



## ETHICAL DEVELOPMENT

Education / K Subrahmanyam

# Towards Unbiased Meritocracy

*The present system of education is devoid of our rich cultural heritage. The erstwhile gurukula system aimed at making the pupil a complete man, inculcating moral and ethical values in him.*

Ever since we deviated from our age-old *gurukula* system which was value-based, ethical and moral, our educational system took a destructive turn. The advent of the British and their necessity to have clerks, who would be machine-like, paved the way for Lord Macaulay's system of education which unfortunately is still in vogue. This system is devoid of our rich cultural heritage which aims at making the pupil a complete man, inculcating moral and ethical values. It is sad to note that the *gurukula* system of education which is the backbone of a country's civilisation is considered to be unproductive by our people's representatives in Parliament. To a Government whose aim is result (concrete and material) oriented, culture and ethics-oriented education appears to be unimportant.

An educated person is expected to be of clean habits, pleasing manners law-abiding, kind-hearted, unselfish, soft spoken and of helping nature. Education is useless if the "educated people" are otherwise. The need of the hour is education based on ethics.

The three fold aim of value-based education ought to be:

- Problem-facing capacity,
- Problem-solving capacity

and

- Large-heartedness and service while solving the problems which are at physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual levels.

Only a person of ethical excellence can be of righteous help to humanity.

Morality is expected to ensure ethics.

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The former is the code of conduct and the latter is the purity of character. The present educational system is not directed towards or based on ethics. The first and foremost reason for this is the madness for materialism and the lure of sense pleasure which are unchecked by stringent laws and uncontrolled by society for want of inspiring models.

Education ought to be a mission. But

education. Money-making and missionary service do not go hand in hand.

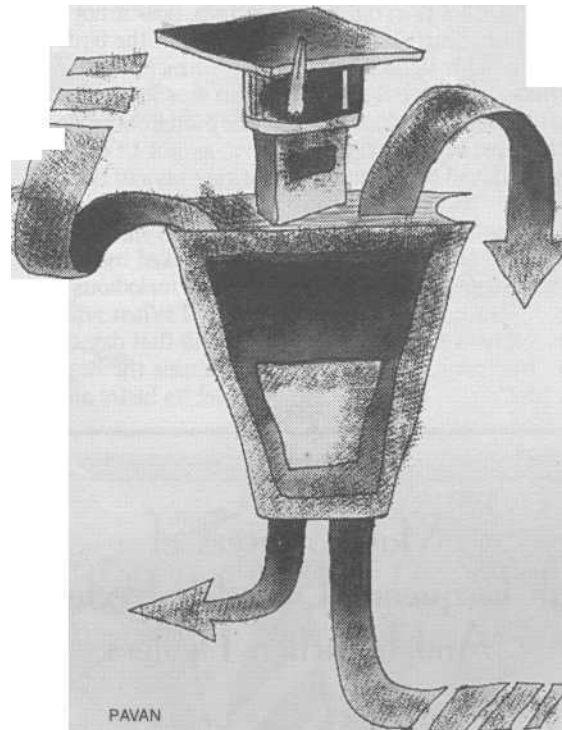
However, without inconveniencing financial viability, unbiased meritocracy can very well be maintained, if only the institution builders can put up with a few teething troubles. There are philanthropists who are willing to fund institutions which stand on solid principles.

Often, official interference is highlighted as a hindrance for imparting education based on ethics. But in practice it is found that there will be official interference, only when the thrust on ethics is absent in education. There are institutions, though few in number, which are totally free from official interference simply because of their meticulous adherence to sound principles. Character is strength, not weakness. And one needs to be strong to be of character. Then the question will be whether we can ensure good character by introducing academic courses in ethics. Courses on moral science and ethics will only be a mockery if they are not conducted by people of character and conviction. Parents, teachers and elders in society have to set an example. Else, all efforts to inculcate ethics in the classroom will be a waste. Only a revolution from the youth can set society right.

That day is not far off. The

youngsters are fed up with bad models. The awakening is sure to come.

The unmotivated, the ill-motivated, the adversely motivated and the demotivated teachers are the greatest enemies to the very citadels of education. And good teachers are not only few, but even they are bullied by the bad. Unless society learns to respect a good teacher of ethics and provides protection, there is no stimulant to sustain integrity. HUMANSCAPE • JANUARY 1998



it has ceased to be even a duty and in recent times has become a business. All the deterioration is due to weakness for wealth and luxury at the cost of love of humanity. The three-fold functioning of the educational activity ie — spot out the talent, train it to perfection and direct it towards the able service to humanity — therefore is jeopardised. Even those who need education most for earning a livelihood are affected due to profiteering in