

Restoring Culture of Ethics & Values: The Holistic Education Way

Dr. Manju Sarkar

Abstract--- *In present time, it's a common philosophy that unless you love yourself, you cannot love others. Quite the reverse, if it were the true self, that would be different, but those who proclaim this mean to love themselves; their ego and mind. That is the travesty or perversion of this Kali Yug. The only language through which we can unite with the true self that is the meaning of unconditional love with God. The only language through which we can unite with the true self that is the meaning of unconditional love with God. Every other love is conditioned and therefore selfish, possessive, attached, which brings in insecurity and weakness. Eat; look after your family; earn money; be charitable; use your talents and sing all the action only for 'god's sake'.*

Keywords--- *Kali Yug, Selfish, Possessive, Language, Culture.*

I. INTRODUCTION

In present time, it's a common philosophy that unless you love yourself, you cannot love others. Quite the reverse, if it were the true self, that would be different, but those who proclaim this mean to love themselves; their ego and mind. That is the travesty or perversion of this Kali Yug. The only language through which we can unite with the true self that is the meaning of unconditional love with God. Every other love is conditioned and therefore selfish, possessive, attached, which brings in insecurity and weakness.

If you want to be free from it, you will live for god's sake. Eat; look after your family; earn money; be charitable; use your talents and sing all the action only for 'god's sake'. Then you will be free from all anxiety, fear, worry and doubt. There is nothing greater than that. So it is our duty to make pure and peaceful world by our good culture, value, and ethics.

II. WHAT IS VALUE?

We know successive generations have created their own value. Question is that, what is value? Values are the rules by which we make decisions about right and wrong, should and shouldn't, good and bad. Values are obtained in many different ways. It's the most important piece for a person's family. The family is responsible for teaching children what is right and wrong, long before there are other influences. As a child starts school, school helps some to shape the values of children. Then there is religion that the family introduces a child. It's also plays a role in teaching the right and wrong behaviors. Then young generation involve in several organization.

Every organization, big or small has their own organizational values. Some of these values are in line with our own values, other are vague. But it provides a road map to them. Besides that, "Personal value, cultural value, traditional value, basic national value and ethics applies to everyone. Morality, law, explore new ways of

Dr. Manju Sarkar, Writer, Assistant Professor Ph.d & Post Doc, Delhi University. E-mail:manjusarkar097@gmail.com

proceeding. It's develop a kind of methodology which makes up the world.”²Cultural values as a great way to understand someone's upbringing. Personal and cultural values can be varied by the living standards of a man. So as a person, choose the values and the ethics that are most important to us, the values and ethics we believe in and that define our character. Then live them visibly every day at work. Because, “cultural values play a big part in our everyday lives, other hand individual cultural beliefs affect how approach, speak to, and measure outcomes with others. Within a personal context, we tend to make assumptions and judgments about others particular religion, language, culture, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, disability or life experiences. But when two values present themselves and we choose one rather than another, we are saying, based on our experience this cultural context and beliefs is more valuable than another.”³

We know values are related to the norms of a culture. Norms are rules for behavior in specific situations, while values identify what should be judged as good or evil. Flying the national flag on a holiday is a norm, but it reflects the value of patriotism. Wearing white clothing and appearing solemn are normative behaviors at a funeral. In certain cultures they reflect the values of respect and support of friends and family. Different cultures reflect different values.“ Over the last three decades, traditional-age college students have shown an increased interest in personal well-being and a decreased interest in the welfare of others”⁴Values seemed to have changed, affecting the beliefs, and attitudes of college students. So developing persons value and personality is very essential. Because if you have good principles, then you can protect yourself and will act ethically. Now question is that, what is mean by ethically? And what is ethics?

Ethically and Ethics Means

Ethics has many definitions but, typically, ethics is viewed as a systematic way of examining the moral life to discern right and wrong. Business ethics also is a specialized study of moral right and wrong. Ethics, also known as moral philosophy, is a branch of philosophy. It involves systematizing, defending, and recommending concepts of right and wrong behavior. Applied ethics also is a discipline of philosophy that attempts to apply ethical theory to real-life situations. Evolutionary ethics concern approaches to ethics based on the role of evolution in shaping human psychology and behavior. The ethical “principle of autonomy is related to self- determination, that is the individual’s right to make decisions for him or herself. Besides that, so many ethic have our live, which describes the character of a moral agent as a driving force for ethical behavior”⁵. For it everybody should take care about their culture of ethics & values. And should change to unethical mind by using some specific techniques.

Techniques for Change

So many techniques we have. Among them these are essential. Like-

1. Character building.
2. Moral development,
3. Religious education,

²(Wikipedia, value, home page)

³(Wikipedia, value, home page)

⁴(Santrock, J.W. (2007). A Topical Approach to Life-Span Development. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill).

⁵(Wikipedia, Evolutionary ethics, Home page).

4. Spiritual awakening,
5. Awareness of the self,
6. Citizenship education,
7. Personality development.

Holism is a response to this possibility.

What is Holism

According to the great Smuts 'holism' "as the tendency in nature to form wholes that are greater than sum of parts through creative evolution"⁶. Which is "the foundation theory for systems thinking, complexity theory, neural networks, semantic holism, holistic education, and general systems theory in ecology"⁷Holistic thought is an attempt to reclaim the sense of connection to the world. By learning it we can understand how to control virtually every aspect of the world. We seek to alter, improve everything, and therefore we can't see the world's intrinsic beauty, discern its inherent patterns, or hear its spiritual secrets. Holistic thinkers believe that, by nature human being requires a sense of connection to the world. As all of the holistic thinkers identify our time as an epistemological crisis. Because our cultural worship and personal pursuit of comfort, security, wealth, and power, we have become disconnected from these sources of meaning. For that, holistic education is essentially concerned with these basic sources of meaning. Now question is that, what's the 'Holistic education'?

Holistic Education Mean

"Holistic education is a relatively new movement in education that seeks to engage all aspects of the learner including mind, body and spirit."⁸The term 'holistic education' is most often used to the more democratic and humanistic types of alternative education. Its a philosophy or learning theory is "based on the premise that each person finds identity, meaning, and purpose in life through connections to their local community, to the natural world, and to humanitarian values such as compassion and peace"⁹It formed part of the view that the world is a single whole and that learning cannot be separated from all of man's experiences. "Holistic education aims to call forth from people an intrinsic reverence for life and a passionate love of learning."¹⁰Actually it introduced the concept of meaningful teaching. Its role in the learner's self-actualization. "Holistic education feels that meaningfulness is also an important factor in the learning process. People learn better when what is being learned is important to them. Holistic schools seek to respect and work with the meaning structures of each person. Therefore, the start of a topic would begin with what a student may know or understand from their worldview. Meta-learning is another concept that connects to meaningfulness. In finding inherent meaning in the process of learning and coming to understand how they learn, students are expected to self-regulate their own learning"¹¹.Let us be very clear about this. To understand the meaning of holistic education, we need to recognize two principles.

⁶ (Smuts, J.C. (1926). *Holism and Evolution*. London: Macmillan & Co.)

⁷(Els, C.J., du Toit, C. &Blignaut, A.S. (2009). A holistic learner-centred interpretation model for South African education as a interdisciplinary Social Science. *Journal of Educational Studies*, Volume 8 (3) (University of Venda, ISSN: 1680-7456).

⁸ (Wikipedia- Holistic education- Huang,Ronghual; kinshu;spector,J.Michael, 2012. *Resheping Learning; Frontiers of Learning Technology In a Global Context*, Heidelberg: Springer Science & Business Media. P. 367.ISBN (97-3-642-32300-3).

⁹(Wikipedia: Holistic Education- Johnson Andrew P. 2019; *Essential Learning Theories: Application to Authentic Teaching Situations*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. P. 120. ISBN 978-1-475-5269-1)).

¹⁰ Ron Miller- Pioneer in Holistic Education)

¹¹Wikipedia, holistic education, Meta-learning, home page"

Principles

- 1) An education must start with the person. “Each person is a dynamic constellation of experiences and reflects what Asian traditions call ‘karma’. It’s a meaningful pattern of influences, actions, and thoughts that shape one’s possibilities if not one’s destiny. And as all holistic educators have emphasized, each growing child unfolds this cluster of possibilities through distinct phases of development. In this stage they needs to starts with standards, with government mandates, with a selection of great books, with lesson plans. Because each stage the child needs the right kind of support, the right kind of environment, in order to move securely to the next.

We must respond to the learner with an open, inquisitive mind and a loving heart, and a sensitive understanding of the world he or she is growing into. Now, this is indeed the hard part! A holistic teacher cannot be a technician, administering a series of workbook exercises or performing a script he or she learned in a teacher training program. But a holistic teacher is acutely sensitive to the student’s needs and aware of the challenges and possibilities the world offers this moment and in this place”¹² Now question is what will be the ‘curriculum’ for it? And How does the teacher act on this awareness?

III. CURRICULUM

In considering curriculum using a holistic approach, one must address the question of what children need to learn.

“First, children need to learn about themselves. This involves learning self-respect and self-esteem.

Second, children need to learn about relationships. In learning about their relationships with others, there is a focus on social ‘literacy’ and emotional ‘literacy’.

Third, children need to learn about resilience. This entails overcoming difficulties, facing challenges and learning how to ensure long-term success.

Fourth, children need to learn about aesthetics – this encourages the student to see the beauty of what is around them and learn to have awe in life.”¹³

A holistic ‘curriculum’ is not a pre-established plan that the teacher brings to the classroom. Curriculum emerges from the interactions between teacher, student and world.

Teachers Role

Teacher must constantly recognize the dialectic between liberation and accommodation. They will play a role “as a friend, a guide, a facilitator, and a experienced traveling companion”¹⁴

They will apply “cooperative norm rather than competition. They will must open and honest. Teacher must give

¹²(source : Social site)

¹³(Wikipedia, holistic education, inc, home page)

¹⁴(Forbes, Scott H. Values in Holistic Education. Paper presented at the Third Annual Conference on Education, Spirituality and the Whole Child (Roehampton Institute, London, June 28, 1996). 9.

grades or rewards. The rewards will help one another and growing together”¹⁵ Teacher should free every students to find his or her own destiny, to think and feel and do whatever he or she finds most meaningful and fulfilling. yet at the same time, they bring to students the awareness that the world makes its own demands. “Meaning arises from the reflective engagement between person and world, and the holistic educator’s job is to facilitate this meeting, to help it become more reflective, to help it touch deeper parts of the learner’s soul. It can developed the students self-confidence, optimism, self-esteem, and commitment to excellence as a basis for their potential life roles as family and community”¹⁶.

For that reason holistic education, should be pursued at the national, regional, local and institutional levels to fight against all the unethical practices. Now question may arise, what is unethical practices? What kind of activities can be said to fall under the label of unethical practices?

Action against Unethical Practices

We shall think about what are the obstacles in the path of value-based education and what kind of methods we can employ to make it an integral part of modern learning. We should concentrate our efforts to curb unethical practices at the planning level, at administration level, at central, local or college level. So student comes to feel that he or she belongs in the world, and shapes his or her purposes accordingly, in relationship to it, in dialogue with it. “Holistic education boldly challenges many of the assumptions about teaching and learning, about the school, about the role of the educator, about the need for tight management and standards. Ultimately holistic education is far away from worship of money, lifeless matter.

So holistic education system thought about radical education policy which will entirely free manner. No one should tell another person what or how or when he or she should learn. Every child should be free to play, to explore, to experiment, to ask questions. By using real-life experiences, current events, the dramatic arts and other lively sources of knowledge in place of textbook information, teachers can alive the flame of students intelligence”¹⁷

That is more helpful than abstract problem-solving skill. “Education springs organically from a child’s interests and natural curiosity; there is no need for artificial structure. This attitude toward teaching and learning inspires many home-schooling families as well as educators in public and alternative schools”¹⁸.

IV. CONCLUSION

With the goal of “holistic education promotes several strategies to address the question of how to teach and how people learn. First, the idea of holism advocates a transformative approach to learning. Rather than seeing education as a process of transmission and transaction, transformative learning involves a change in the frames of reference that a person may have. This change may include points of view, habits of mind, and worldviews. Holism understands knowledge as something that is constructed by the context in which a person lives. Second, the idea of connections is emphasized as opposed to the fragmentation that is often seen in mainstream education. This

¹⁵(Wikipedia, holistic education).

¹⁶(Wikipedia, holistic education, home page)

¹⁷(Wikipedia, holistic Education, home page).

¹⁸ (Wikipedia, holistic Education, home schooling, home page).

fragmentation may include the dividing of individual subjects, dividing students into grades, etc. Holism sees the various aspects of life and living as integrated and connected. Holistic school classrooms are often small and consist of mixed-ability and mixed-age students. They are flexible in terms of how they are structured so that if it becomes appropriate for a student to change classes, they are moved regardless of what time of year it is on the school calendar. Third, along the same thread as the idea of connections in holistic education, is the concept of transdisciplinary inquiry. It is based on the premise that division between disciplines is eliminated.”¹⁹

For this reason many parents also are looking today for alternative schools. That offer different philosophies of education than mainstream schools. Each school has its own methods and approaches to teaching. But it does not mean that there are no holistic values in their individual philosophies of education. Yet reality is that, holistic education does not simply instruct young people about what is true and what is false, what is correct and what is mistaken. Holistic education teaches the learner how to take care about the world. Thus we can think about spiritual awareness in our young generation. And for this reason we can add the holistic education system in every educational institution. Apart from this we start the alternative schools where holistic elements of learning will be part of educational philosophies: like --free school, folk education, friends schools, ‘homeschooling’²⁰

And open schools etc.

Thank you

REFERENCES

- [1] (Wikipedia, value, home page)
- [2] (Wikipedia, value, home page)
- [3] Santrock, J.W. (2007). *A Topical Approach to Life-Span Development*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill).
- [4] (Wikipedia, Evolutionary ethics, Home page).
- [5] (Smuts, J.C. (1926). *Holism and Evolution*. London: Macmillan & Co.)
- [6] (Els, C.J., du Toit, C. & Blignaut, A.S. (2009). A holistic learner-centred interpretation model for South African education as a interdisciplinary Social Science. *Journal of Educational Studies*, Volume 8 (3) (University of Venda, ISSN: 1680-7456).
- [7] (Wikipedia- Holistic education- Huang, Ronghual; kinshu; spector, J. Michael, 2012. *Resheping Learning; Frontiers of Learning Technology in a Global Context*, Heidelberg: Springer Science & Business Media. P. 367. ISBN (97-3-642-32300-3).
- [8] (Wikipedia: Holistic Education- Johnson Andrew P. 2019; *Essential Learning Theories: Application to Authentic Teaching Situations*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. P. 120. ISBN 978-1-475-5269-1).
- [9] Ron Miller- Pioneer in Holistic Education.
- [10] Wikipedia, holistic education, Meta-learning, home page”
- [11] (Source: Social site)
- [12] (Wikipedia, holistic education, inc, home page)
- [13] (Forbes, Scott H. Values in Holistic Education. Paper presented at the Third Annual Conference on Education, Spirituality and the Whole Child (Roehampton Institute, London, June 28, 1996). 9.
- [14] (Wikipedia, holistic education).
- [15] (Wikipedia, holistic education, home page)
- [16] (Wikipedia, holistic Education, home page).
- [17] (Wikipedia, holistic Education, home schooling, home page).
- [18] (Wikipedia, Holistic Education Network)
- [19] (Wikipedia, holistic Education)

¹⁹(Wikipedia, Holistic Education Network)

²⁰(Wikipedia, holistic Education)

- [20] Reddy, M. Ravinder. "The Essense of Morals in Sudha Murthy's Children's Stories. " *International Journal of Linguistics and Literature (IJLL)* 8.5(2019): 1-4
- [21] Khatri, Puja, and Yukti Ahuja. "Ethics in Indian Higher Education: An Endeavor towards Building a Sustainable Alumni Bond. " *International Journal of Business and General Management (IJBGM)* 7.3, (2018): 31-44
- [22] Mahmood, Azhar, and Irfan Ashraf. "Peace Education: Conceptual awareness of Teachers at Elementary School Level." *International Journal of Educational Science and Research, ISSN (P)* (2014): 2249-6947.
- [23] Hariharan, S., and M. Tamizhchelvan. "Ethics of Library Professionals' Relation with Organisation and Professionalism in Self Financing Engineering College Libraries in Tamil Nadu." *International Journal of Library Science and Research (IJLSR)*, 6 (3), 33 38 (2016).
- [24] Srinivasa Rao, A.B., P M. Kumar, and P. S. Aithal. "Strategic Planning in Higher Education Institutions: A Case Study of SIMS-Vision 2025." *International Journal of Educational Science and Research (IJESR) ISSN (P)* (2015): 2249-6947.
- [25] Aneja, Neeraj. "Ethics in advertisement and impact on women and children." *IMPACT: International Journal of Research in Business Management (IMPACT: IJRBM)* (2014).2.6 :19-26