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Indigenous Values in Promoting Peace-Indian Culture

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Abstract:

Value system comprises of all the those beliefs and Viewpoint that the parents pass on to their next generation and the legacy goes on .In India most of the values are Nurtured, Natured at home and at school through Parents (Family), teachers, peer and other external environment. The present study aimed at finding out the indigenous values and strengths among youth.The present study was an exploratory study with ex-post facto research design. An attempt was made by the researcher to find out the value system that exists among the present generation. The Researcher had developed a tool based on the hidden values of Indian Ethics and culture. Using convenience sampling technique, a sample of 100 young adults of age ranging from 20 – 30 was collected of which 45 were women and 55 were men.It was found out that the tool was having high reliability and validity. The study revealed that young adults are in dilemma whether to follow the Indian values or follow the western routes.The study had implied the necessity of educating the children with values from childhood.

Keywords: Values – Indian Ethics – Peace – Importance – Individuals)

1. Introduction

“No culture can live if it attempts to be exclusive”

-M.K. Gandhi

Culture is known as the way of life.It is important factor for the development of any nation. It is referred to as the intellectual development which has evolved out of physical and mental training which is been acquired in the course of the ages in a country.“Unity in diversity” It is not only a phrase or quotation, but, these words are very true to a country like India that is incredibly rich in culture and heritage. A Country like India is known for its diversity and plurality of culture, religion also plays an important role in life’s of many because India is also an religiously diverse nation in the world.India welcomes every culture into her shadow and in other words it is an umbrella for every culturethat’s the main reason for the uniqueness in Indian culture and it always keep moving on with the speed of the world. There are certain things about India that are famous worldwide, like the epics. India being the land of famous mythologies and folklores. Some of the greatest works of epic literature are found here, the two famous works which are well known are Ramayana and Mahabharata. Mahabharata and Ramayana are important epics because they explain us how to behave in extremes conditions of life.

Ramayana is one of the most read and famous epics of all times. It is not just a story or epic literature it is more of educational medium which is used by ancient sages to inform the importance of doing one’s own duty. The Ramayana depicts characters that everyone should aspire to be like, such as the ideal father, ideal son, ideal brother, ideal leader, ideal wife, etc., it also includes Rama Rajyam , in the Rama story it has put forth many ideals like for instance " Ram Rajya was the rule of Shri Ram over the entire world. The reign of Rama was called Rama Rajya, the reign of Righteousness and Truth. People were not affected by any means. Rama Rajya was marked by peace, prosperity, and harmony and compassion. He showed example as a model king and Hindus expect Rama Rajya as for the welfare of everyone. Earlier when Rama ruled his praja or people lived peacefully because of rama’s dedication and his sincerity in his doing his duties thereby bringing welfare to his people. This Rama rajyam is an example of how a king or a rulers should be devoted and dedicated to their respective duties and vocations in life. Besides Rama, the Ramayana features many other characters such as Sita, Hanuman, Lakshmana, Ravana, Jatavu, Dasharatha, Bharata, Sugriva, Satrugna, Indrajit, Kumbhakarna, Vibhishana and Surpanakha. These characters collectively help this poetic work as influential as it is. They also help readers get an idea of way of life. Ramayana is about satisfaction, sacrifice, honesty and destruction of greed and indiscipline. The characters and incidents in Ramayana provide the ideals and wisdom of common life, and help to bind the people of India, regardless of caste and language. The highlight of the Ramayana is dharma, which means righteousness, in Sanskrit 'that which holds together'. It is dharma which finds significant repetition throughout the Ramayana. The Ramayana speaks about the true identity of the individual, the real significance of the family and the sanctity of the society. The Ramayana also teaches the importance of human values ,for example though Ravanais describes and generally known as rakshah but yet he is considered as the great king ,he is a demon but he has great morals ,the only mistake he did was kidnapping sita, if he hadn't

wanted or liked wife of another man ,he wouldn't have been died and wouldn't have cursed by the Hindu's. Today corruption is rampant in all fields such as business, education, politics etc., under these circumstances, the principles of the Ramayana are very important

Mahabharata, it is one of the two major epics of ancient India. Besides the War of Kurushetra and the battle between Kauravas and Pandavas ,this epic gives many hidden values to the people ,This is the largest written epic .It is an encyclopedia for all the ages .It has historical, religious, cultural, social ,geographical significance .Every character in this epic ,teaches human an unique lesson. For instance, Bhishma teaches a lesson of Selfness is not always a virtue, if he was not self-righteous the Great War would have avoided. His stepmother advices him to take up the kingdom but he refused to break his celibacy hence, he had to face the war. Draupadi her character teaches a lesson of one cannot have everything in life , she wanted to have a husband of certain qualities ,she did not pray for a single husband who will have all these husbands ,hence she ended up being wife for five husbands. Arjuna, whose mind is spotless and clean from all impurities,he is very popular among ladies and one of the lesson his character teaches humans are - Be careful and never insult a woman, arjuna was once cursed by Urvashi a dancer that he would lose his manhood for a year and the brave man had to live it that way for a year. Karna, he was raised by a charioteer when his mother abandoned him from the time he was born.He is well known for his generosity and loyalty. One of the lesson his character teaches humans are about how one should present oneself better than the destiny, and how bad choice lead to final fall. Duryodhana though is known for his evil side ,he always recognizes merit and skill from anyone ,he is powerful ,he is known for friendship, he is a good disciple for his guru and he is always concerned about his land.The mistake he had done was only his undoing was his envy towards the Pandavas. This has shattered his sense of right and wrong and deprived his senses and led him on the path of deception treachery and unholy conduct. Duryodhana is seen as a villain in Indian mythology. He was jealous of the Pandavas and tried every means to destroy them. He also tried to humiliate Draupadi. Despite all the bad things he had done, he has many good qualities which should be learned.

Bhagavad Gita literally means The Song of the Bhagavan, often referred to as simply the Gita, is a 700-verse Hindu scripture that is part of the Hindu epic Mahabharata. The Bhagavad Gita's call for selfless action was also inspired by many leaders of the Indian independence movement including Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who had referred the Gita as his "spiritual dictionary.Bhagavad Gita of Hinduism is purely a spiritual document that has everything related to human beings and life on mother earth. Bhagavad Gita relates to human beings in more than one way. It is not only the wisdom which is evident in Bhagavad Gita through which human beings can finally reach the stage of enlightenment because it also contains many inner truths of life knowing which human beings finally can encounter and thus became absolute master and controller of one's own life forever.

Every child which is born is been brought up with the life teaching stories of these epics right from birth, but due to continuous effect or direct contact with the rest of the culture, practices, etc., which is through globalization, westernization, the Internet era, all the value system which is taught in childhood through these epics couldn't be hold by the young adults of present generation. The young adults are growing with the speed of the world and hence there has been much perception amongst the general public about the young adults who is aged between 20-30 years. There is always a general perception amongst the people that,the so called young adults, aged between 20-30 years have no basic values in their life on certain area. Young adults form a crucial bridge between one generation and the next. The values that they hold therefore have important implications for the future. There are unquestionably differences in the lives of today's young adults and those of their parent. There is a continuous perception that the current generation live as per their likes and not holding on to basic values of how an individual should live and how he/she should march forward in their life's holding on family value and their culture .For instance ,in general, young adults marry later than their parents, more live in de facto relationships, more would have had a number of significant relationships before marriage, they tend to have children later, and women expect to return to work after they have children. Social contact, enjoyment and self development are also been an important factor to many young adults. Social service or community involvement has been less important and religion is of little concern for many. There is a mixture of population in India which still holds on to the past values which is passed on to them by their parents and at the same time there is another set of population who don't follow the age old values because of globalization and world becoming a global village, there is no room for indigenous values ,this latter part of population is been generalized by the general public that every young adult in this land have no values within the, and they behave according to their likes and mind and they don't think about family,society etc., This belief is not a permanent one because this itself has been developed due to various changes which happens in the society and in the culture of our land .

2. Need for Study

The reason for this study is to see whether the values of our Indian Land are still alive amongst the young adults. The questionnaire was developed keeping in mind the Indigenous values and culture of India, for instance Ramayana teaches on how to experience sorrow and establish dharma on earth and how a man should live etc., It teaches the difference between right and wrong, Love and respect for parents ,Adherence to truth and honor one's word, etc., By reading Ramayana it might sound as story but there are many values hidden ,one need to concentrate and understand every aspect, Every individual right from childhood is told by their grandparents, parents about some of these values.But far it has registered in the young minds and how far they are really taking into practice is a question, this research is mainly focused on the reality or action orientation of young of these values in their lives. The researcher has developed a tool keeping in mind the Indian culture.

2.1. Design, Participants, Measures

Expost-Facto research design is used in the study. Using convenient sampling technique samples of 100 individuals of age ranging from 20-30 were selected for the study.

Out of 100,55 were men and 45 were women. All the respondents were administered with the tool developed by the researcher and were explained with the purpose of the study.

3. Tool Description

The Content of the tool was taken from the Indian epics Ramayana and Mahabharata. Items were developed based on the values which being said in these epics. Initially 65 items were developed and the same was circulated for content validation among five subjects' experts. From the feedback received from them, the item were reduced to 30, and again circulated among experts. Minor corrections suggested by them were carried out before administering the tool to the respondents. The response category ranges from Strongly Agree to strongly disagree.

4. Scoring

Item number 4, 8, 11 were reversed coded and all the items were summed up.

5. Reliability

Reliability of the tool was established using Cronbach's Alpha which was found to be 0.92

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	No of Items
.914	.922	30

Table 1: Reliability Co-efficient

6. Validity of the Tool

Using Extraction method, item analysis was done.

Totally seven Factors emerged by principal component analysis. More number of samples to be collected to confirm the factors.

	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Range	Maximum / Minimum	Variance	No of Items
Item Means	2.592	2.220	3.670	1.450	1.653	.106	30

Table 2: Summary Item Statistics

Mean	Variance	Std. Deviation	No of Items
77.7600	344.790	18.56853	30

Table 3: Scale Statistics

	Initial	Extraction
Item no 1	1.000	.755
Item no 2	1.000	.701
Item no 3	1.000	.609
Item no 4	1.000	.767
Item no 5	1.000	.677
Item no 6	1.000	.650
Item no 7	1.000	.682
Item no 8	1.000	.690
Item no 9	1.000	.733
Item no 10	1.000	.654
Item no 11	1.000	.673
Item no 12	1.000	.725
Item no 13	1.000	.601
Item no 14	1.000	.724
Item no 15	1.000	.758
Item no 16	1.000	.573
Item no 17	1.000	.694
Item no 18	1.000	.742
Item no 19	1.000	.669
Item no 20	1.000	.695
Item no 21	1.000	.665
Item no 22	1.000	.664
Item no 23	1.000	.697
Item no 24	1.000	.722

Item no 25	1.000	.601
Item no 26	1.000	.644
Item no 27	1.000	.731
Item no 28	1.000	.659
Item no 29	1.000	.701
Item no 30	1.000	.645

Table 4: Communalities

As a rule of thumb, any extracted value which is less than 0.4 to be excluded. In the present study every item the value is above 0.5. Hence all the items have high internal consistency.

Results:

The tool was found to have high reliability and validity. The mean score of the sample was found to be 77.7 which indicate that value system is neither too good nor too bad.

Variable	gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	“t”
Value	Male	55	75.82	20.7	3.425**
	Female	45	80.13	15.46	

Table 5: Gender differences.

**Significant at 0.01 level

The above table shows the gender differences Men and Women differ significantly in their value system.

7. Discussion

The present study had two objectives i.e., to develop a tool to assess value system and to see where the young adult stand in terms of value system. The results indicated that young adults due to the impact of globalization they are slowly forgetting the Indian values. Now they are like cat on the wall, of deciding whether being an Indian I should follow the value system which my ancestors imbibed or should go along with peers by following western culture. This dilemma is due to the contact with other cultures in recent times due to social networking. Also they wanted to maintain the values of Indian land but couldn't due to continuous exposure of cultures either directly or indirectly. The epics of India are true examples of how one should lead life and how one shouldn't and in order to find the prevalence of values amongst young adults, the researcher has developed a tool keeping in mind the values of Indian which is expressed in epics. Indian value system has changed over the year's westernization, globalization etc., has grappled Indians in many ways. Most of them don't understand the real meaning of westernization or modernization or globalization. Most of us think that it is only with the dressing style or the way we carry ourselves, but actually it is the mindset of people which needed to be changed if an individual wanted to follow any routes. It is no doubt that western culture has brought in kind of independent in today's generation but that doesn't mean that one has to forget the value systems of Indian land, For instance from childhood all of us are taught to think before you talk and to think before a promise is made but many in today's scenario no one is following, there is an attitude of "I should get over with my work, I don't care even I had given promise, it's just a promise". The underline meaning of every word which was treasured by our ancestors lost its charm. Everything is taken lightly and for granted, and due to which many other cultures are taking its position here and hence our value system is not been taken completely by the youths and hence their dilemma of to whether follow my values of India or should I take western ideas emerged.

8. Limitation of Study

- Sample size was very less.
- Dimension emerge in the study needs to be expanded.
- Tool need to be standardized to create norms.
- Random sampling was not done.

9. Implication

This study implied the necessity of value education amongst school children right from their kinder gardens specifically for school children it should be made mandatory to impart them with moral values. For instance if we look at Japan, Japanese children clean their schools every day for a quarter of an hour with teachers which has led to the emergence of a Japanese generation who is modest and keen on cleanliness, and also in Japan, students from first to sixth primary years must learn ethics in dealing with people. But if the same is done in India many would oppose and would not indulge in cleaning their surrounding or maintain their value system, and also there won't be many parents who would take an initiative to teach the students the value till they are mature enough nor any school take an initiative to teach the students the values of Indian land which is evident and expressed in Indian epics.

Hence, continuous exposure to our own Indian value system which is evident in Ramayana, Mahabharata should be exposed and taught to children through stories, drama, or making it a part of school curriculum or a soft skills course etc., which would make a change and make the present children who are the future India to hold within them the pride of our lands value.

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