

LECTURE -2

FUNDAMENTAL VALUES AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN DAY TO DAY LIFE

The feeling of being related to every human being leads to our participation in an undivided society. With the understanding of values in human relationships we are able to recognize the connectedness with every individual correctly and fulfill it. There are definite values in human-to-human relationships which need to be understood and fulfilled accordingly. These are known as fundamental/essential values and they play an important role in day to day life.

Values: Values are deeply held beliefs that guide us in what is right and wrong. Values are taught so that one can have perfection in his/her personality.

The unique characteristics of values are:

- Values are **subjective**, because every single human being views life through his own perspective.
- Every person's point of view is **unique** and therefore every person's set of values is unique.
- There are values that are **positive** (friendship, happiness etc) and negative (hate, jealousy).
- Values are found in all **cultures, societies** and in all **places** where we live.

Importance of values: Values are the set of rules we have for leading our lives. They let us know:

- What is important to us and help us prioritize.
- Values help us gain clarity and focus in our lives.
- Values help us make decisions which lead us to integrity.

All universal moral values are against human egocentrism and aim to prevent an egocentric respect-less behaviour. Hence, our moral values are most important when we are in a state of frustration, anger or negativity. These fundamental values cannot be forced on anybody or any society, but they can only function as behavioural and educational guidelines, and as comparative verification concepts. They can only be desired and agreed upon, and hence expected.

Grid of Human Values: Human values are those universal concepts, drivers of action which are found in all cultures, all societies, and all times and in all places where human beings enlarge out their lives. The five human values which can be found in all religions are: Truth, Right Conduct, Love, Peace and Non violence.

GRID OF HUMAN VALUES AND SUB VALUES

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

I. Right Conduct: means showing respect for society’s laws, parents and elders and all the customs and practices of other cultures and faiths. This will aim to develop self reliance, self-discipline and enthusiasm. Right conduct consists of eight paths.

- **Right View:** means to abandon a self centered way of looking at things and see all things clearly. Don’t think of personal gains only.
- **Right Thinking:** means not to be inclined toward a self centered attitude but to think of things rightly, from a higher standpoint. This teaches us to abandon the **three evils of the mind i.e.** covetousness (greed), resentment (angry mind); and evil-mindedness, and to think of things with as generous a mind.
- **Right Speech:** teaches us to use right words in our daily lives and to avoid the “four evils of the mouth”: lying (false language), a double tongue (gossip), ill speaking (slander), and improper language (careless language). It may take some time to practice but even if angry one should not loose temper.
- **Right Action:** means daily conduct and this can be achieved only if a person will refrain himself from above said three evils that hinder right actions, careless killings, stealing etc.
- **Right Living:** This teaches us not to earn our livelihood through work that makes trouble for others or through a vocation useless to society but to live on a justifiable income that we can obtain through right work, which is useful for the society.
- **Right Endeavour:** means to engage constantly in right conduct without being idle or deviating from the right path.
- **Right Memory:** means to practice with a right mind. If we hope that only we ourselves may be right, we will become stubborn and self-satisfied people who are alienated from the world.

- **Right Meditation:** means always be determined to believe in the teachings and not to be agitated by any change of circumstances.

Taken altogether, the doctrine of Eightfold Path is the teaching that shows us the right way to live our daily lives.

II. Peace: refers to the experience of harmony as well as balanced mental condition. Peace has to be seen as a basic condition for freedom and happiness, for without peace there can not be real freedom. Wherever there is fight, threat or hostility our freedom and happiness are inhibited or totally prevented. For the realization of peace in a society, the universal values and standards of safety, equality, respect and justice are needed which in turn can be achieved through friendliness, empathy, loyalty, integrity and modesty. Peace, the absence of enmity and hostility, is also a basic condition for trust and reliability, and the basis of all cooperation, creation and sustainable trade. Peace can be fully realized when we have:

- Confidence in the inherent ability of human to see good, do good and be good.
- Peacefulness is related to controlling one's desires. E.g. if a person want to make quick money, there are cent per cent chances that he will earn it by engaging himself in some anti social activity.
- Peace of mind is individual whereas peace in society is the result of positive acts, which are not violent/ destructive but tolerant and constructive.

III. Truth: truth is an inherent value in the human psyche and the fact behind this is that no one likes to be called a liar, not even most liars. It is much harder to sustain a lie than to maintain the truth because one lie leads to another until the complexity is unmanageable. There are 2 aspects of truth.

- **Individual aspect-** which includes honesty, frankness, self-knowledge, accountability etc .
- **Communal aspect-** which includes integrity, reflection (how you are representing a particular thing), accountability (CAG deal: government is fighting so that nobody can raise question at their integrity and till they are not able to satisfy other parties they are accountable for the same etc).

IV. Love: Love in a general sense can be best defined as feelings or an experience of deep connectedness or oneness with any other human being or non human object. However, for some love can also be experienced as something far beyond any comprehension and totally indescribable. It is the essence of the experience of beauty, gratitude, joy, friendship, empathy, loyalty, justice, true respect for nature, and positive creativity. Therefore, love is the essence of the experience of anything beautiful and anything that makes life worth living, and a basic condition for happiness. Hence, love has to be seen as one of the most basic and universal core

values.

Characteristics of Love

- Love is a form of energy which each individual transmits and receives every moment.
- Should be taken in wide sense of care/ concern i.e. should not consider it as pure platonic relationships. Eg. Love between parent children, brother-sister etc.
- Unselfish care and concern for the well being of others and the world at large. E.g. social service at old age homes.
- It is one possession which grows with sharing
- Love begins by manifesting towards parents and grows gradually to include family, neighborhood, country etc.

V. Non-Violence: means amity (peaceful, friendly relations), harmony and the understanding.

- It can be achieved through non- violation of the law, cooperation, unity and equality, civic responsibility, social service, respect etc.
- The practice of non violence is not restricted to the physical plane alone but includes all the three i.e. thought, word and deed.

Concluding the fundamental values, we can say that:

- ❖ **Truth** is what we speak.
- ❖ **Right** is what we practice.
- ❖ **Love** is what we live.
- ❖ **Peace** is what we give.
- ❖ **Non- violence** is the fruit.

CIVIC SENSE: is nothing but social ethics. In present day scenario, people particularly youth are forgetting how to behave properly. Civic sense and good behaviour improves our personality and gives good impression to others. Civic Sense is all about having consideration for a fellow human being. It means being polite, showing consideration to elderly, women, children and disabled people, driving in one's lane without honking, throwing one's garbage in dustbins, smoking only at designated places and the list can go on. **It is the consideration by the people for the unspoken norms of the society.**

Why is Civic Sense important?

Separatism, vandalism, intolerance, racism, road rage etc. are all examples of lack of civic sense. People are becoming less and less tolerant of each other, of other's cultures, backgrounds, and other similar traits. India has really diverse people and the need of the hour is general civic sense. When civic sense is absent in a society, it leads to a lot of problems. Disregard for the law is a primary cause for lacking civic sense. A person who has high civic values does not resort to shortcuts and unethical tactics to get his work done. There are spit marks, urine, vulgar graffiti,

random garbage and overflowing sewers at every nook and corner of India. NO city in this country has managed to fight the menace.

Examples: Don't use vulgar graffiti in public toilets, spit marks on the roads, proper parking, dirty roads, don't throw garbage here and there etc. So, in all cases it is not the government who has to be blamed always but people must first question themselves and their own civic sense. Roads are not dirty because nobody cleaned it, but because somebody dirtied in the first place. You went to shopping complex to buy something. On return you will find your own car is blocked by many more cars behind. You could not even take your car because behind your car another big row is formed. This is a common scene in our cities. One must think about this trend seriously. If there is no space for parking you can go just ahead and park the car/vehicle at some distance away. By parking the vehicle there, we can go on foot to the shop.

Think over all these and be good mannered with good civic sense which will broaden your mind and gives you satisfaction and happiness in life.

How can you teach your child about civic sense?

The inarticulate standards or social ethics of the society are known as civic sense. Since there are no guidelines to define it, people often don't know what and how to teach their children about it. Most people even believe that just keeping the public property clean is civic sense, however, they don't realize that it's way more than not littering on the streets. Civic sense is regarding everything that shapes our society - from maintaining law and order to paying respect to everyone around.

Civic sense is of great significance and must be imparted onto the younger generation so as to maintain a smooth functioning of the society. But in schools, no more than a couple of lessons about civic sense are taught to the students. Schools' authorities must understand that teaching children about civic sense at an early age makes a huge difference later on.

In the absence of civic sense within the society, various social issues crop up some of which include racism, separatism, road rage and other criminal acts as well. As the importance of imparting civic sense is decreasing, many people are becoming less tolerant of one another which is giving rise to the communal frictions.

Teaching children about civic sense is essential and it should start at an early age. Because these are the most basic and modest human behaviours which are thought about during a course of time, these should not be enforced on students. Henceforth, other than teachers, parents should also be considerate about it. Teachers at school should keep in mind that they are teaching the kids about their responsibilities towards the society.

As a parent when we teach civic sense, we also teach him about civic responsibility. Civic sense is a school of thought in itself. It is belief in hygiene, respect for others members of the society

and human behaviour. We can start with teaching simple things to young children like keeping our immediate surroundings clean and tidy. If the child learns to appreciate cleanliness, he will be able to practice it outside home as well. So, by teaching the young child about civic sense, we are not only making him better human being but also doing our bit for the future of the country.