

## Value Based Education: Value Creation through Virtuous Education

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### Abstract

*The sole objective of the research is to propose a revised educational system with stress on understanding the soul from the primary educational level for the purpose of real value creation of human life. In the present systems, the focus is more on the futuristic material pleasure and gains derived from acquisition of education. The wants are more physical in nature not of the soul. Education is considered as a tool to generate substantial income for a secured life. In the scientifically progressing world, Global Peace should be made as the ultimate aim of everyone. Soul satisfaction can bring internal peace. Hence there shall be continuous search for 'self' within and enlightenment of soul should be attained. Intensive thought about soul, attachment with detachment, mortification, purification process should be kindled within 'self' from a young age. A space shall be created in the educational syllabus for introduction of virtuous education with understanding soul, which would promote mutual respect among people. Such a system would transform people to think about the welfare of mother earth consciously to safeguard the divine earth from rivalry and enmities. A Virtuous Intellectual Education System (VIES) shall sow the seeds of peace on earth and that is the right way for the value creation of oneself and for the mother earth. The ultimate vision is to create noble persons and give gifts to our mother earth as our gratitude.*

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### Introduction

Education is the best torch bearer for enlightened human life. In any era, human life starts with dependence on parents and others in the initial years after birth. However, in the modern era, even at the age of 3 years, a child starts visual learning and thereafter in paper. In the scientifically developed world, tender babies of 3 years operate, browse mobiles, watch YouTube independently and respond through emotions. This reflects the status of enlightened souls. After learning the alphabets, words and sentences, the massive theoretical knowledge takes off with intense studies year after year. Structured Education shapes students in school and college curriculum to a great extent.

This shows the widened opportunity available and impact of a scientifically developed environment in the educational institutions.

In the next phase, theoretical and practical knowledge take the prime place. Normally, the conventional life of a person involves an aim to attain an education at least 15 years and to settle in a family with a job. But a person of undying aspiration with fire at heart continues with higher education for an elevated life and higher status. For a few the self-learning never ends, even after establishing a settled routine life. But whether all these educational qualifications can bring internal peace to a person? Or whether all these bookish studies can bring harmony in personal life? The purpose of this paper is to establish the fact that more education alone would not shape a person to attain inner peace and blending of virtues in the educational curriculum with clear understanding of soul alone can bring peace to a person.

### **Body and Embodiment**

Human body is the embodiment of various constituent functional parts performing under the control of the soul. But on most occasions the body is made responsible for various happenings, unmindful of the soul.

### **Role of the Soul**

Soul is the key operator of human life whereas many are of the view that the body is doing everything. For any harm, people take revenge on the body. Along with intellectual education one should be taught about meditation focussing on the soul, as soul is the real identity of the body.

One should divert the mind from physical pleasure towards soul satisfaction as souls are intrinsically good. Fellow human beings should be viewed beyond all barriers such as religion, gender, race etc. from a young age one should be taught to realise soul-consciousness.

### **Worth of Knowledge**

Knowledge is an invisible gift and essential equipment for a person, as knowledge is not of the body but of the soul, Knowledge retained as a storage tank in the brain and retrieved as and when required. Knowledge safeguards, creates, performs, cautions, propels, expedites tasks, advises, teaches, preaches, rescues, prevents, supports in every walk of life etc. Hence an intellectual education is essential and indispensable in life. More the intellect, the more the value in life! Theoretical Knowledge is derived from constant education. Intelligence is not just the quantum of knowledge but through quality of output in skilful tasks.

### **Intellectual Education**

The present set of education is aimed at intellectual calibre. Intellectual education is a must for everyone. Astonishingly, many become intellectuals. But despite possessing high-quality intelligence, they fail to face crisis situations due to lack of Emotional Quotient (EQ). During crisis moments in life, they are unable to withstand the stress and succumb to pressures. Intolerance leads to break down of principles. Mind behaves eccentric and confusion overtakes intelligence. This is the position of intellectual education sans EQ. Intellectual education leads to a gainful

life but Intellectual education blended with Virtuous education only leads to a peaceful path of life. Hence there is a necessity to teach virtues along with the regular subjects in the curriculum.

### **Noble Person and Noble Souls**

Virtuous deeds build up a noble person and add value to the soul. A noble person is one who has cosmic love towards all living beings, who has a sense of shame for bad deeds, who has empathy toward others, who is beneficent by nature and who seeks truth in everything. Aim of a society should be to make noble persons from childhood in the interest of a peaceful world. Noble persons being unbiased do not aspire for others wealth. They do not go for ill-wealth. They do good parenting for their children and create the best citizens for this world. They surrender to the supreme God totally away from the religiosity differences. They prefer human approach with human consideration instead of discriminating on caste, creed etc. They are neutral and virtuous; they do excel in any profession. In case they enter into the scientific world, they would focus on human upliftment. Apart from everything, humanity will be benefited globally to a great extent through noble persons in the family, society and country. Normally intellectual education via books and lessons are value additions to a great extent enriching the peripheral qualities of students.

It is a social malady that two intellectuals do not go together generally in pursuit of a joint profession amicably. Intellectual indifferences, enmities, discriminations and clashes cripple the social fraternity and endanger global peace.

Disastrous intellectual crimes are mounting up. Statistics of varieties of cyber-crimes are the best examples. Mere intellectual education without virtues has increased technical frauds, tactful cheatings, hi-tech forgeries. It would mean that the value addition attained through best education is misused for personal gains in selfish interest or for shortcut gains. Interpersonal relations have eroded. Why could this abundant knowledge not give us a peaceful and honest environment? What is the remedial solution?

Despite crores of educated people filling the world year after year, there is a lack of peace everywhere. There is a growing threat of cross border terrorism. There are no solutions for the enmity, excess desires, intolerance, jealousy etc.

### **Ethics and Morals**

A few decades ago, there were moral classes in the schools in which various fables, moral stories were taught along with school education. The stories in the moral classes invariably involved stories revolving around various virtues such as Love towards living beings which is called cosmic love, discipline in personal life, leading a humble life, speaking with respect, avoidance of unwanted words, sense of gratitude, sense of shame about bad deeds, neutral attitude, tolerance, avoidance of backbiting, avoidance of jealous attitude, not aspiring of wealth of others, not to harm others, helping others, charity, focussing the mind on personal fame, sympathetic attitude, avoidance of all indiscipline deeds, control desires to live within the means etc. In the modern era, the young ones are imprisoned in a

competitive environment. There is least opportunity to learn about souls. Many of them enter into family life with the same emotional and rivalry mind-set.

### **Understanding Human and God**

Every human has an external or visible body and a subtle energy of the invisible soul. The character of the soul is revealed by the deeds of the visible body. Soul is the origin of the character or conduct of a person. Whether it is happiness or sorrow, it is being experienced by the soul. Soul gives personality. The concept of “soul world” representing infinite light, peace and silence should be understood. It is believed that the soul gets births depending on its virtuous or mean deeds done in a birth, and it will experience a life based on its sins. Hence there is a necessity to do virtuous deeds every day on every opportunity. There is a strong belief that the human soul can transmigrate into other species.

God is seen as the “Supreme Soul” and also as incorporeal and eternal. Unlike human life, it exists without a physical body, as it has no cycle of birth, death and rebirth. God has unconditional cosmism towards all souls. God is the perfect and constant embodiment of all virtues, powers and values. Hence, one should reach God through virtuous deeds. More the virtuous deeds performed by one, easier to surrender to God.

Virtuous persons believe that God’s purpose is to be the spiritual re-awakening of humanity and the removal of all sorrow, evil and negativity. They do not regard him as the creator of matter, as they consider matter to be eternal.

### **Epistemology and Ethics**

Epistemology is initially understood as the theory of knowledge, especially with regard to its methods, validity, and scope, and the distinction between justified belief and opinion. But over several years, the focus has changed. Knowledge of a person should deliver good ethical output.

The good old moral concept of ‘virtue’ has received renewed attention on ‘Modern Moral Philosophy’ too. The central point in contemporary virtue ethics is that ethics are viewed not from good speech but from the nature of good action. Likewise, virtue epistemology turns its focus away from just the nature of knowledge to goodness of the knower. The value of a sword is judged by the hand it holds. Knowledge is immaterial if a person is not a good doer. Today’s children are tomorrow’s pillars of this divine world. Class rooms are only creating good citizens and good leaders for us. Due to lack of virtuous education, there is a dearth of good world leaders in the global political arena.

The research on the link between virtue ethics and virtue epistemology are growing to establish an intellectually virtuous society. On these lines, the link between education for moral virtue (moral or character education) and education for the intellectual virtues (or for critical thinking) is being explored intensively. This thesis supports the development of moral and intellectual virtue as educational aims are interlaced with the conventional intellectual education. The moral virtues should take prime importance to promote intellectual virtue and vice-versa.

What is the relationship between moral and intellectual virtue theoretically? How

do moral and intellectual virtues impact on personality development? How can moral and intellectual virtues be promoted through a novel education method? Any teachings on virtue should activate the soul to analyse the truth and untruth.

### **Soul: Detachment, Purification, Mortification**

Human soul should be tuned to accept reality and to focus towards successful pursuit of truth. At a very young age, an opportunity to understand the concept of soul should be made available to enable a person to prefer a divine family life. A sort of detachment should be taught to contain desires at heart. Awareness of mortification, thereby purification of the soul, would moderate human behaviour to an amazing level. The mind would become incorruptible and browse for righteous path. The soul would search for meritorious deeds and laudable names. Thirukkural stipulates various cardinal virtuous principles in serialised chapters to lead a divine path. The ultimate aim of life should be enlightenment of soul and attainment of divinity.

### **Conclusion**

The divine Mother Earth gives as air, water, fire and space for our survival. It gives food, freedom, essentials, merriments, celebrations, wealth, health, status, amenities, inventions and discoveries. All we are indebted to mother earth. Should we

not repay the debt during our lifetime itself? Should we not create a congenial atmosphere for our children for their peaceful living? On these lines, virtuous education shall teach the basic sense of cosmic love towards all living beings and tolerance and simplicity. It should inculcate charitable attitude, educate people to exchange blemishless conversations, encourage hospitality, build up neutrality in the core of heart, create a disciplined character, promote sympathetic and empathetic attitude, practice penance for the wellbeing of the entire world etc. Also, one should keep away from jealousy, backbiting, desire for others wealth, excessive desires etc. One should distance away from bad acquaintances, unhealthy friendships, and hard core criminal elements.

Thus, a virtuous intellectual education sows the seeds of peace on earth and that is the right way for the value creation of oneself and for the mother earth. The ultimate vision is to create noble persons and give gifts to our mother earth as our gratitude. For this purpose Thirukkural is the best guide to achieve ethics and morality in life and to promote harmony and peace globally.

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