Reinforcing Moral Education: Rebuilding Norms to Restructure Social Fabric

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Abstract: *In India of 2018, we are witness to an era in which a sizeable number of crimes , more specifically, crimes against women and girl child, being committed and reported almost daily. There are crimes like gang-rapes of minor girls accompanied by severe killing of such victims. What has seriously gone so wrong with our society? Where is the common value system? Where are all the norms and morality? Do we indeed possess one? Don't we need targeted moral education even more than and before adult education! Shouldn't moral education be a part of our curriculum in schools right upto college. There is a need to rebuild norms so as to develop a strong value system where scope for deviance is highly minimized. It is in the context of women and girl-child that this research paper attempts to find the causes of moral degeneration among male members of society leading to rise in heinous crimes against minor girls and women.*

Keywords: Moral Education, Rebuilding, Restructuring, etc.

Introduction: When social values are eroding at an alarming rate such that people fail to respect about one half of the human population, it shows the collapse of common value system, serious lacunae in the socialization process and deep moral crisis. Though it becomes a law and order problem but before that and deep down it is the failure of our value system. We have failed to inculcate and build a resilient self-perpetuating positive moral environment in which coming generations learn and imbibe such values that now do not seem to be part of our value system or have eroded. Giving time and making efforts to rebuild such a system of socialization that helps inculcate and develop moral values, helps societies in the long run. It helps inculcate strong common value system that has its own external force upon individual members of society. Moreover, it helps in maintaining law and order. It provides necessary positive impetus to improve the system and hence refurbish social fabric. Violence and crime in a society emanates out of the weaknesses in the common value system, weak socialization process and defective norms. It also emanates due to other factors such as poverty, lack of resources, etc. But the type of crime which we are focusing upon in this research paper is more directly related to the common value system, socialization, gender sensitivity and moral education.

Review of Literature:

While most social theorists (Burbules and Torres 2000:5) agree that we are living in an age of rapid scientific and technological change, they also do not deny that such changes have varying impacts on different social groups within the same society and across different societies. The existing

literature about post industrial and post modern societies (Beck 1995) and its effects on social groups and families is growing rapidly in view of the all pervasive effects of globalization. Chief among these is the growing insensitivity of people towards the needs of others (Noddings 1995), an outcome of our rapidly dehumanizing society. The school, as the chief agent of social transmission, has a key role to play in perspective building, in equipping the child with the necessary intellectual, emotional, social and moral resources to engage in a common process of valuation and decision taking in a multicultural context (Leming 1994). In Mauritius, moral education has, so far, been the concern of confessional schools (those with religious denominations). However, it is undeniable that the interethnic conflicts of February 1999 (Matadeen Report:1999) acted as a catalyst in propelling character education into the limelight by emphasizing the need of some form of moral education, an indispensable ingredient, for peaceful cohabitation in a multicultural society.

Objectives: To find out the causes of rise in violence and other heinous crimes against women and girl child and to explore the possibilities to fix the problem aiming at its root cause.

Methodology: An exploratory and descriptive research design shall be followed to carry out this study to analyze the problem of increasing violence and other heinous crimes against women and girl-child. The Secondary data will be used in this research and is collected and analyzed through published and unpublished sources which include books, journals, articles, reports and other sources like the internet, magazines, research publications and so on.

Reinforcing Moral Education

Moral education should have a target oriented approach, it must relate to all the stakeholders such as responsibility and deep sense of respect towards female members of society, towards old and young, towards perpetuation and continuity of such value system that helps in reforming the existing society into a truly egalitarian society. Moral education needs reinforcement through proper introduction in school curriculum. It should form part of studies. The need and importance of moral education should be realized by introducing it as a subject of study and promoting research on it. Just as education is solution to most of the problems, moral education may help rebuild norms and thus help in restructuring a healthy resilient and self-perpetuating society. It helps in questioning the conscience of the people, reaffirming social values. The stability of human social groups depends on people subscribing to at least some standards in this way. At the very least, people must be committed to not killing or causing harm, stealing or extorting, lying or cheating, and to treating others fairly, keeping their promises and helping those in need. These standards make up the core of common morality.

Promoting the moral development of pupils is difficult, but the challenges it poses are not insurmountable. Ensuring children subscribe to common morality, and understand the reasons for it, is a task schools must not shrink from – society depends on it. The relationship between education and society is multi–levelled and

multifaceted. If education is understood to be the process by which we prepare children to enter adult life and to shoulder the responsibilities that 7 it entails, then this process becomes one of the core pre-occupations of any society as it sets down the conditions of its survival and success.

Conclusion

There is need to learn about various international curriculums or approaches regarding moral education such as of Japan, where special emphasis is laid upon this aspect. Targeted moral education means such education that is targeted towards inculcation of such values that promote respect and concern for the opposite sex. Targeted moral education promotes gender sensitization from the very start, that teaches us that certain acts which are now considered routine or usual such as "staring at girls" etc. are not acceptable and doesn't conform to good personality and value system. When this type of targeted moral education is made compulsory and taken as a mission mode project, than we may hope that a new common value system may develop in few years among the next generation that will see sharp decline in heinous crimes against women. However, the incongruity between the prevailing moral degeneration and the new common value system needs to be abridged. This could be achieved by making amendments in the existing laws regarding violence and rape provisions. There is nothing wrong in making stringent laws and penal provisions for controlling and penalizing crime.

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