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## Value Education Towards Empowerment Of Youth-A Holistic Approach

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### Abstract

There has been growing concern over the erosion of values among youth and a need is felt for empowering them through education. Value education refers to those pedagogies that educators use to create enriching learning experiences for students and addresses issues related to character formation. Maharani Lakshmi Ammanni College for Women (MLACW) has partnered with DISHA, a NGO to conduct programs for students adopting a self-exploratory and scientific methodology. This paper presents an insight into the impact of such value education and reveals that a holistic approach to value education has enabled students to lead happy and successful lives.

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### 1. Introduction and Research Problem

An educational institution, in the present context, is viewed as an open adaptive system consisting of interrelated subsystems operating in the environmental supra-system. Educational practices are bound to be more dynamic and challenging to meet the complex changes in the environmental variables of the future. Fast changing technological, economic, ecological, legal and social environment, phenomenal growth in global education and the

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increasing complexity of decision making in the field of education will considerably influence the educational policies and practices. In a dynamic and turbulent environment, value education will assume unique importance.

To survive and sustain in a volatile, competitive and quickly changing world, educational institutions will be required to become more interconnected and holistic with greater stress on human values and with greater concern for others. Holistic and value oriented education can secure an integrated personality, thereby enabling the optimum development of the physical, emotional, mental, aesthetic, moral and spiritual entities of learners.

### *1.1. Values*

Values represent basic convictions that ‘a specific mode of conduct or end-state of existence is personally or socially preferable to an opposite or converse mode of conduct or end-state of existence’. They contain a judgmental element in that they carry an individual’s idea as to what is right, good or desirable. Values have both content and intensity attributes. The content attributes says that a mode of conduct or end-state of existence is important. The intensity attributes specifies how important it is. When an individual’s value in terms of their intensity is ranked, the person’s value system is obtained. Most people have a hierarchy of values that form their value system. This system is identified by the relative importance people assign to such values as freedom, pleasure, self-respect, honesty, obedience and equality. While value systems of people are genetically determined; a significant portion of the values held is established in early years – from parents, teachers, friends and others. It is attributable to factors such as national culture, parental dictates, educator’s interventions, peer group influence and similar environmental influences. Values are relatively stable and enduring. This may be due to their genetic component and the way in which they are learned. Children are told to be honest and truthful. They are never taught to be a little bit honest and a little bit truthful. As a child, one learns that certain behaviors or outcomes are always desirable or always undesirable. It is this absolute learning of values, when combined with a significant portion of genetic imprinting that more or less assures their stability and endurance. The process of questioning an individual’s value may result in a change. As people grow up and are exposed to other value systems, they may have altered a number of their values. For instance, in college, if a student desired to be part of a group whose values included the conviction that every member should use abusive language, there is a fair probability that the student changed his/her value system to align with that of group members, even if it meant rejecting their parents’ value that only ill-mannered children use abusive language. While it is true that the underlying convictions may no longer be acceptable to some with previously held values, more often, questioning currently held values may result in reinforcing these values.

### *1.2. Value education*

Education is meant not only to provide knowledge and information, but also to build character of human beings. Having a set of values and ideals, learners must be guided for self-development, so that values become a part of their character. There is a strong feeling that in the present times there is a crisis in character formation. It is also felt that since character is largely molded during childhood and youth, it is the responsibility of educational institutions to provide education for character building. As the contemporary world is rapidly demanding greater intercommunication and oneness, there is an urgent need for cultivating the values of co-operation, mutuality and harmony which can best be fostered through education. Harmony of man and nature is also being discussed and deliberated, in recent times due to greater global concern towards protection of the environment. The recent disturbing trend of increasing deviant behaviors among youth has also emphasized the need for education that promotes among youth the values of discipline, respect, self-control and peace. The ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity have been expressly stated in the preamble of the Indian constitution. Certain fundamental duties, such as pursuit of noble ideals like non-violence and patriotism, the promotion of harmony and spirit of common brotherhood, development of scientific temper and the spirit of inquiry, humaneness and striving towards excellence in all areas of individual and collective endeavor have also been enunciated. The quest for excellence has also stressed the need for value education at all levels. As human life is becoming more and more complex, there is a need to equip individuals with the requisite skills to deal effectively with such complexities. This will call for a radical change in human nature which can be

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