

HUMAN VALUES AND ETHICS B. TECH II Year

Human Values

Human Values reflect the sense of right and wrong in a person. They also refer to appropriate courses of action, values define what 'ought' to be in society. Trust and Affection are seen as foundational and complete values in a society.

The concept of human values and man's inner reality.

On line with the explanation of the heart, mind and soul of man, Karen Homey, the psychologist, made important observations on human values. Based on her clinical findings, she noted the integral relationship between man's true nature and human values. The definition clearly implies that the essential reality of man is the source of constructive possibilities or values. It focuses attention on the heart, mind and soul of man as expressed in feelings, thoughts and actions. These are mainly responsible for man's act of valuation. This is supported by the International Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences (1969: 283) which explains "sheer reflex behaviour does not manifest value or valuing". The manifestation of these inner aspects of man therefore need to be further highlighted in order to understand the types of human values evolving from them.

In addition to the explanation of human values as basically related to man's nature of being human, recent researches have projected other explanations. Based on clinical findings, leading psychologists, Abraham Maslow and Erich Fromm proposed the humanistic theory. The meaning of humanism given in J. A. Cuddon's dictionary of literary terms clarifies the implication of this theory: At its best, humanism helped to civilize man, to make him realize his potential powers and gifts.

Value Education (Basic Guidelines)

Moral sense or conscience is the need of the hour in today's society. Value Education helps to understand what is 'valuable' for human happiness. Value education needs to encompass the following-

- 1- Universal (Needs to be applicable to all human beings)
- 2- Rational (Appeal to human reasoning)
- 3- Natural and Verifiable
- 4- All encompassing- cover all levels (Individual, Family and Society)
- 5- Leading to harmony

1. Universal: Whatever we study as values education that should be applicable all over the world and should be adopted by the human beings from all part of the world. It should not unfollow by the people of certain cast, religion, tradition, gender, nationality, etc. It helps to deal with the things on universal level.

2. Rational: These should be in harmony and based on reasons. Human being shouldn't blindly belief on everything they heard. What the sermons taught to they, they influence us to do the things but we should do the thing on our own basis.

3. Nature and verifiable: Human being should learn something seems to be natural and that should be acceptable by the nature. When we move toward our goals by being natural then it leads to the achievement and gives the happiness. We need to verify these values on our own basis, it means we shouldn't follow the thing only if it is written in book or preached by the sermons.

4. Leading to Harmony: Hence we can say that value education helps us to be in harmony and maintain balance in all the relationship. When we understanding these things lead to the situation when we know about the balancing of everything like harmony with others, with nature in natural way

Accurate identification of our desire: Every person in this world has their own desire or wish which needs to be fulfilled by them on any cost for their happiness. Hence the value education helps us to understand our needs and know about our aspiration with accuracy and also helps us to find the correct path towards the fulfilment. It also helps to remove our confusion and bring balance at all the level in the fulfilment of desire.

Understanding universal human values to fulfill our desire: Once we understand about what is really important for us, they become the basis for our desire and the action engaged with it. In order to make society as well as individual happiness and balance with his surroundings, there is need to explore the value domain through value education.

Complimentary of values and skills: To fulfill our desire both the values and skills are important and one should have the both these to fulfill the needs. When we identify our correct goal and we move forward in correct direction at the right time then it is known as the **value domain**. For e.g. if anyone is wishing to have the healthy and fit life then only wishing these things cannot goes everything correct but she/he needs to understand the meaning of health take action according to the need of healthy life and make the body fit.

Evaluation of belief: Every person has certain type of belief in some kind of fact but that belief is really true or false we don't know but still we follow that because we had been heard that may be from our parents or by our elders, or by reading, hearing, what we see from our eyes, etc. every person has their own type of believes. We may have some type of believe in one thing but other may not believe on that thing and it is not important that one single fact may be followed by all over the world. Thus, value education will help us to evaluate our beliefs and assumed values, and their importance in reality.

Technology and human values: The present system of education has generally based on skills and we give the first importance to the science and technology. However, the science & technology can only help to provide the different instrumental aid to achieve the needs. It is not important that science will always help to find what is really valuable to human beings.

Hence, we can say that we must understand the value of needs first of all before moving on the further process to fulfill that aspirations and the desire.

Self-Exploration

Self-Exploration is the process in which self-investigation is carried out. It a dialogue between 'what you are' and 'what you want to be'. Self-Exploration enables us to look at

our problems within, introspect and resolve them by becoming aware of our natural acceptance. Self-exploration as the process for value education -discusses the process of finding about what is valuable to oneself by investigating within oneself. To understand all this, we should start observing inside. Self-exploration and its purpose are defined as –

- a) what you are and what you want
- b) it's a process of self-evolution through self-investigation
- c) knowing oneself and through that knowing entire existence
- d) recognizing one's relationship and fulfilling it
- e) it's about knowing human conduct and character and living accordingly
- f) it's about being in harmony with oneself and entire existence
- g) identifying innateness and moving towards self-organization and self-expression.

Wealth vs Prosperity

Prosperity is defined as the state of success, wealth and good fortune. When someone possesses more than required number of physical facilities, they may feel prosperous. Wealth, on the other hand, is a materialistic concept and solely related to physical facilities. Prosperity is a feeling that also includes Wealth. A wealthy person may feel 'prosperous' and feel 'deprived'. Prosperity, unlike wealth, leads to the sharing of physical facilities.

Understanding Needs of Self and Body

Human Being- Physical body and self (person's essential being/ personal)

Feelings which can't be qualified by Self (I)

Needs of self (I)- Happiness- Qualitative needs. Needs can be fulfilled by right thinking, balance in thinking and action to achieve continuous happiness. Needs of Self like- Respect, Trust, Happiness, Love are continuous in terms of time.

Body- Physical Facility. Food, clothing, shelter- they are temporary needs. Fulfilling physical needs through material dependence.

Activities in Self (I) and Body-

Self (I) activities- Thinking, dreaming, analyzing, understanding (Emotions)

Body activities- Digestion, Respiration (happening on their own) (Material)

Self and Body Activities- Seeing, talking, listening (Need to participate actively)

In self, knowing things leads to recognizing and fulfillment. The body is an instrument of the self; the self is seer, does and enjoyer.

According to R.K. Mukherjee, "Values are socially approved desires and goals that are internalized through the process of conditioning, learning or socialization and that become subjective preferences, standards, and aspirations".

According to Zaleznik and David, "Values are the ideas in the mind of men compared to norms in that they specify how people should behave. Values also attach degrees of goodness to activities and relationships"

According to I. J. Lehner and N.J. Kube, Values are an integral part of the personal philosophy of life by which we generally mean the system of values by which we live. The philosophy of life includes our aims, ideals, and manner of thinking and the principles by which we guide our behaviour.

According to T. W. Hippiie, "Values are conscious or unconscious motivators and justifiers of the actions and judgment"

Understanding Values in human relationship

Understanding is how we evaluate values while beliefs are assumed values. Relationship is between self (I) and the other self (I). There are nine feelings (values) or expectation of feelings (value). They are definite and can be recognized, their fulfillment and evaluation lead to mutual happiness- trust: the foundational value in relationship.

Trust- 'To be assured that each human being inherently wants oneself and the other to be happy and prosperous, is called Trust. Having faith in others and believing them. Trust is the belief and confidence in the integrity, reliability and fairness of a person or organization; an essential human value that quantifies and defines our inter-dependence in relationships with others. Trust is a choice we make toward someone when we are inspired that they have either earned our confidence or are by some other means worthy of it. It is difficult to acquire, and when fractured even harder to redeem, so perhaps the lessons of trust are not how to earn it, but what it takes to keep it. And perhaps the greatest value of trust is not the accomplishments we make with it, but rather what trust accomplishes in us on our quest to become people who are worthy of receiving it.

Respect- Personal space, individuality for others. In an article by [Harvard Business Review](#), Rogers warns that lack of respect or an imbalance in the way employees are treated can create dysfunction in the job site. However, when employees report feeling respected, they tend to be more loyal to their companies and grateful for their jobs.

Affection- Connection, being related to each other. Affection is usually identified with emotion, but actually these are very different phenomena although closely related. Whereas the emotion is an internal individual response which informs of the survival probabilities that every concrete situation off, affection is a process of social interaction between two or more organisms. Social species need, at least in some periods of their lives, the collaboration of other members of the same species to survive. A social individual cannot obtain by itself all the resources that it needs to survive. Sociability is, then, the

result of needing the others to survive. We define social interaction as any kind of interaction which shows a certain degree of help or cooperation. Help and cooperation is a requirement in all social species. Without help, without cooperation of the others, an individual of a social species cannot survive.

Care- Nurture; The ethics of care mainly analysis three aspects:1-The role that emotions play in life, and how they affect our perception and projection of reality,2-The sensitive (being empathic) approach to the specific context or situation we are experiencing, and 3-The world of relationships with oneself, others and the environment. The *ethics of care* improves our **humanity**. It is a positive message, a message of Peace, Love, Understanding, Joy, Protection, and Kindness.

Guidance- Right understanding and feelings; The feeling of ensuring right understanding and feelings in the other (my relative) is called guidance. We understand the need of self ('I') for right understanding and feelings. We also understand that the other is similar to me in his/her faculty of natural acceptance, desire of wanting continuous happiness and the program of living in harmony at all the four levels. The other is also similar to me in the potential of desire, thoughts and expectation.

Reverence- Acceptance of excellence; The feeling of acceptance of excellence in the other is called reverence. We understand that we aspire for continuous happiness and to realize it, we have to understand harmony at all the levels of our living, and live accordingly. When we see that the other has achieved this excellence- which means to understand and to live in harmony at all the levels of living ensuring continuity of happiness, we have a feeling of reverence for him/her. This feeling of accepting the excellence in the other is called reverence.

Gratitude- Helping others and feeling of being helpful; Value of Thankfulness Gratitude is the feeling of acceptance for those who have made efforts for my excellence. Gratitude is an emotion that occurs after people receive help, depending on how they interpret the situation. Specifically, gratitude is experienced if people perceive the help they receive as (a) valuable to them, (b) costly to their benefactor, and (c) given by the benefactor with benevolent intentions.

Glory- Inspired by the past. Glory is the feeling for someone who has made efforts for excellence. We find that there have been people in the history, or even around us, who are investing their time, energy and their belongings to achieve excellence (to understand and to live in harmony at all levels of living ensuring continuity of happiness), to make others excellent. This gives us a feeling of glory for them.

The characteristics of values are:

- These are extremely practical, and valuation requires not just techniques but also an understanding of the strategic context.
- These can provide standards of competence and morality.

- These can go beyond specific situations or persons.
- Personal values can be influenced by culture, tradition, and a combination of internal and external factors.
- These are relatively permanent.
- These are more central to the core of a person.
- Most of our core values are learned early in life from family, friends, neighbourhood school, the mass print, visual media and other sources within the society.
- Values are loaded with effective thoughts about ideas, objects, behaviour, etc.
- They contain a judgmental element in that they carry an individual's ideas as to what is right, good, or desirable.
- Values can differ from culture to culture and even person to person.
- Values play a significant role in the integration and fulfilment of man's basic impulses and desire stably and consistently appropriate for his living.
- They are generic experiences in social action made up of both individual and social responses and attitudes.
- They build up societies, integrate social relations.
- They mould the ideal dimensions of personality and depth of culture.
- They influence people's behaviour and serve as criteria for evaluating the actions of others.
- They have a great role to play in the conduct of social life. They help in creating norms to guide day-to-day behaviour.

Basic Human Aspirations-

The program to fulfil basic human aspirations, discusses how happiness and prosperity can be ensured. The desires and wants which are to do with physical things are called "physical facilities" and the other category of wants is "relationships". The authors also suggest a neat equation as follows: Right understanding+ relationship = mutual fulfilment
 Right understanding + physical facilities = mutual prosperity. It explores about what the 'right understanding' is and it is tied to the need for happiness. The state of our happiness or unhappiness depends on three aspects like right understanding, relationship and physical facilities. Happiness may be defined as being in harmony/synergy in the state/ situation that I live in. "A state or situation in which I live, if there is harmony in it then I like to be in that state / situation. The state of liking is happiness." Whereas, prosperity is the "feeling of having or making available more than required physical facilities".

In the current scenario, we are generally trying to achieve happiness and prosperity by maximizing accumulation and consumption of physical facilities. This is an attempt to achieve happiness through pleasant sensory interactions. The physical facilities are not seen in terms of fulfilling bodily needs but as a means of maximizing happiness.

This has resulted in wrong assessment of wants for physical facilities as being unlimited. But this pursuit is self-defeating. Neither can we hope to achieve continuous happiness through sensory interactions nor can we have prosperity, as it amounts to trying to fulfil unlimited wants through limited resources. This effort is engendering problems at all the levels. It is

becoming anti-ecological and anti-people, and threatening the human survival itself. Some of the consequences of such a trend are summarized below:

1. **At the level of the individual** – Rising problems of depression, psychological disorders, suicides, stress, insecurity, psycho-somatic diseases, loneliness etc.
2. **At the level of the family** – Breaking of joint families, mistrust, conflict between older and younger generations, insecurity in relationships, divorce, dowry tortures, family feuds, wasteful expenditure in family functions etc.
3. **At the level of the Society** – Growing incidences of terrorism and naxalism, rising communalism, spreading casteism, racial and ethnic struggle, wars between nations, attempts of genocide, fear of nuclear and genetic warfare, etc.
4. **At the level of nature** – Global warming, water, air, soil, noise, etc. pollution, resource depletion of minerals and mineral oils, sizeable deforestations, loss of fertility of soil.

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