduct. Chapter 13 of Bhagvat Gita elaborates the 20 values that Lord Krishna teaches Arjuna. These values are fundamentally necessary for a seeker to prepare the mind for the knowledge of the Self. One of these values is 'Arjavam' which means straightness, it means conducting oneself accordance with one's ethical standard. 'Arjavam' means an alignment of thought, word and deed. These are the rudimentary requisites for proper practice of any religion. Ironically our concern for religion is conveniently oblivious of these elementary requisites.

Guru Nanak De Ji, founder of the Sikh Faith, was asked over five hundred years ago, as to which was the greater of the two religions prevalent in India then, Hinduism or Muslim? He replied that without morality both will be losers.



Students are the future of NATION. The future of our country depends upon the moral values imparted to them during their student life. Moral lessons should be properly implemented among students in school and colleges. Children have an immense power of observation and their feelings are deep-rooted. They always observe their parents at home and their teachers in school. The method of teaching moral values to students is universal. It is the most important duty of the teachers. If a child misbehaves or tells lies, people blame the parents and teachers.

Children resort to lie for their personal gains. They are really clever and try to get what they want by any means. They will steal and say that they have not. To teach them that stealing or telling lie is bad will be lost labor. It is an unrealistic approach. Thus examples of honesty and truthfulness in school and colleges are more effective than precepts or moral preaching. Students are very sensitive. They fast copy their teachers. The teachers should always behave properly and set an example. The students look at them as their ideal.

Even some students of cultured and refined families lose moral values if the school environment is not proper. If a child observes his teachers to be truthful and honest, he shall also imbibe some of their virtues. In schools the textbooks ought to be based on symbolic stories. Mere platform lecture by teachers on the values of truth and honesty would bear no fruit.

They should be included in curriculum, says former advisor to EC The prime concern of education is to evolve the good, the true and the divine in man so as to establish a moral life in the world. It should essentially make a man pious, perfect and truthful. The welfare of humanity lies neither in scientific or technological advancements nor in acquisition of material comforts. The main function of education is to enrich the character.

Teachers should help students to differentiate between right and wrong and make them understand the importance of imbibing moral and ethical values. Parents, teachers and school management play a collective role to inculcate moral values among children, An increase in the juvenile crime rate, pregnancy in the adolescent masses, embezzlement, abuse and self-annihilation are the result of a degradation of moral values in the new generation. Children are a parent's most-valuable asset and every parent dreams about making their children into responsible, amazing people. Besides giving good education, imparting moral values is extremely important. The need of the hour is to acknowledge the magnitude of imparting good values in children so that they can differentiate between right or wrong.

### **Teach moral values by being their role models**

Teachers are the source of inspiration for students. The relationship between student and teacher is very strong . The moral education can be taught at educational institutions. Our curriculum may include the study of life biographies of great personalities who followed the right path in life. The process of learning for a child is not magical. It is important that the student has sound base of strong moral values. It calls for much caution and observation from school and college authorities.



To make your children responsible society members, teach them moral values like honesty, loyalty, respect, self-reliance, self-discipline, patience, kindness, gratitude, forgiveness, personal responsibility and courtesy.

These values help in developing a strong personality for your child and that minimizes the possibility of having them go astray. It is said that from the age of 5-6 children start differentiating between right or wrong and the first lesson comes from their parents. They see their parents as role models and try to follow in their footsteps.

There are little eyes upon you and they're watching night and day;  
There are little ears that quickly take in every word you say;  
There are little hands all eager to do everything you do;  
And a little child who's dreaming of the day he will be like you.

Set an example by following examples that you want your children to follow. Be honest if you want them to be honest. As they grow, the child's power to grasp abstract concepts also grows. Therefore their understanding of moral value increases as well. They become keen observers and do exactly what their parents do. So be careful in every act of your behavior while maintaining social and personal relationships.

### **How to impart moral values**

By imparting moral values, parents play a dominant role in molding the attitude and approach of the children in their life. Here are a few easy steps to improve your skill-set in this area.

1. Narrate patriotic, religious or ethical stories. Question them about the lesson they have learned.
2. Be polite, respectful and considerate towards others.
3. Media exposure plays a major role in our life. While watching the news or even a movie discuss the different aspects and ask the child what he/she would have done in that situation. This will develop a sense of reasoning in children.
4. While performing religious activities involve the child where you can. It generates faith and trust towards God.
5. Listen respectfully to your child's ideas and wherever required correct them. This will boost their self-confidence.
6. Spend quality time with children. The quality of time that you spend with your children has a close effect on what they grow up into.
7. Provide opportunities for your children to help others. This will instill in them generosity.
8. Involve your child in community service. It will generate an attitude of serving.
9. Tell your child about the people you admire and why. It will silently inculcate good qualities.



10. Comment on compassionate behavior. Let your child know that caring is an important moral value.

Role of ethics and moral values is significant in bringing good governance. There are numerous ways to strengthen the moral values in governance.

1. **Principle of Selflessness:** Officers of public offices should take decision solely in terms of public interest. They should not do anything to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.
2. **High Integrity:** Holders of public life should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organizations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.
3. **Objectivity:** In conducting public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices only on merit.
4. **Accountability:** Owners of public offices should be as open as possible on all the decisions and actions that they take. They should record reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interests clearly demand.
5. **Honesty:** Holders of public offices have a duty to declare any private interest relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interests.
6. **Leadership:** Holders of public offices should promote and support these principles by way of leadership and examples.
7. **Sense of belongingness with the Public:** In order to implement ethics in governance, the elected representative like village Panchayat members, Block Samiti members, Zilla Parishad members, Elected members to the local bodies, MLA's and MPs should develop a sense of belongingness with voters of their constituencies; and listen and redress their grievances by visiting them periodically . There should not be any communication gap between the two.
8. **Responsible and Responsive Civil Servants:** Each Ministry is headed by a senior level bureaucrat who is a link between the public and the government. These high level officers should give proper feed-back on the problems faced by the public to the concerned Minister and suggest the feasible measure which can be taken to solve the problem within the ambit of law. If possible they can also suggest to amend the law to address the problem properly.
9. **Friendly relation with people:** If there are cordial relations between the government and the people at different levels, then governance will transform into good governance. People will feel that they are part of the administration, and they shall better understand the position of the government if any of their critical demand is not met with, due to any technical reason.

It is said that ethics and moral values can bring good governance and maximum public welfare therefore government and private employs must promote ethical practices in administration. In addition, the following ten basic themes may also form a part of Values Education in schools.

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**“Think positive”** is a self-empowering concept that allows the student to have a positive self-image and values himself/herself and life in all forms.

**“Be compassionate and do no harm”** attempts to inculcate love, kindness and friendliness that are important to respond to intolerance and violence in society.

**“Discover inner peace”** enables an individual to understand the self at a deeper level of consciousness. It also addresses a person’s spiritual needs.

**“Learning to live together”** seeks to promote the qualities of sharing, cooperation, mutual help, building trust and team work. Working harmoniously in groups with others reduces competition and emphasizes the joy of working as a team.

**“Respect human dignity”** is based on the concepts of Human Rights and Justice. Its objective is to develop a consciousness that recognizes rights of others along with one’s own.

**“Be your true self”** builds behavioural skills such as time management, honesty and strength of character that are essential for resolving conflicts and for effective social interaction.

**“Developing critical thinking”** involves the ability to think with logic and reason. It also includes decision-making and is an important component of democratic institutions.

**“Resolve conflict non-violently”** is a basic component of Values Education. It encompasses skills necessary for conflict resolution, active listening, mediation, creative solution and alternative solution seeking.

**“Build peace in the community”** provides an opportunity for young learners to be exposed to social realities and to understand people’s problems as well as their own responsibilities and duties.

**“Caring for the planet”** is a global educational need for children and adults alike. The health of the planet has a direct and immediate influence on the destiny of humankind.

### **Conclusion**

Let us not forget our roots. It is the responsibility of every parent to pass on the invaluable treasure of moral values to their children so that tomorrow they will pass these on to the next generation. This continuous process will give our society honest, trustworthy, patriotic, faithful, lovable and good human beings and that day will be the realization of our dreams in a very real sense. Ethics is an effort to direct human conduct and it helps individual in leading good life by applying moral principles. Ethics is elucidated as well based standards of right and wrong that prescribe what humans ought to do, usually in terms of rights, obligations, benefits to society, fairness, or specific virtue.

“It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education.

The whole life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning”.

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– Jiddu Krishnamurti

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