CSC ESSAY CONTEST - ALL INDIA FIRST PRIZE OCTOBER 2006

IMPORTANCE OF VALUES IN EDUCATION

"Education is a process to develop man’s faculties, especially his mind, so that he may be able to enjoy the contemplation of supreme truth, beauty and goodness.” - Aristotle.

In olden days education was given to create supreme wisdom. In the Gurukulas of the past, instructions were provided for right living, spiritual advancement and moral conducts. Students were trained to lead lives marked by humility, sense control, virtue and discipline. The system of education dealt more with truth and totalities and helped to purify the process of learning.

With the advent of scientific and technological developments human life has been transformed beyond all imaginations. Information technology has shrunk the gigantic world into a global village. No body can deny the fact that a gene clad future is on the anvil. This technological advancement has led to a radical change in human values. Loss of moral and socio-ethical values is being reflected in every sphere of human life. Today human life is facing a crisis of identity. The trend of education today is to train the minds in knowledge, ideas and skills which can be utilized in the future to further our materialistic ambitions and aspirations. We are tempted to assume that technological progress is the real progress and that material progress is the criterion of civilization. In this mad pursuit we have forgotten to realize that "Education is not an end in itself, but a means to an end”. The present day education has not been able to train and discipline our minds. As it was rightly said by B. Russell “A scientifically nurtured society, which has lost all its moral and spiritual values, is definitely bound to crack”.

At present education has become more a way of business. In the work-a-day world, where the teachers work only for the wages they get, they don’t spend time to give to the students outside the scope of curricular brilliancy and that is the greatest stumbling block in the way of development of life and character of students. This is mainly due to the dependency of private educational institutions on academic performance in terms of marks, which help them in marketing. Parents and teachers have become careerists. Such careerist minded teachers and parents are infecting the young minds with materialistic attitudes. Legitimate educators are now becoming fast vanishing tribes. Undoubtedly the power of money, modernization and technological developments cannot be denied, but
not at the cost of a virtuous noble life. Are we to become a living dead living like robots in a world of concrete jungles? Students pass classes and acquire degrees without cultivating sensitivity, appreciation and wisdom. The present system of education fails to make students fit for a noble life. The whole system of education seems to go against the very nature of humanity. But ironically we are always trying to adjust the man in the system rather than adjusting the system to bring out the best in man.

Today the genes of honesty and sympathy are getting eliminated from the population at a rapid rate. All our activities are based on profit-loss calculations. Even many of the NGO’s (Non Governmental Organizations), which are supposed to be service minded, have become profit-motivated organizations aiming at exploitation for self-benefits. Love has become market place transaction. Due to loss of reciprocating sentiments between parents and their children nowadays our senior citizens are dwelling in old age homes longing for love and affection.

The human values in our day today life are more conspicuous by their absence. Unless they become part of our life and way of living the situation will continue to worsen at the peril of human kind. As a matter of fact modern man’s eternal danger is not so alarming as his own spiritual and moral bankruptcy, has made him ethically barren and completely devoid of inner values which make up the sum total of the essence of human personality. Educators if they wish to be legitimate ones, must seriously scrutinize these undercurrents and stand guard against them. Neglect of imparting values in education shows that we are not anxious to show our youth the noblest ways and means of living. This requires our urgent attention. The only way to correct the situation is to incorporate study of the human values as a core subject in our education system right from pre-primary, primary to higher education.

We need to nurture core inner values like discipline, dedication, meditation, mutualism, earnestness, simplicity, helpfulness, patience, appreciativeness, right speech, modesty, love of justice, honesty, sincerity and similar other virtues in our young tender minds. Values related to inter religious interaction and social cohesion need to be imparted to the igniting minds. It is the utilization of these qualities, which moulds the personality of an individual. The ultimate human value is to achieve peace and prosperity for all.

The National policy on education launched in 1986 has categorically stated “The growing concern over erosion of essential values has brought to focus the need for readjustment in the curriculum in order to make education a forceful tool for cultivation of human values.” Value based science is of paramount importance to realize the highest ideals of education and to develop full potential of the students.
As Swami Vivekananda said rightly “Education is the manifestation of the perfection already existing in man.” Value based education does that manifestation perfectly. Education is the unfolding of the infiniteness inherent in man. It is the blossoming of the flower of divinity within. Education that develops human beings, as symbols of humanity is true education. Such education is the need of the hour. It is the cure for all the ills that deride our being and our society. Education is an all-round drawing out of the best in the child and the man- body, mind and spirit. This definition includes the physical, intellectual and spiritual aspects of human existence.

Yogic concepts are like the software programmes of a disciplined personality. Patanjali’s Yogasutra says, “Yoga is nothing but anushashan, yoga is nothing but discipline.” This discipline is physical and mental as well as spiritual. The yogic form of education must be incorporated into our formal education system.

Towards the aim and principles of ideal education all of us have a role to play. It is the duty of parents and teachers to resonate, to vibrate with the noble human values and then to animate the young minds at home and school with the same. The prime responsibility lies with the teachers. They are the torchbearers of the future generation. They must understand that theirs is the noble profession, a holy service to the salvation of humanity. The real work of the teachers lies in fashioning the young minds with human values rather than killing their brains with cartload of books.

Infact the concept of human values in education is highly complex and delicate issue. Value merely perceived is valueless. It must be lived. Adherence to socio-ethical values is necessary for an honorable life. The very existence of the nature is for the education of the soul.

Education devoid of values is detrimental to society in the long run. Education is called vidya, which means, “that which give light”. Vidya is the light that one needs to destroy the inner darkness. What world needs today is neither a new order, a new system, a new society, nor a new religion. The remedy lies in a sober, sane and logical scientific outlook coupled with man’s appreciation of the principles of sociological truth. This can be achieved only through “Proper Vidya”.

The function of the universities is not merely to send out technically skilled and professionally competent men, but it is their duty to produce in them the virtue of humanity.

“A university stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for progress, for the adventure of ideas and for the search of truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards even higher objectives.”- Jawaharlal Nehru.
GLOBAL WARMING: ITS CAUSES AND EFFECTS

Data supplied by (Redacted)

"Western cities suffer more: locally a 1°C rise in temperature is equivalent to 15¢ per barrel of 24html, 2005.", "Redacted data obtained from Other", August 2003.

The above captions relate to the heading of this page.

3 increases in temperature cause the growth of CO2 and methane, which both contribute to climate change.

WATER PHYSICS

The effects are actually shifting - the latest data from the past 150 years has been the last two decades. By the end of the 21st century, sea levels will rise by an average of 1-2 meters in the coastal areas. The United Nations and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) described the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 2007 assessment report as "a clear warning that climate change is happening and that urgent action is needed to limit its impact.

The effects of climate change are already visible around the world. Rising sea levels are one of the most immediate and visible impacts of climate change. They are also a major contributor to coastal flooding, which can cause significant damage to infrastructure, homes, and businesses. Rising sea levels can also cause saltwater intrusion, which can contaminate freshwater supplies and affect agriculture.

Climate change is also affecting weather patterns around the world. Warmer temperatures are leading to more frequent and intense heat waves, which can have a significant impact on human health and ecosystems. Hotter temperatures can also lead to more frequent and severe droughts, which can cause water shortages and affect food production.

Global warming is also causing changes in precipitation patterns, which can affect agricultural productivity and water availability. In some regions, increased precipitation can cause floods, while in others, it can lead to droughts. These changes can have significant economic and social impacts.

There is also a significant risk of increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, floods, and droughts. These events can cause significant damage to infrastructure, homes, and businesses and can also lead to loss of life.

The effects of climate change are not limited to the direct impacts on human health, ecosystems, and the economy. They also have significant potential to cause irreversible and potentially catastrophic changes to the natural world, including the loss of biodiversity, the spread of disease, and the loss of natural resources.

In summary, the impacts of climate change are already visible and are expected to become even more severe in the coming decades. It is crucial that we take action now to address this global challenge and reduce our emissions in order to mitigate the worst effects of climate change.

A study of mountain tops in the Alps (Switzerland) shows that some snow-covered plants are starting to move in higher and more exposed areas as a result of increasing temperatures. More information on this topic is available in the article "Climate change and biodiversity" in Nature Climate Change.

It is a question of time before we reach a tipping point in terms of climate change, and there is a growing consensus among scientists that the effects of climate change are already being felt around the world. It is crucial that we take action now to address this global challenge and reduce our emissions in order to mitigate the worst effects of climate change.
WHAT AILS INDIAN SPORTS?

S. MURUGARAJA

If only we analyse our performance in each major sport event, we will find enough skeletons tumbling out of the cupboard. If sporting standards are any indication of the health of this country, one wonders where does India exist. It is a matter of deep shame that, India with 16/15 of the world's population, has not been able to give in the medal tally, in any major sports event, for even five years. (a half decade of independence). One need not perform any Herculean task to search reasons which have jittered our efforts to pull India once again on top. Quips, games, political bickering, and unthinking, without understanding, whether our government are those concerned to develop sports culture here are not agenda or goal that can make India among the foremost sports nations of the world. That is the only country where you have some politicians in sports and less of sports in politics. Upgradation and demonetisation are all a

and favours are all made. In Indian sports panorama, strings are pulled by institutional bureauscracy while players move as pawns on chess board. Politically-politicians, monks, or other heavyweights, who have little to do with sports rule the roost. Does anyone know what the weight-lifter Kusumgari Devi advised her com-
patriot Dimpal at Bengal? Before she told Dimpal to be careful as she was the official tailor and track suit. It is not that "T" shirt matters so much. But the thing is, this team dressing nearly as others is so vital that reflects the nation's pride. Also, we have seen various training programmes die a lingering death arrived for funds. Our budgetary provision for sports is incredibly below 1%. We cannot spot, nourish and nurture talent even in the initial stages. Whoever has the spotlight mostly

does on his own. He or she has done it on one's own merit. Talent has to be nurtured at school level itself and groomed under experienced hands that will full blossoming takes place. An important reason for excellent performance in sports by developed nations is that they invest in them and on the part of their sports persons, they perform equally well by training earnest and working hard.

In such a scenario, privatisation of sports and games is the only remedy.

Then, there is a lack of professionalism in Indian sports and games. Much needs to be said or unsaid about the way those who select our sports persons for international events. Sports should be accredited to the status of industry.

Parental emphasis on studies at the expense of sports and games, is another cause for the desperate state of Indian sports and games. A sports person is considered no good unless he or she is academically above par, if not brilliant. Our duty is to create an awareness of sports and games in the minds of the people if things are to improve in times to come. Otherwise we are likely to sink deeper into the morass with the passage of time.

We cannot forget the sad end for India in the recently held 14th Asian Games Busan when Sunitha Rani (athlete) was stripped of her medals, after having been failed to pass the dope test. What went wrong with her is a matter of deep investigation. The New Year beckons Sunita and Indian athletics in the Post-Busan phase that in many ways had been an eye-opener. We hope Sunita will bring more laurels to the country without the talk of dope distracting anyone. We have proved to the World that Indian athletics is "clean". To save our sports persons and the country from such disgrace in the future, the sports organisations should publicise a list of banned drugs. Our athletes need doctors and other experts who can monitor their diet and training and prevent inadvertent intake of illegal substances.

It is not that we do not have talent people to excel in the international sports arena. If healthy and conducive atmosphere is created and selections properly made we can do a lot in this field. We should extend every possible facility to our sports persons and encourage them to take up sports and games more seriously.

Needless to say, a subtle change in masses and governments non-chalant attitude could provide a boost to country's image and Indian name could glitter in medal tallies.

Geeta Singh had his own bitter experience at XIIIth Asiad.

Even a week after his team's arrival in Tokyo, they did not receive the
In which direction our democracy is going

There are people who feel that the system has not been successful in a big way and the very aim of democracy has not been achieved. But is it possible to have a democracy where a large number of people are illiterate. Nearly 70 per cent of the people of India are living on a poverty line. There is a wide gap between the rich and the poor. How can you pretend to have a goal or purpose to which people have no genuine commitment? There is no limit to the gap which exists between how rich and poor people live. How many of us can think here how mixed up their expectations are with the success of the democratic system. There is a lot of corruption going on in various parts of the country. In America and American countries which have either rich or poor people, the expectations of rich or poor people are also similar.

The reason are are not far to seek. The Thiruvalluvar Gruhapravesham which cannot result in the establishment of a just and human society has failed. The process of election has become corrupt. It has been affected by the allegiances of AICC, booth capturing and bogus voting. Congress' policies of some sort with their domination, rural-urban and inter-state terrains have been carefully cultivated by the owners of mass media and quick politico fake democrats. These people have created an environment in which the future of our democracy is in grave danger. This is a direct fallout of the criminalisation of political parties.

The role of opposition is crucial in successful working of democracy. Today the opposition is found to be in a state of not having the essential democratic elements, has witnessed.

CONTEST ESSAY 231

For those whose haven't experienced discards or Saddam Hussein-style elections—where every vote counts and votes for the only shoulder, the result seems a bit of a yawn. Indeed, it lends itself to boredom, fatigue and frustration. Sarina Sanya, say, the United States where the affluent and educated vote in larger numbers than others—flouting their role as the safeguard, it would appear—upper class, urban Indians feel a particular cynicism. They write into holiday week, exclaiming: "But does any woman's vote count only as much as you want it to?", in the breach, 'booth is to induce an emotional anger against an incumbent, position or system. In the absence above all, it is a celebration of being Indian. There can be no better
country:— India's economic progress,

First Prize: Suman Devi, Kondhwa, Pune, Maharashtra, M. Jyotsna, 10th class student. September 2012.
Second Prize: A.M. Zafar, 10th class student. September 2012.
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CONTEST ESSAY 234
Criminalisation of Politics
by M. S. Rau

WHEN India breaks the fast of freedom on Aug 15, 1947, nobody would have thought that the country would have to face the criminalisation of politics, a phenomenon that has become all too common in contemporary politics.

The criminalisation of politics today has led to long shadows on the quality of Parliament and democracy. When the news of the arrest of the AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal hit the headlines, it reminded many of the atrocities of the 1980s when the then prime minister, Indira Gandhi, was arrested under the Public Safety Act. The massивание of political crimes has only led to a further degradation of our democratic institutions.

The criminalisation of politics is not new; it has been around for some time. The reasons for this are many and varied, including the failure of the state to provide basic services to its citizens, the lack of political will to tackle corruption, and the failure of the judiciary to hold politicians accountable.

But the worst is yet to come. If one considers the election results of the last five years, it is clear that the rise of political violence has become an integral part of Indian politics. The electoral system is so flawed that it has become a platform for organised crime and corruption.

The criminalisation of politics is not only a threat to our democracy, but also to our society. It is time we recognise this and take steps to address it.