

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND ETHICAL LEARNING: PRESSING PRIORITY OF EDUCATION

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Abstract:

The major aim of education is the wholesome, balanced and harmonious development of the personality. Educationists and psychologists are busy in building wholesome or harmonious personality of the individual. Personality development is the apex and crux of education. All knowledge of education and psychology is ultimately related to understanding and development of personality. Personality pervades every aspect of human life. It influences our behavior. It is said to be the mirror of one's total behaviour. It is the total integration of physical, intellectual, emotional, social and ethical makeup of the individual which is expressed in terms of behaviour, attitude, values, beliefs, interests, habits, sentiments, temperaments and traits. Personality does not exist in vacuum but to a large extent it depends upon social environment and education. It is the education that makes individual cultured. Almost everything that an individual learns is acquired from education through learning. Social, emotional and ethical learning are the three main pillars of education which lead to harmonious development of personality of an individual. In the present scenario there is a great need to focus on these three important aspects of education, as our young generation is deteriorating from their ethical and cultural values due to westernization. As a result today's youth has become so much self-centered that they are mostly busy in serving their own interests. They do not have strong social and emotional bonding with others. Thus it has been commonly believed that there has been erosion of social, emotional and ethical values among youth in our society. So pressing priority of today's education system is to cultivate the social, emotional and ethical competencies of the students for their on- going personal, social and professional development, as well as for the development of the society at large. The present paper is an attempt to focus the need and importance of integrating the concept SEE in the present education system.

Key Words: *Education, Behavior, Personality, Development.*

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Introduction:

In the present society only academic success is visualized as the way to go ahead. Our formal education system also emphasizes to a great extent on the child's cognitive development. It seems many times that the development of affective domain is being ignored somewhere in formal education system as well as even in families which have been considered as a strong system of informal education. Our Indian philosophy believes that the development of integrated personality must include the 'AnnamayKosh', 'PranmayKosh', 'ManomayKosh', 'VigyanmayKosh' and 'AnandmayKosh'. These five sphere are consecutively related to the

development of physique, mind, emotions, intellect and spirituality. Merely imparting information to the child's mind leaves behind a big gap in developing a child to face the real life situations. As a consequence the child fails to handle the complexity of actual life situations.

Everyday there is one or the other news of some despicable crime committed by the students. We also hear about the events when the students get selected for particular course they have dreamt about but some of them still give up and come back. Sometime we come across the surly behavior of children in classroom, or family atmosphere. Our young generation has become very much self-centered, who are busy in serving their own need. It has also been commonly believed that there has been rapid erosion of ethical values among them. All such events are happening in our surrounding and we consider them as immature human behavior. These behaviors are not the proper and acceptable behavior. It really means that there could be some other ways to handle these types of behaviors and situations. The “other way” might be some better and wise way to react at these behaviors. It indicates social, emotional, and ethical aspect of personality of student should be handled more wisely at time so as to improve their behavior and to make them more adapted to the surroundings. This special ability to handle such moments when socially, emotionally and ethically deviated behavior are manage with wise, pleasant and acceptable manner, is termed as SEE Learning.

Concept of SEE Learning:

The social, emotional and ethical (SEE) learning framework is an educational framework for compassion based ethics designed to guide the development and implementation of social, emotional and ethical programme for K-12 and higher education. SEE learning provides educator with the tools which are required to enhance the development of social, emotional, and ethical intelligence of students and themselves. So SEE learning focus on fostering the development of three types of intelligence i.e. Social intelligence, Emotional intelligence, and Ethical intelligence. So let's first of all understand the meaning of these three types of intelligences.

Social Intelligence (SI):

Social intelligence is the ability to perceive and make distinction in the moods, intentions, motivations and feelings of other people. This can include sensitivity to facial expressions, voice and gestures; the capacity for discriminating among many kind of interpersonal cues; and the ability to respond effectively to those cues in some pragmatic way. It allows people to work effectively with others. Social intelligence helps individual build relationships and is important to numerous aspects of life. It allows an individual to form friendships and alliances. And, it assists a person against being taken advantage of.

Emotional Intelligence (EI):

Emotional intelligence is the ability to perceive, discriminate, understand and evaluate about emotions of self as well as others and act accordingly. Emotional intelligence reflects the level of emotional sensitivity, emotional memory, emotional processing and emotional learning ability. It is said to be the significant factor affecting the behavioral patterns of the individual. Emotional development helps the individual in all spheres of life through its various components namely knowledge of emotions, managing emotions, motivating oneself, recognizing emotions of others and handling relationships significantly in life.

Ethical Intelligence (ETI):

Ethical Intelligence is the personal code that dictates how we work and the ability to make ethical decisions when faced with moral challenges or dilemmas. Ethical intelligence helps apply ethical principles to personal goals, values and actions. Ethical intelligence gives us courage to tell the truth, keep our promises, or to help someone in need. We are faced with moral challenges or dilemmas everyday of our working lives. Sometimes we are unaware of the moral subtext of our actions, but on closer inspection, all social transaction reveals a moral aspect.

After going through the concept of social, emotional and ethical intelligences, we can say that these three types of intelligences are interrelated and interdependent. One is incomplete without other. The role of emotional intelligence is attested as a predictor in individual ethics, and the predictor role of these two in perceptions of other's ethics. Emotional intelligence significantly co-related with self-esteem, social desirability, individual ethics and perceptions of others ethics. On the other hand social and emotional intelligence combine to form SEC (social and emotional competencies). These are the competencies, which are linked with self-awareness, self-management and relationship management. These enable people to understand and manage their own as well as other's emotions in social interactions.

All the three Intelligences are very important for the balanced and harmonious development of the personality of an individual. Personality pervades every aspect of human life. It covers all aspect of our behavior including social, emotional and ethical. Personality does not exist in Vacuum but to a large extent depends up education and learning. It is the education that makes individual cultured. While acquiring education from school and colleges, an individual have to face tremendous changes. In this period they have to undergo various psychological, social and intellectual changes regarding academic success and failure, profession of their choice, economic status, social behavior and adjustment etc. They have to adjust themselves in the society with all these changes and they have a pressure to retain their good image in their own eyes. If the students are not able to accustoming with it, they exhibit the signs of anxiety, inferiority complex, depression, failure in making social relationships and they get deviated from the normal behavior. It will totally shatter their self-image. Some time they even commit suicide. The educational institutions are the part of formal system where the student spend much of their time and prepare for the future. The teachers are the important person who play significant role in the life of the students. So, it is very important to train the individual appropriately during this making state of their life when they are getting formal education. Thus, we can say that social, emotional and ethical learning are three strong pillar of any education system which can lead to the harmonious development of the personality of an individual. So these aspects of learning must be integrated in the education system. These efforts will consequently help in developing proper social, emotional and ethical intelligences among people from the childhood. This will surely help in bringing emotional maturity among individual to handle social relationships significantly and tackle moral challenges or dilemma in healthy manner. It will help them to lead a better life in

peace and cooperation with improved efficiency. Thus the social, emotional and ethical intelligences can become a potential for leading a successful life and the educational institutions must be a key place for training of these three types of learning for giving a successful individual to the society and nation.

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