

## 1. What changes can be introduced in the curricula of schools and colleges to inculcate values in students? Suggest.

### Introduction:

Education is a powerful instrument of social change and human progress; it is also a powerful tool to cultivate values in an individual. Human development cannot be conceived in the absence of values. Therefore, all the educational institutes have greater responsibility to impart learning and cultivation of values through education.

### Body:

#### Ways to inculcate values to students in educational institutions:

- **Informal value education:** School is the basic stage in the process of socialisation and value education on a large scale begins here. Pro-social behaviour and informal infuse of value education can be directed among the kids in their day-to-day interaction with each other. Ex: During sports hour, involving kids in team sports, encouraging group lunches to develop a sense of sharing etc.
- **Planned value education training for teachers:** Teachers pass on values to the students both consciously and unconsciously through their conduct in and out of class rooms. Hence, a formal learning and training to teachers will help them serve as role model to students and preach values in an optimum manner.
- **Deliberate impart of values through other subjects:** Different subjects can help inculcate various values imbibed in them, when explained and presented well.

For example: National Movement can be taught in such a way that it leads to inculcate the values of patriotism, secularism, universal love and tolerance etc. Similarly, World History can help to inculcate values of Liberty, equality and fraternity (French Revolution), Fundamental Rights and equality (American Revolution); Science can help to inculcate values of scientific temper, appreciation towards laws of nature; Indian Civics can help to inculcate values of respect to constitution, respect for democracy, secularism, integrity and unity of the country, social, political and economic justice etc. Geography and environment can help to inculcate values of respect for other's culture and protecting the environment and compassion for animals, plants etc.

- **Publication of literature based on values:** Libraries and extra-reading can provide for inspiring literatures and famous biographies. For example, Mahatma Gandhi in his biography insists on truth, non-violence and Satyagraha encouraging the basic human values.
- **Provision of value based curriculum and Value based foundation courses:** Every week can have a special period or hour for specific value based curriculum. Students can be encouraged or taught inspiring stories of noble

leaders, given assignments to summarize value-based stories or their understanding, conduct creative plays and skits to showcase values etc. Some private schools have a skit day every month, on a competitive, yet friendly basis to creatively present famous instances or stories which propagate different values.

- **Creation of extra-curricular clubs, groups:** Clubs and group activities prove to be more efficient when it comes to sharing of values or building of peer relationships. Schools and colleges can have clubs as a part of their curricula to encourage wholesome and affirmative growth of peer relationships, which in turn builds an individual's character and shapes it thoroughly.

#### Way forward:

- A robust and an integrated policy to include value education in the mainstream will go a long way in a student's moral development.
- The present government's decision to roll out a 'uniform' and 'Common Minimum Programme for Value Education' for implementation across India's entire schooling system, in the 2019-20 academic session is a welcome step in this regard.
- Value Education will be complemented by modules on Life Skills Education linked up with government's flagship Ayushman Bharat as well as Experiential Learning. Students, teachers as well as schools will be assessed on Value Education through a non-marks based approach.

#### Conclusion:

Value education is rooted in Indian philosophy and culture and ingrained in every tradition of Indian culture. Promoting Value based education can definitely contribute to building the young demographic capital of India, as the field of value education is as broad as life itself and touches every aspect of human life, personality and education.

## 2. What impact does the decline of family as an institution have on the value system of the society? Analyze.

#### Introduction

Family is regarded as a major social institution by many sociologists; it is a place where much of a person's social activities occur. The concept of the family is considered as a social unit or a group of kin connected by blood, marriage or adoption, living in the same residence and can be described as nuclear and joint family. The family, in Indian society, is an institution by itself and a typical symbol of the collectivist culture of India right from the ancient times.

#### Body

##### Impact of decline of family:

- Emotional connection will be hampered: The integration bonds in a family are mutual affection and blood ties. A family is a closed entity and is held together not only due to a tag but also due to emotional ties.
- Socio economic factors: Families continue to provide the natural framework for the emotional, financial and material support essential to the growth and development of their members, particularly infants and children, and for the care of other dependants, including the elderly, disabled and infirm.
- Relationship: The specific functions of families include establishing emotional, economic and social bonds between spouses; providing a framework for procreation and sexual relations between spouses. Family regulates the behaviours of various members of the family like maintaining sexual fidelity or exclusivity.
- Lack of emotions: A disadvantage of nuclear family system is less imbuing qualities of sharing, caring, empathy, co-operation, honesty, listening, welcoming, recognition, consideration, sympathy and understanding.
- No fixed habitation: In the daily life if an individual doesn't have a home the life would be one of great unrest as it would be haphazard in nature.
- A sense of responsibility among members: The family provides full security to all members including the young and the old. For example, when such responsibility is ignored as in the case of abandoning of a child or an old mother or father it results in breaking up of the family i.e. it disorganizes a family.
- Narrow mindedness: High earnings and less responsibility to other family members have attracted extended families to split up.
- High divorce rates: Divorce rates are very high across all cultures and a replacement of lone-parent, childless, remarried, homosexual, foster and adoptive families have been established. Breaking down of marriages, and anti-social behaviour is increasingly destroying families.

### Conclusion

The present-day lifestyle is causing serious damage to the critical role played by a joint or an extended family system in preserving cultural values, traditions and customs, which have been passed on from generation to generation. However, at the same time, we, Indians must consider ourselves to be better placed than others because the concept of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (world is one family).

**3. Are social norms and values changing in the age of social media? Does it have ethical repercussions for the society? Critically examine.**

### Introduction

Social norms are the rules governing acceptable behaviour within a group. Society is governed by social norms, however, the law has yet to catch up to the speed at which the Internet—and particularly social media—has developed.

**Body****Changing social norms in the age of social media:**

- Parents generally spend some time on their children's academics and growth. Now both of them are busy on social media, leading to neglect of child behaviour in crucial formative years.
- The traditional social norm of Privacy is completely changed, people aren't worrying to post confidential Information because of the LIKE-Hunger or Peer pressure or both.
- There's a new change in communication norms like Preference of texting over face to face communication among the youth.
- Recent Hook-up apps are changing the whole fabric of relationship norms like the way they meet, the course of relation, etc.,
- Social media has altered the way people generally vote or buy. The recent Cambridge Analytica scandal of 2016 US elections is the best example.
- The rise of Influencers such as Instagram, twitter etc., is changing the way, how marketing is done.

**Ethical repercussions of changing social norms because of social media on society:****Negative effects:**

- According to a survey an individual was willing to give a wrong answer just to conform to the majority view. This explains the impact of fake news online, which contributes to a polarised society.
- People are lacking Pure judgments, trying to imitate the group leading to a severe value crisis in the society.
- The trolling of women has brought to the fore the disturbing reality of online violence and abuse women face in India.
- Exposure of hatred to children at a young age because of cyberbullying.
- New ethical issues are emerging because of privacy concerns, social injustice and ignorance, effects on family values etc.

**Positive effects:**

- The successful #MeToo movement gave a ray of hope to many voiceless women. Their voice is being heard now and many guidelines are released for their safety at workplace.
- The sense of questioning is developed in citizens in the social media handles of various ministries. This adds to the accountability of government.
- Earlier on the death of a farmer. only the family mourned for the loss. Today if the same happens, the entire nation empathizes with the death of such farmers.



- Awareness regarding rights of LGBTQ community, acid attack victims, etc., is increasing. This lets them to Live their Life with dignity.
- Compassion towards an accident victim or a person in need is being shown by many fundraiser campaigns on social media.

### Conclusion:

Social media is an open road, with bumps and turns all in our way. Its use is inevitable in this digital world, so protecting oneself from its Negativity and focussing more on real-life than our social life is the best way ahead.

### 4. Should a person's perception of right or wrong be based on societal norms? Critically comment.

#### Introduction

A person develops his perception based on a number of factors and is necessary for his reasoning, judgment and actions under certain circumstances.

#### Body

##### Perception should be based on societal norms:

- Society as a unit- Human live in a society and all his actions are influenced by or directed at the society, thus it is natural to base his perceptions on social norms. For example, polygamy is not considered right in most societies.
- Norms are universal- Stealing is not considered right in any society, whereas respect and gratitude are always welcomed.
- Result of long tradition- Ways to eat food are part of tradition of the society, for those living in coastal areas marine food is right, whereas for agriculture dominated society a vegetarian diet is right.
- Maintain dignity and decency- Rules around dressing up for both genders like not exposing one's skin in public is to maintain dignity in the society.
- Nudge towards right behavior- Teaching respect for elders, charity, being polite etc. are a part of societal norms and thus a perception based on these will guide right behavior in people.

##### Perception should not be based on societal norms:

- Social evils- Evils like Sati, child marriage etc. were once considered right by the society, however a humanitarian perspective will hold these tragic.
- Slow evolution- Social norms take time to evolve and change. Slavery was once considered right as per the social conditions of ancient times, but increasing advent of technology and human rights made people change their perspective towards it.
- No space for individuality- LGBT had to struggle for their rights despite being a part of the society, just because they were different from the generally acceptable norms.

**Conclusion**

Society plays a great role in development of perception of right or wrong. However, the latter should not be entirely based on the social norms and should have space for logical thinking in case the social values are against the human values.

**5. Why do so many students commit suicide each year? What is wrong with our education system? How can we address it? Discuss.****Introduction:**

According to the latest available data from the National Crime Records Bureau, a student commits suicide every hour in India.

**Body:**

From issues at college and school to drugs and depression over broken families, to fights with friends and breakups, students in India are killing themselves at a fast rate, with 26 suicides reported every 24 hours. Following are the reasons for such a high rate of suicide:

**Performance pressure:**

- Academic stress is a major reason for suicides among students in India, and the pressure continues beyond college.
- Pressure from parents to perform well in exams can affect a child's mental health. Stories of successful students securing high salaries make the headlines and play a significant role in parents pushing their children to earn the same.
- Young high school students are forced to enrol in coaching factories, where they live in hostels away from parents and cram for exams to get into prestigious schools like the IIT. Ex. Kota Factory.
- Students follow draconian rules and study schedules that leave them feeling depleted and depressed. Those who fail to follow the demanding study schedules feel responsible for disappointing their parents and falling behind their peers.
- Many students who eventually pass the entrance exams feel even more pressure to excel at university.
- The lack of jobs and failure to create skills among the country's youth will simply increase the frustration among students, forcing them to take the drastic step of ending their lives.

**Mental Illness:**

- Psychological concerns in children are on the rise, 12 per cent of Indian students between the age of 4 and 16 suffer from psychiatric disorders

- Rampant depression among students, due to social expectations and academic rigour motivates students to take the drastic step of ending their lives.
- Environmental challenges also lead to mental concerns: racial, sexual or religious discrimination, body-shaming, sexual challenges, emotional issues, low self-esteem or insecurities, family or financial problems, substance addiction, and even hormonal changes may play a part.

**Caste Based Discrimination:**

- Many people in India argue that caste-based discrimination lies at the root of student suicides in India. Ex. Rohit Vemula Suicide/

**Bullying and Ragging:**

- Being bullied by other kids can act as a trigger for suicide. This will include incidents during the ragging of fresher in colleges.

Moreover, Students don't have avenues to vent their feelings and express themselves.

**Lacunae with educational System:**

- The Indian education system fosters a competitive environment, and students who don't secure admission to top institutes are viewed as failures. Admission to AIIMS and IITs is more competitive than those of America's top schools like MIT and Harvard, which have acceptance rates of 9% and 7% respectively; AIIMS and IITs has an acceptance rate of below 0.1%.
- Marks and grading system make the situation worse when student compare among themselves and become the victim of inferiority complex.
- In India, job security is viewed as an integral addition to a good education, which leads colleges to heavily advertise their placements to garner good reviews and get more students to enrol. This creates pressure on students who feel a sense of personal failure when they do not secure the best job during the placement season.

**Way Forward:**

Student suicides can be easily averted by the following measures:

- The government should make education performance assessment beyond grades and make it skill-based.
- The government should also carry out reform in the job market by asking the private sector to rethink criteria while hiring employees. Grades and colleges should stop being viewed as the only criteria for securing a good job.
- Setting up training and sensitization sessions for teachers, parents and students.
- Increase the role of counselling services. Educational institutions must have psychological counselling programs in place to help students deal with their issues in confidentiality and in a comfortable environment.

- Mental health issues such as anxiety and depression need to be addressed without stigma in schools and colleges, and parents should be encouraged to inculcate and foster feelings of sensitivity toward their children.
- Schools and colleges need to foster a culture of understanding and trust, where students feel free and safe to talk about issues like bullying and anxiety.

**Conclusion:**

India is the youngest country in the world. Educational reforms should be addressed on a priority basis to get the required demographic dividend in the years to come. To ensure the holistic – physical, emotional and mental well-being of children, we must sincerely endeavour to bridge the gap in the education sector vis-à-vis mental well-being.

