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CHANGING ETHICAL VALUES AMONG PRE-UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN GULBARGA CITY: A SAMPLE SURVEY

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ABSTRACT:

Ethical values and morality are needed for every human being and due to the impact of media and internet, many of the studies were already revealed that the ethical values, especially among teenagers are decreasing. In this regard, the study is made to look into the ethical values among the pre-university students studying in Gulbarga city. Survey of the students was made through questionnaire and totally 478 students were surveyed. It is found that, the respect and support towards parents and teachers are decreasing. Even many of these students are self-centred and not extending their cooperation and help to destitute and needy people in society. Hence, it is essential to introduce value based education and also include ethical values of different religions and philosophies in education.

Key words: Ethical Values, Morality, Teenagers, Pre-university Students.

INTRODUCTION:

Values are the principles that determine an individual's behavior, actions and attitudes. Values are standards or principles considered important in life. Values are generally formed on the basis of our personal preferences, choices and desires. When these intensify, they take the shape of our values and become an enduring part of our character. These then become our criteria for our selections, choices, judgments, relationships and our decisions in day to day life and lend strength to our character. These also determine our approach towards life and how we tend to handle situations. Values inculcate positive attitude and emotional intelligence in a person which aid and guide him in distinguishing between the right and the wrong. This ultimately helps a person in leading a quality life (Gill, 2015).





Moral ethics can be defined as those principles on which our moral decisions are based. Ethics are the sense of right and wrong, good and evil, values and responsibility. It can be described as the science of human duty. These ethics are therefore the measurement by which a human being is graded as being good, bad and evil. In simple terms moral ethics are nothing but the code of conduct decided by each person for himself or herself for operating in this world and fellow beings. Moral ethics are formed from the obligations and duties of a person in the society (Tiwari and Mehrotra, 2013).

The two words ethics and morality are very closely associated and therefore their vocabulary usage may be frequently confused. Let, it be clearly understood that while ethics conform to code of behavior with regards to a group such as family, community or professional place; morals are more personalized in their definition. Ethics structure a social system or a philosophy wherein the morals are applicable.

When it is observed from the past, the morality and ethics is decreasing, especially among the teenagers. It may be due to impact of mass media, modernization, internet, etc. Hence, the present study is made to look into the ethical values of teenagers, especially in the age group of 17-18 years. During this age group, the ethical values include respect to teachers, respect & support to parents, cooperation to society, etc. For this purpose, the changing ethical values among the pre-university students were explored.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The present study is made:

- ❖ To study the respect and support given by pre-university students to their teachers and parents.
- To know the ethical values as understood by pre-university students.
- * To look into the cooperation and help extended by pre-university students to destitute in society.
- ❖ To know whether the ethical values are changing/ decreasing in society.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY:

The present study was began with secondary literature search and based on secondary literature search, basic concepts on ethical values and morality was derived. The study is also based on survey using questionnaire. As the geographical territory of Gulbarga city is vast, the authors surveyed total 478 pre-university students studying





in Government and Government Aided pre-university colleges in the city. The collected primary data is analyzed and discussed as under.

ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION:

The collected primary data is analyzed, interpreted and discussed as under.

1. Gender of the Respondents:

Many of the studies have already proved that females have more cultural values compared to males. Hence, it is observed that there are gender differences in ethical values and morality. The gender-wise distribution of the respondents is disclosed as under.

Table No. 1. Gender of the Respondents

		Students	Studying	in Pre-U	Jniversity	7		
	Scie	ence Commerce			Arts		Total	
Particulars	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Male	91	54.82	67	50.75	93	51.67	251	52.51
Female	75	45.18	65	49.25	87	48.33	227	47.49
Total	166	100	132	100	180	100	478	100

To summarize, among all the respondents, 251 (52.51%) are male students and 227 (47.49%) are female students.

2. Caste of the Respondents:

The castes of the students studying in pre-university education determine the ethical values and morality. The castes define the culture, which teaches ethical values and morality among students. The primary data collected on the castes of the respondents is shown as under.

Table No. 2. Caste of the Respondents

		Students	7					
	Scie	ence	Com	nerce	Arts		Total	
Particulars	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
SC	57	34.34	31	23.48	62	34.45	150	31.38
ST	10	6.02	08	6.06	11	6.11	29	6.07
OBC	76	45.78	65	49.25	92	51.11	233	48.74
Others	23	13.86	28	21.21	15	8.33	66	13.81
Total	166	100	132	100	180	100	478	100

Of the total students surveyed, 150 (31.38%) belongs to scheduled castes, 29 (6.07%) belongs to scheduled tribes, 233 (48.74%) belongs to other backward classes and the remaining 66 (13.81%) belongs to others. It is noted that Gulbarga city is dominated by scheduled castes and Muslims and as such, majority of the students belongs to scheduled castes and other backward classes including minorities.

3. Purpose of Education:

To a greater extent, purpose of education as thought out by the students playing significant role in cultivating ethical and moral values among the students. If the students are seriously interested in their education and career, then there will be more ethical values and if the students are not serious about their course, education and career, then there may be lower ethical values and morality. The information collected from the students on purpose of their education is analyzed, interpreted and discussed as under.

Table No. 3. Purpose of Education

		Students	Studying	in Pre-U	Jniversity	7			
	Science		Com	Commerce		Arts		Total	
Particulars	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
To Get Good	78	46.99	80	60.61	126	70.00	284	59.41	
Employment									
Better Marriage	25	15.06	13	9.85	30	16.67	68	14.23	
Prospects									
Challenging	45	27.11	27	20.45	10	5.55	82	17.15	
Career &									
Profession									
Knowledge,	18	10.84	12	9.09	14	7.78	44	9.21	
Name & Fame									
Total	166	100	132	100	180	100	478	100	

Of all the students covered under the study, majority that is, 284 (59.41%) have expressed that the purpose of their education is to get good employment followed by, 82 (17.15%) have mentioned that the purpose of their education is to go for challenging career and profession, 68 (14.23%) have agreed that the purpose of their education is to get better marriage prospects and the remaining 44 (9.21%) have mentioned that the purpose of their education is to gain knowledge, name and fame. To a greater extent, good job, challenging career and profession are major purposes of education as stated by majority of the students studying in pre-university education.

4. Important Ethical Values in Life:

Of course, there are many ethical and moral values and they depend on social culture of the families of students and impact of good teachers on their students. To get clarity on the important ethical values as thought by the pre-university students surveyed, the primary data was collected from the students on important ethical values in life and presented in the following table.

Table No. 4. Important Ethical Values in Life

	1	Students	Studying	g in Pre-U	niversity	7		
	Science		Commerce		Arts		Total	
Particulars	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Respect to	166	100	132	100	180	100	478	100
Elders and								
Teachers								
Honesty, Open	135	81.32	111	84.09	143	79.44	389	81.38
Mind &								
Transparent								
Self-Discipline	128	77.11	97	73.48	88	48.89	313	65.48
Away from Bad	96	57.83	73	55.30	58	32.22	227	47.49
Habits								
Any Other	42	25.30	33	25.00	75	41.67	150	31.38
Total	166	100	132	100	180	100	478	100

It is observed from the above table that, majority of the students have chosen more than one type of important value in life and many of the students have also given ethical values other than mentioned above. Of the total students surveyed, all 478 (100%) of the students have agreed that respect to elders and teachers is significant ethical value in the life, 389 (81.38%) have stated that honesty, open mind and transparency is

essential ethical value in life, 313 (65.48%) have expressed that self-discipline is important ethical value in life, 227 (47.49%) have felt that keeping away from bad habits is important ethical value in life and 150 (31.38%) have given other ethical values which are essentially needed in life.

5. Persons Playing Significant Role in Imparting Ethical Values:

Many of the persons influence the students in imparting ethical values in their life. Academically the teachers are playing significant role in imparting ethical values and socially, grandparents and parents are influencing the students much in imparting ethical values. In this respect, it was asked to the respondents to provide influence of persons, who are playing significant role in imparting ethical values and collected information is tabulated as under.

Students Studying in Pre-University Total Science Commerce Arts **Particulars** F F F % F % % % **Grand Parents** 33 19.88 27 20.45 34 18.89 94 19.67 31.32 40.79 **Parents** 52 48 36.36 95 52.78 195 **Teachers** 37.96 47 45 25.00 32.43 63 35.61 155 Any Other 18 10.84 10 7.58 06 3.33 34 7.11 132 180 478 **Total** 166 100 100 100 100

Table No. 5. Persons Playing Significant Role in Imparting Ethical Values

On the persons playing significant role in imparting ethical values, among the science students, of the total respondents, 94 (19.67%) have mentioned that their grandparents are playing significant role in imparting ethical values, 195 (40.79%) have expressed that their parents are playing significant role imparting ethical values, 155 (32.43%) have remarked that their teachers are playing significant role in imparting ethical values and 34 (7.11%) have opined that the other persons are influencing the imparting of ethical values.

6. Relationship with Parents:

Earlier the parents are highly respected by children and even there were sentimental and cordial relations between parents and children. But now, it is observed that there are just friendly or formality relations between parents and children. Even in a few of the families, relations have also become formal relations or even few of the children fear from their parents and under such circumstances, there is distant relations of these children with

their parents. In this way, the relationship of parents and children is changing and the relationship of the students with their parents is shown as under.

Table No. 6. Relationship with Parents

		Students						
	Scie	ence	Comi	nerce	Arts		Total	
Particulars	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Sentimental/	67	40.36	63	47.73	88	48.89	218	45.61
Respect								
Cordial/	78	46.99	50	37.88	74	41.11	202	42.26
Friendly								
Family	13	7.83	15	11.36	11	6.11	39	8.16
Formality								
Distant	08	4.82	04	3.03	07	3.89	19	3.97
Total	166	100	132	100	180	100	478	100

As stated by all the respondents, 218 (45.61%) have agreed that there is sentimental or respect oriented relationship with their parents, 202 (42.26%) have stated that there is cordial or friendly relations with their parents, 39 (8.16%) have mentioned that the relationship with their parents is just family formality and 19 (3.97%) have opined that there is distant relations between them with their parents.

7. Cooperation with Teachers:

Teachers are not only taking classes to fulfill the formalities for the examinations of the students, but they are knowledge givers and showing the road to success in the future career development of their students. Good cooperation with teachers is also one of the ethical values as expressed by the students in colleges. If the students are cooperative, then teachers are much interested to give the knowledge to the students. If the students are not cooperative and mischievous at the classes, then teachers take the classes as formality rather than with interest. The cooperation of the pre-university students to their teachers is shown as under.

Table No. 7. Cooperation with Teachers

	ı	Students	Studying	g in Pre-U	niversity	7		
	Scie	ence	Comi	merce	Arts		Total	
Particulars	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Fully Cooperate	36	21.69	59	44.70	103	57.22	198	41.42
Highly	48	28.92	37	28.03	30	16.67	115	24.06
Cooperate								
Don't	09	5.42	06	4.54	04	2.22	19	3.97
Cooperate								
Neutral/ No	73	43.97	30	22.73	43	23.89	146	30.55
Near Relations								
Total	166	100	132	100	180	100	478	100

To sum up, among all respondents, 198 (41.42%) have mentioned that they fully cooperate with their teachers, 115 (24.06%) have remarked that they highly cooperate with their teachers, 19 (3.97%) have stated that they don't cooperate with their teachers and 146 (30.55%) have expressed that they are neutral or have no near relations with their teachers.

8. Respect Towards Teachers:

It is much important on the part of students that they should give respect to their teachers. There is popular quote that 'Gurudevobhava', which denotes the teachers, are gods. Hence, the information collected on the extent of respect given by the students to their teachers is tabulated as under.

Table No. 8. Respect Towards Teachers

		Students						
	Scie	Science		Commerce		Arts		tal
Particulars	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Gods	43	25.90	27	20.45	54	30.00	124	25.94
(Gurudevobhava)								
Doing their duty	36	21.69	43	32.58	72	40.00	151	31.59
of Teaching								
Elderly Advice &	62	37.35	32	24.24	28	15.56	122	25.52
Guidance								
Don't Care &	25	15.06	30	22.73	26	14.44	81	16.95
Neutral								
Any Other								
Total	166	100	132	100	180	100	478	100

Among all the respondents, 124 (25.94%) have agreed that their teachers are like gods or Gurudevobhava, 151 (31.59%) have stated that their teachers are doing their duty of teaching, 122 (25.52%) have felt that they like the elderly advice and guidance of their teachers and 81 (16.95%) have opined that they don't care and neutral with their teachers. Surprisingly, it is highlighted that though teachers' have higher status in the life of students and in society, still many of the students have stated that teachers are doing their job of teaching or even don't care their teachers. It shows that, there is decreasing ethical values on the respect towards teachers.

9. Attitudes of Students Towards Destitute:

The destitute are the people needed help from others. The destitute are in trouble due to different reasons. Under such circumstances, it is morality that there is need to extend the help and cooperation with such destitute. In this regard, it was asked to the respondents to furnish their views and attitudes towards needy people or destitute and collected primary data is shown as under.

		Students	7								
	Scie	ence	Com	Commerce		rts	Total				
Particulars	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%			
Fully Help to Get	72	43.37	45	34.09	62	34.44	179	37.45			
Rid of											
Difficulties											
Just Console	27	16.26	31	23.48	37	20.56	95	19.87			
Help, if Known	48	28.92	38	28.79	65	36.11	151	31.59			
Act like Stranger	19	11.45	18	13.64	16	8.89	53	11.09			
Total	166	100	132	100	180	100	478	100			

Table No. 9. Attitudes of Students Towards Destitute

Whenever anybody are facing difficulties or in trouble among all the respondents, 179 (37.45%) of the respondents have expressed that they fully help to such people so as to get rid of such difficulties, 95 (19.87%) have mentioned that they just console such people, 151 (31.59%) have remarked that they help such people, if such people are known to them and 53 (11.09%) have opined that they keep away from such people. It shows that majority of the respondents wish to help to the needy people in case of difficulties and troubles.

10. Decrease in Ethical Values in Society:

It was asked to the students that whether there is change, especially decrease of ethical values in society compared to earlier and the collected information is tabulated as under.



Table No. 10. Decrease in Ethical Values in Society

		Students						
	Scie	ence	Commerce		Arts		Total	
Particulars	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Yes	93	56.02	85	64.39	112	62.22	290	60.67
No	73	43.98	47	35.61	68	37.78	188	39.33
Total	166	100	132	100	180	100	478	100

As stated by all the students surveyed, only 290 (60.67%) have agreed that there is decrease in ethical values in society, whereas 188 (39.33%) have disagreed to the same.

11. Belief in Religious and Philosophical Values:

There are many religious and philosophical values such as worshipping deceased elders in family, following rituals as formulated by philosophers, etc. In this respect, it was asked to the respondents that whether they believe in such rituals, religious and philosophical values and the collected information is tabulated as under.

Table No. 11. Belief in Religious and Philosophical Values

		Students Studying in Pre-University						
	Science		Commerce		Arts		To	otal
Particulars	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Worshipping	89	53.61	96	72.73	116	64.44	301	62.97
Deities &								
Deceased Elders								
Religious	92	55.42	83	62.88	128	71.11	303	63.39
Values &								
Rituals								
Ideas of	123	74.09	114	86.36	153	85.00	390	81.59
Philosophers								
Advice &	68	40.96	73	55.30	137	76.11	278	58.16
Guidance of								
Elders								
Don't Believe								
& Support								
Total	166	100	132	100	180	100	478	100

Of all the respondents surveyed, 301 (62.97%) believe and support worshipping deities and deceased elders, 303 (63.39%) believe and support religious values and rituals, 390 (81.59%) of the respondents follow and





support ideas of philosophers and 278 (58.16%) of the respondents support and follow the advice and guidance of their elders.

SUGGESTIONS FROM THE STUDY:

The following suggestions may be given from the present study:

- ❖ It is suggested to incorporate compulsory moral and value based education in the education up to graduation.
- ❖ It is suggested to restrict the use of media and internet, especially for other than academic and educational use.
- ❖ The education system must impart the ethical values that are emphasized by all the religions in India.
- ❖ It is the duty of parents and teachers to impart ethical values among students.

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

Above discussion revealed that, few of the students are not caring and supporting their parents and teachers. There is more impact of modernization, media and internet on these students. Hence, it is essential to control and restrict the use of media and internet for other than academic use by the teenagers. Now, it is essentially needed to incorporate ethical values in curriculum especially in pre-university, which includes ideals of all religions, ideas of philosophers, principles under the Indian Constitution, etc. Realizing the decrease in ethical values, it has become essential for the parents and teachers, especially at the primary level to teach the moral and ethical values at the early age of the children.

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