

Role of Value Education in the Age of Globalism

Text of the Speech delivered by
Mr. Anil Deshmukh, Minister of State for Education, Maharashtra

On the Occasion of
Conference on “Education in Values and Human Rights for 21st
Century”

Respected spiritual brothers and sisters,

Every one of us, present here, I am certain, would agree on one point that the fabric of the society is very much disturbed. So we see acts of murders riots, robbery, dacoit molestation and thousand and one like these. In fact, it has become the order of the day. Society too has become numb and insensitive. Because if they open the newspaper and do not find any thing sensational they would feel uninterested. This is an indicator of society's insensitivity. Unless we check these tendencies in a society where interests clash and conflict. I am afraid the very existence of human race is in danger.

The development in Science & Technology has brought the world together. Here I mean the distance is shortened. But it has, I would say, not brought union in thoughts for the betterment of human race. They are still poles apart as before. Every nation tries to push its own views on others despite the fact that they have no acceptability. Likewise, the self-contained culture growing in big cities has been driving individuals away from each other. Self respect, affection, love, togetherness, regard and respect for elderly persons and values like these are fast fading away from the society.

Knowledge, learning and sophistication, are making individuals self-centered instead of widening the range of their thinking abilities. Presence of old parents in the family is becoming inconveniences instead of a building force which once upon a time existed were. In times of difficulty, they were looked up for guidance and now they themselves have been in difficulty.

It is there that the Education system as a whole has a very important role to play. The invasion of the western thoughts, too, has made matters more complicated. The present generation, barring

exception here and there, derives pleasure in adopting western life style, than sticking to our own, if not for anything else, at least for the sake of nationalism. At times I really shiver with the thought that how easily we get flown away. Is our culture so slippery? Are our eternal values, taught by our age old religion, ineffective as to be easily conquered by other religions which are of recent origin? As I earlier said that our society is numb but then how can it be sensitive at all in respect of adopting western style? These thoughts pain me quite frequently.

We need to reshape our curriculum. We must introduce lessons on our tradition, our culture, and our heritage. Respect, love, affection for the parents and family, regard for the elders, is now required to be taught. Our curriculum needs amendment to include lessons on the importance of cleanliness, humility, honesty, tolerance, patience, fearlessness, clarity in thought and action, truthfulness, cheerfulness, sense of appreciation, in day to day life.

The Govt. of Maharashtra has introduced new education policy which aims to imbibe good moral values among children so that they can turn out to be respected citizens.

I do not know how effective they would be in shaping the life of the students. Well begun is half done – goes the saying. Our beginning is well and I hope it to turn out good in the time to come. I am here in the galaxy of experts gathered from different fields, from different states. Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya has been working for the last 67 years for establishing good society by imparting spiritual knowledge Brahma Kumaris Sisters have given me this rare opportunity, not only to see for myself the selfless service they have been rendering to humanity but also share my thoughts with you all.

Government efforts have their own limitations and need back-up particularly in the field of spiritualism. Let us contribute our mite to ameliorate precarious plight of the poor who need help.