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Dear Readers,

Greetings.

We are glad to present to you yet another edition of our e newsletter focussing on the theme “Valuing Values”. Values are principles or standards of behaviour that are considered as important in life. In simple terms as per the Cambridge Dictionary, values are those principles that aid an individual to decide what is right or wrong and also enables one to act rightly in multiple situations. Values can be personal or societal beliefs with regard to one’s good behaviour.

Values are the principles or standards of behaviour that are considered as important in life. In today’s age and time, the internalization of values assume extreme criticality. One often wonders if the saying ‘values are caught and not taught’ holds any ground of late. With the decline of lasting beliefs or ideals, value education assumes prime importance as they serve as guidelines for each one of us while we face myriad situations in life.

In this issue we have looked at values intently and our contributors have created the articles that are more introspective. As a teacher or a counsellor or a special educator or a parent or a child, we all know that values strengthen our moral beliefs and help us lead meaningful, committed and ethical lives. “*The aim of education is the knowledge of not facts but of values*” states William Ralph Inge. Let us as responsible human beings model right values, prescribe to them and practice them in our day-to-day lives.

Happy reading and wishing each one of you a value-based happy life!

Warm regards,

Vidhya Satish PhD

Director



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Value the valuesPlease !

Dr. Uma Maheswari Shankar
Principal, Head dept. of Philosophy,
SIES College of Arts, Science & Commerce

“When values, thoughts, feelings, and actions are in alignment, a person becomes focused and character is strengthened.” John C. Maxwell

Values form the integral part of humans on which they carve their lives. It stands for ideals that gets expressed through behaviour and character at large. They are defined in general as the regard that something is held to deserve; the significance, worth, or usefulness of something; principles or standards of behaviour; one’s verdict of what is important in life. Having noted this we wonder why we do not value the values!

It is said ‘Good values are like a magnet – they attract good people.’ In every walk of profession in life values form a pivotal role. All of us have our own view or perspective of life and how it has to be. Many adults do not have an answer to the question – ‘Do you love the job you are doing?’ It is necessary to understand the fact that values are important because they help us to grow and develop joyfully. They help us to create the future we want to experience.

We are ever engaged in decision making at both individual and professional level. The decisions express our feelings and thereby reflect the value system engrained in us. Hence we find men of values are same in their disposition at all times irrespective of the people around them. Our masters have opined “Never compromise your values.”

By compromising values we are actually negotiating our behaviour, thinking, speech, character and so on.

Value education implies inculcating in the children the sense of humanism, commitment to work & word, a deep concern for the wellbeing of others and the society and there by nation. The aim of education is the knowledge not of facts but of values. If every educational institute engage in value education seriously and effectively, we shall envisage a society far more peaceful in dealing with oneself and with others. A place where there is less conflict and more accommodative minds and compassionate hearts.

The Chinese proverb says - "If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in character, if there is beauty in character, there will be harmony in the home, when there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation, when there is order in the nation there will be peace in the world". This speaks volumes on the significance of values in our lives.



An individual with proper values imbibed will not be afraid to face problems. He or she will accept anything that comes on the way with a sense of acceptance. What carries them through is a complete faith in the power above or in the supreme God. This faith enhances them not to falter or blame the circumstances if things go wrong.

Some tips to enrich the values in our daily life

1. We must become keen observers and astute evaluators of all going around.
- 2 We must be sensitive to perceive and ponder what is happening around us
3. To put efforts towards increasing the level of self-worth, self-esteem, self-respect and Self-confidence.
4. Let us learn to enjoy all that we do from silly to sacred!
5. Be kind and compassionate to people...It costs nothing but adds value to life
6. Never hurt others...through action, speech and thoughts!

Some of them may appear as a tall order but it is not impossible if we make efforts towards value based life. As the Rishis of the yore said “Let noble thoughts come to us from all directions.”





Importance of Character Education for Kids

Mr Suhas Bedekar, an educationist,
Founder & Director,
The Learning Curve's Preschool and Daycare,

The effects of value education from a very young age have been a hotly researched topic for many decades in the fields of education and psychology, with the idea that if a child is educated to behave in certain socially acceptable ways, they grow up to be successful, productive members of society. Children need to be guided by adults in order to lead successful lives, and good role models and a good childhood environment are of paramount importance. Psychologists have studied the phenomena of nature versus nurture for many centuries, and have noted that nurture can be incredibly important in how children behave as they grow older. IQ studies have shown that in children, factors in childcare—nutrition, intellectual stimulation—also have nearly as much of an effect on IQ as genetics. Many case studies of criminals have shown that their childhoods tend to be turbulent in some way, whether from growing up in high-crime locations, or having distant, cold parents, which affects their mental development negatively. It is therefore on a child's role models, parents, teachers and older siblings, to help them learn how to live good lives.

Ethical behaviour is learned, not hereditary, and it is necessary for adults to teach children how to behave. Group discussions, stories, or even explaining to the child why they need to behave in a certain way can be effective, but it is also extremely important that you,

as their role model and a person whom they emulate, also behave in the right ways.

Teaching a child not to swear, but then using those same words in a conversation with another adult for example, shows the child that those moral lessons are not important enough for an adult to follow. Value education then becomes a holistic approach to teaching a child how to behave around others and in society.

Simple reciprocity methods such as sharing food, toys, and other things with friends that have tangible benefits to being nice to others can help start things along. Having established this practical base, it is easier then, to teach a child more abstract concepts as they grow older. Children are eager to learn, and it is very easy to mould their behaviour through their life experiences, and imitated actions, and when educational institutes and other role models take an active part in inculcating these values, it can have a profound beneficial effect on society.





Valuing the Values

Ms. Vaishnavi Sashital
Teacher

Nalanda Learning Facilitation Program, Mumbai

The year 1991 signifies more than just economic liberalization of India. The widespread acceptance of economic liberalization, privatization and globalization (LPG) has also influenced the social fabric and value system in India. Prior to 1991, values were considered eternal. The word eternal signifies that values cannot be compromised at any cost. They are not pliable or malleable even for a larger good. To put it very simply as the great Mahatma always maintained, ***'The end is as important as the means. One cannot justify the use of wrong means even if the end is noble.'***

Now in the 21st Century, we are still proud of our ancient past, heritage and value system. However, this notion is hypocritical in many ways. Today, values are something that we can wear with pride when it suits us and manipulated when it is inconvenient. Values are taught to us right from childhood. The first *gurus* for any child are his parents. However, in such a competitive world, the Indian value system has moved from 'we' to 'I'. Young parents belonging to the decade of 90s have moulded themselves to suit this garb. In the new capitalist world, survival of the fittest is the new mantra. Individual survival to the detriment of others is considered to be of paramount importance. To achieve this goal the path of aggression, competitiveness, self-centredness, and policy of tit for tat are all justified. This behavior with changing ethos has spilled over from the workplace into our society and homes thus yielding a recipe for a lawless society.

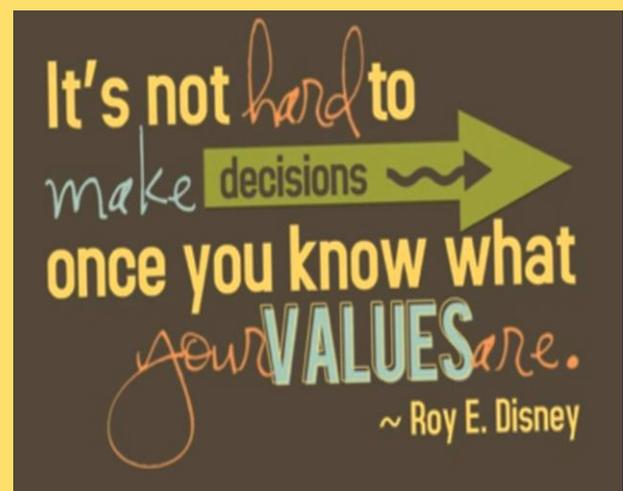
Consider a situation of a normal nuclear family of four, in which the younger child is learning disabled and displays other comorbid conditions like ADHD. The advice of the current age philosophy to the elder sibling to handle situations is imbibed by the younger one too. The comorbid conditions prevent the child from taking rational decisions to solve conflict situations. Home environment plays a very crucial role in determining the character of an individual especially the young and impressionable minds. What is important is to change the mindset of children and that can happen with a change primarily in the mindset and behavior pattern of the primary stakeholder, the parents.

Our home is a replica of our society. For the smooth functioning of the home, all members abide by certain unwritten rules. One of the most important rule is mutual respect for each other as individuals springing from love, freedom of thought and expression with the implicit belief that each member realizes that freedom is not absolute and comes with responsibilities towards oneself and other members of the family. In a family, the emphasis is on 'we' rather than 'I' and this attitude in thought and behavior is what keeps the home strong.



The same is true of society. The understanding of inter-dependence of the different entities in society is what is missing today.

Each individual is like a stick in the old adage, “United we stand and divided we fall”. Without the support of the other sticks in the bundle, we all fall to the ground. And how do we garner this support - by ingraining these simple values of forgiveness, self-discipline, courage to accept one’s frailties, humility, being fair and reasonable, integrity, empathy in our children.





Valuing Values

Suma Rajesh
SIES Central Training Department

“Values are like fingerprints. Nobody’s are the same, but you leave them all over everything you do.”

The above quote by Elvis Presley more or less sums up the importance of Values in our lives and the need to value the Values that we learn, carry and fight for in our lives – be it at school, on the field of play, at work, at home or for that matter in any sphere of our life.

Values are deeply held beliefs that drive and direct our behaviour. In our initial formative years, we are taught the importance of values and discipline in life by our Gurus – our parents & our teachers. Subsequently at various stages of life we learn more about these values from peers, friends and colleagues.

In fact we practice our values and then impart them as we move on in life. One thing that stays constant throughout is our Values whether we follow them or lay them on the side while we move along the path of life.

Let us take some of the commonly used value and understand how important it is to value the Values:

1. **Honesty:** Do we give honest compliments or appreciate the work done? It has to be immediate and not wait for a formal function or feedback process. If we are receptive to constructive criticism and honest to ourselves, rather than holding

grudges against someone for bringing to our attention our flaws and drawbacks.

2. **Dedication:** Being loyal and completing assigned task without much follow up is dedication towards work though it calls for self-motivation. But most of the time we believe in following up after assigning a task as if the task owner is dedicated and not the doer.
3. **Compassion:** Caring is what we all look forward for and give to our loved ones. As a value caring has to be in every action and irrespective of person or situation. Being empathetic helping a colleague who needs support in research completion or research writing or taking class if required is value of caring. Then the world will live in peace than in pieces.

Values need to be practised because action speaks more than words. In our busy life Value is only that brings us together. If we keep values like honesty, loyalty, dignity, compassion and integrity at the core of our decisions in life then I am sure all of us can be good human beings or else we end up losing direction in life.



EVENTS PICTURE GALLERY

Yoga Day organized for all the students



Staff development workshop on Transactional Analysis



Course Promotional activity –
Participants of Flash Mob



Workshop on Communication by Ms. Vyjayanti Arun, Smt. Sulochana Devi
Singhania School, Thane



Workshop on Team Building by Dr. Vidhya Satish



TEACHER'S DAY CELEBRATION



Cascading Workshop on Development of Language & Numerical Skills in Early Childhood Education.



1st ANNUAL CONVOCATION of the Diploma in Early Childhood Education (DECD) course sponsored by the TECH MAHINDRA FOUNDATION (TMF)



39th ANNUAL CONVOCATION of the SIES
INSTITUTE OF COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION



Seminar attended by counselling students at Masina Hospital, Byculla



Workshop on Music & Movement conducted by Ms.Purnima Contractor, Giggle Berry Foundation



Visit to Mani bhavan, Gamdevi, Grant Road



ENABLING FOR INCLUSION

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead

The rationale for inclusion is based on benefits to children with disabilities, children without disabilities, and to the school and greater community as a whole. The primary goal of inclusive education is to build a truly inclusive society that meets the needs of all students. This involves reworking traditional approaches to teaching and learning and avoiding the mistakes of the past when students from diverse backgrounds were left to live in the margins of society. Therefore, to support the holistic development of the child, we as educators, counsellors, parents and caregivers need to become learners first.

If you have the desire to learn about inclusion and special education needs...
If you want to be more engaged while working with the child in front of you...
But face the issue of time, convenience, or do not know where to go...

Online Courses would be the solution!

OVERVIEW

Drishti and SIES Institute of Comprehensive Education collaborate to present certificate courses aimed at enabling all stakeholders for inclusion and inclusive practices.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

COURSE ONE

Mainstreaming Children with Special Education Needs (SEN) under Right to Education

COURSE OBJECTIVE: Develop a deeper understanding of inclusion and inclusive practices and equip yourself with knowledge and skills to address the needs of a mixed ability classroom

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- 6 months Online Certificate Course
- 5 Contact Classes at SIES Sion (once a month);
Skype Interaction available for outstation candidates

Open to Educators, Parents, Caregivers and all other professionals who want to work with children

REGISTRATION FEES: ₹10,000/- per registration

COURSE TWO

SEN (Bridge Course): Special Education Needs—Teaching students with Learning & Behaviour Difficulties

COURSE OBJECTIVE: Develop competency to create remedial therapy plans (IEPs) and gain deeper understanding of strategies suitable for children with special education needs (academic and behaviour difficulties)

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- 3 months Online Certificate Course
- Comprehensive Contact Program at the Drishti Centre;
Skype interaction available for outstation candidates

Open to Masters students (Psychology, Education and other related fields) or participants who have completed Course I (SEN)

REGISTRATION FEES: ₹10,000/- per registration

FOR REGISTRATIONS CONTACT

- ☎ +91-22-26732496/97 ☎ +91-22-24090516
- ☎ +91-9930546249
- ✉ gowri_a@drishtionline.com
- ✉ siesice@sies.edu.in



NEW at SIES ICE, NERUL

BUILDING COMPETENCIES FOR MIXED ABILITY CLASSROOMS

"It's time we take our focus off disabilities and place it on capabilities, so we can see the person first." — Robert M Hensel

Drishiti and SIES Institute of Comprehensive Education, Nerul Campus, Navi Mumbai are collaborating to offer capsule short term courses on subjects that are needed to ensure we are able to ACCEPT and SUPPORT all children in a Mixed Ability Classroom.

OPTION ONE

Self Learning Certificate Courses

- A. Understanding Emotional & Behaviour Difficulties
- B. Decoding the Autism Spectrum Disorder

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- 30 hours Online Certificate Courses (Maximum Access: 60 days)
- Batches start every month

Open to Educators, Parents, Caregivers and all other professionals for self-learning

REGISTRATION FEES: ₹5,000/-
per course registration

OPTION TWO

Professional Development Certificate Courses

- A. Differentiated Instruction for Inclusive Classrooms
- B. Positive Behaviour Management of children of all ages: A Caregiver's Toolkit

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- 3 months Online Certificate Courses
- Batches: March-May & October-December
- Comprehensive Contact Program at SIES Nerul Campus

Open to Educators, Parents, Caregivers and all other professionals who want to work with children in inclusive environments

REGISTRATION FEES: ₹10,000/-
per course registration

FOR REGISTRATIONS CONTACT

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- ☎ +91-9930546249
- ✉ gowri_a@drishtionline.com
- ✉ siesice@sies.edu.in



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Issue Editor: Ms. Aditi Patil, Faculty, SIES Institute of Comprehensive Education, Sion (W).

SIES Institute of Comprehensive Education, Sion West, Mumbai – 400022. Contact us: 24090516, www.siesice.edu.in, e-mail: siesice@sies.edu.in

