

Moral Deviation: Some Causes and Remedies

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Abstract

Morality is the fundamental essence of civilisation. The entire structure of society is based on moral values. But, unfortunately, in our present communities, moral values have deteriorated in every sphere and corner. Young generations of today become so much self-centred that they are mostly busy serving their interests. There has been a rapid erosion of ethical and moral values among the youth. Most of the younger generations of our society are gradually disregarding these social ethics. Today, the younger generation likes to spend an unrest life, aside from the earlier societal norms. Most of the time, they like to keep themselves with their mobile phone, operating Facebook and WhatsApp or other social means of media. Hence, to establish permanent peace and security in society, we should emphasise moral values. Therefore, from the infant's age, it is essential to build a moral character among the child because the only moral value can save us from becoming criminal and reduces class conflict, isolation, erosion, etc.

Keywords: Moral Value, Deviation, Society, Media, Socialization.

Introduction

The degradation or erosion of moral values of society today becomes a global phenomenon. These days, if we pay attention to any corner of the world, we see that everywhere the moral values are degraded and the societies suffer for that more. The moral value is deteriorating in every sphere of life, starting from the social institution like family to the international and global levels. In earlier phases, moral values and politeness were prominent for every member of the society. At that time, most youths learn good habit and practices such as respect, courtesy, consideration, decency, propriety, honesty and righteousness from a young age.

Morals are accepted as the general conduct or behaviour of human beings. Morality always plays a healthy synthesis between people, harmonically co-operate each other, understand the right or wrong differentiation makes a value-based society. Morals are influenced by family, society, culture and social values etc. Hence, from the ethical perspective, human actions can be judged as good or bad, right or wrong and moral or immoral based on moral values. These judgments are always determined by establishing a common standard of norms of our society. Broadly speaking, morality means honesty of character, fairness in attitude, absence of evils like hatred, jealousy, greed, telling lies, etc.

In general consideration, morality is not a law but some common understanding or social norms through which we can establish our society as a polite society. On the other hand, it is a law to develop good or guidance of good sense. At an early age, morality plays a vital role in our society. Providing respect to the elders and love the young were basic social norms and standard. But, with the changing of times and technological development the moral values are gradually declining. Some social agencies such as family, school and other social organisation play an important role in developing ethical and moral values among youths. But, due to some socioeconomic factors, these organisations are failed to play their role effectively, for which the moral and ethical values are declining. Hence, society is today marked by violence, greed, theft, drug addiction and especially crimes against women. They do not obey the elders and often disrespects them. Young generations today become so much self-centred that they are primarily busy serving their interests. Thus, it has been commonly believed that there has been a rapid erosion of ethical and moral values among our society's youth. Most of the younger generations of our society are gradually disregarding these social ethics. Today the younger generation likes to spend an unrest life, side aside from the earlier societal norms and most of the time, they like to keep themselves with their mobile phone, operating Facebook and WhatsApp or other social means of media. They also like to talk about big issues such as corruption, politics, political mobilisation, national and international trade, etc. They have no time for their guests who visit their house, for celebrating the festival in the real sense, for respecting their elders and even the older grandparents.

Now a day's people forgot the meaning of good, ought to be, should be, right or wrong. Therefore, to overcome this situation, the different initiative has been taken by the world communities. In India, after independence, several educational commissions were constituted. These commissions had recommended for introduction of a value-oriented curriculum in educational instauration so that the youth of the nation understand the good and politeness. The Secondary Education Commission wants to develop the habits, attitudes and character of the students. The Parkas Committee (1959) and NCERT also stress the need for moral values through the school curriculum. Recently National Level Seminar, workshop, counselling programme on value education etc. has been organised in schools, colleges and universities from time to time, to find out the ways and means to restore human values.

But, all these efforts appear to be in vain and ineffective because the crime graph of the nation shows an upward trend. Indian society is fractured on the lines of caste, religion, language and it has been increasingly relying upon violence as an instrument for settling disputes. Today's decadent culture has made violence an item of entertainment in people's lives through T.V and movies. None of us cherishes values like high-mindedness, tolerance, sacrifice, compromise, non-violence, truth, faith, a sense of

universal brotherhood, etc. So, it is the need of the hour to adhere to the basic values to revitalise our value system to make this world a better place to live in.

Social scientists believe that the modern materialistic world raises the standard of human beings living condition but declines the standard of life or the value of life. Due to the population, knowledge, both science and technology and the material explosion of human being has compelled to move in a wrong path by considering material comforts of the world as real happiness. Similarly, due to the spread of greed, self-aggrandisement, gross injustice, abuse of human rights, perversion of power, callousness, insensitivity, deceit, dishonesty, thefts, bribery, smuggling, corruption, exploitation man are self-indulgent in the low and dark dimensions of his consciousness for which the religion and morality are being throttled.

Important of moral value

The importance of moral value in our social life is not necessary to explain. Moral values and moral character can establish a sound and peaceful society. Hence, morality is regarded as the fundamental essence of our civilisation. Without moral value, we cannot imagine a civil society. As a flower is incomplete without its beauty and fragrance similarly, an individual is also incomplete without strong moral values. As a plant requires soil, sunlight, water to sustain itself, so also a person needs moral education to sustain him in society. A person can shine in society with the help of his strong moral base and character.

Moral values are very much essential to establish permanent peace and security in society. Therefore, from the age of the infant, it is essential to built moral character among the child. All stakeholders of the society should emphasise upon moral values of the child and need to adopt healthy measures to constitute the moral character. For that, since the time of birth, every parent must provide weightage upon the process of socialisation. The socialisation of a child is incomplete without moral education. Such education makes a child a true human being who lives for others and makes his life meaningful. It is thus proved that moral values are important in life. No amount of money can replace them. Moral values save us from becoming criminal. It reduces class conflict, isolation, erosion of values etc., also.

Causes of value degradation

There are quite a few factors responsible for forgetting the basics or values of a good human being or a responsible citizen of society. Hence, finding out the causes of moral deviation is very difficult and complicated. The social scientists who work in this field have demarcated some basic causes for which

moral values are degraded. For some social scientists, the environment, parenting behaviour, educational system, political environment and unrest social order are responsible for the moral deviation. For some others, the economic, social and political conditions are highly responsible for that. Considering the debates and discussion of the social scientists and the philosophers, we may summarise the causes for the moral degradation as under-

Environment: Our surrounding or environment is solely responsible for the development of human behaviour. If our domestic and social environment is good, the child's character will be good or if bad then it will be bad. Therefore, a social scientist like Rousseau, highly emphasises the environment to build child character. Because every child first received his lesson from his parents and family members. Values are transmitted to the child by their parents and the social environment where they belong.

Poverty: Another major cause of moral deviation is poverty. Poverty is a serious problem for the construction of moral character. Due to poverty and economic backwardness, many child and youth are involved in criminal activities. Therefore, poverty is recognised as the basic cause of all the social evils, which birth feelings of hate, anger, selfishness and jealousy among the people.

Influence of Nuclear family and materialistic way of life: The nuclear family, more particularly that family where both the father and mother are working in governmental and other business-like organisations, who have no time to share with their child, is responsible for the moral deviation. In these families, the Childs are compelled to grow up themselves. Hence, the child's feelings and emotions are not given weightage for which the child share their feelings with their caretakers and consume their time with T.V, peer group, bad literature, etc. for which without knowing or unknowing the child constitute an immoral character.

Breakdown of parental control: In our present context, parental control over their children decreases day by day, for which the autonomy of young generations is increasing rapidly. As a result of that, the youth are being diverted by external force and engage themselves in the night club, rocking, unwanted discussions and so many undesirable affairs.

Influence of peer group: Peer groups are also responsible for degrading the child and youth group's moral character. During students' lives, the child spends their maximum time with their friends, discusses different issues with them related to their life, and seeks support, guidance, and advice to meet certain problems. So, they readily prefer to accept peer group views rather than conflicts with parents' views, which leads them to indulge in immoral activities like dacoits, kidnapping, drug abuse, etc.

Lacking a positive atmosphere in Academic Institution: The main aims and objectives of the educational institutions are good quality of education and modifying, improving, and strengthening the learnt beliefs, ideals and behaviours of the students in the right direction.

But, due to lack of proper administration and guidance, today the educational institutions are unable to provide such a positive atmosphere, a result of which the child's character is degraded.

Lacking moral base curriculum and activities: Moral base curricular and related such kind of activities are very much essential for building the good character of the child. On the other hand, the co-curricular activities are also limited in the academic syllabi. Result that there is no opportunity to build moral value in academic institutions.

Lack of academic syllabus related to human values: Present education system emphasises providing education rather than the application of educational knowledge in the practical field. The present education system makes our students educated only in the topics mentioned in syllabi to cope with the dynamic society rather than providing moral values.

Influence and role of media: Today, mass and social media play an important role in every individual's life. Unquestionably Television, print media, internet blogs and websites, cinemas, etc. play an important role in determining the personality of the youth. Many Media, images, movies and games, not only neutralise violence but often glorify it. There is so much violence, offensiveness in all these entertainment avenues and if a majority of youth watches these, the impact of the same in generation cannot be positive.

Dirty politics: Existing power-oriented and power-seeking politics are highly responsible for moral deviation. The political parties and leaders of the political parties always try to mobilise the youth in favour of them and use them for serving their interest.

Empowered by the political power, the youth are involved in some unethical activities such as hitting teachers if they failed in examinations, making strikes for fulfilling their unnecessary demands resulting in deterioration of the ethical and moral standard of the society.

Today, everywhere we see the degradation of moral value. Because of this, the youth have become restless for which they involve in some unexpected unsocial activities. It creates an unhealthy situation in society for which we have needed to pay a price.

Some remedies and measures are enumerated as below to overcome this emerging threat to society:

1. The environment of the family is an important factor in the personality development of the children. Hence the family structure should be organised in such a way that indigenous values and modernisation are simultaneously maintained.
2. The family's attitude and practice are of vital importance in determining the Child's early attitude. Children observed their parents. So, parents should be conscious about their behaviour.
3. Value education should be incorporated within the existing curriculum system of studies as a subject compulsory subject.
4. Political parties have to be conscious about their activities particularly dealing with the young generation.
5. Economic stability, employment should be provided as much as possible.
6. Mass Media and Social Media should be accountable to society so that no unhealthy environment creates in society. They must make sure that their actions remain pro-social and humanistic. Towards this end, they must balance their bottom line and the welfare of the public at large.

Conclusion

The deviation of ethical values in society is the core issue of our civilisation. Because of this reason, society is suffering from different disorders. The youth are in unrest conditions for which they frequently involve in anti-social activities. Many socialisation agents such as poor education system, fractured family, motivated mass media, dirty politics and political mobilisation, etc. are solely responsible for it. To re-established a moral base society and overcome this situation, it is necessary to increase ethical values, philosophical thinking, enhance research and moral development in the education system. We must also create an actual value-based environment in school, colleges, family, and society to establish peace and harmony to sustain future generations.

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