

INCORPORATION OF HUMAN VALUES IN TEACHING OF ENGLISH

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Abstract

In the present times it is expected of a human being to be equipped with a quality that is capable of taking decisions autonomously to shape and construct their destiny. However, the systems and trends of thought that is being developed with time raises questions on the principles or values that is accepted by an individual or a social group. In a global human society, humanity is accepted as the highest value a man can encompass.

English language need not to be just limited to the acquisition of its skills. Although, the primary aim of the subject is to enhance the learner's proficiency in it, it is also necessary to incorporate human values in the language activities.

The main focus of this research paper is to understand the need of human value based education and how it can be incorporated in the teaching of English.

Introduction

In a society, human values play a very important role as they are said to be the foundation for a good and desirable life. As human beings we are blessed with senses which help us to distinguish between right and wrong. Access to any information is just one click away but our transformation is lagging if we are deprived of the practice of human values. English being a global Lingua Franca can easily find ways to incorporate value based teachings in it as value education can't be considered as exclusive.

For the holistic development of the learner, core values will help the learners to live in harmony with the nature and fellow human beings.

In the society as to why there is a need to incorporate human values in the teaching of a subject. It is merely because education cannot be just seen as the platform for preparation of career oriented goals or a pedestal to compete with the others in this competitive world because modern education simply cannot be divorced from problems plaguing the humanity. Through such an approach, chance of integration of the language skills in teaching of English increase.

What is human value education?

Value education is a process through which values are imparted. It helps the learners to embed within themselves the outlook of a smooth function of their lives without violence or hatred towards human kind but with empathy, love, brotherhood, affection, kindness and forgiveness. It is an umbrella concept that has the underlying principles of morality and ethics.

It simply is the development of appropriate behavior and habits that involves inculcation of moral values and habits. It starts from family and continues in schools where the educators are the facilitators of the same.

Need of human values

In our daily life, the crisis of the missing human value is a burning problem to which the solution is vague. In order to achieve a possible utopian society, it is necessary to maintain and conserve the values so that it can influence human action and regulate it into a well ordered lifestyle.

It is often believed that without a deep understanding of one's own relationship with the nature, society, fellow living beings and respect for all kinds of life, a man is not really educated. The sense of mutual respect, equality and peace garners unity among the human kind. As the world today witnesses and practices narrow, exclusive and intolerant traditions of conflicts, violence, tensions and war, there is a desperate need for a generation that will evolve through harmony, love, peace and concern.

Value education in English language teaching

The teaching of English in a country like India runs for the position of the second language. It emphasizes on a communicative approach to learning. The expansion of the horizons of the English language teaching and the incorporation of values starts to provide motivating factors which prompts the learners to bond over time and enhance their daily learning experience. Some values are taught within the classroom unconsciously during the routine daily activities. The teaching of values to the learners requires a step by step approach. In the beginning it could be using general life experiences and activities. However at later stages, literature, poetry and grammar can become a medium to inculcate values within the learners.

According to few studies on the need for incorporation of human values in English language teaching, it is found that the curriculum can easily be adjusted. For instance when a worksheet is being created, the choice of the content in the sentences can be chosen in such a way that positive behavior and habits are geared.

Inculcating values through English literature

Literature time and again has touched the lives of learners since ages. It is a general understanding that Literature starts with delight but always ends in wisdom. It enables the learners to appreciate the diverse cultures and multiple emotions like love, anger, jealousy and greed. The incorporation of human values in literature will serve the dual aim of acquiring the English language as well as inculcate values into the learners.

Teaching values through English literature

When a learner is taught English literature, they are exposed to a new era every time. They witness the abilities of a human society and the core ethics and values it practices. It is universally acknowledged that children must be exposed to such situations. The study of literature in various forms such as novels, prose and short -stories, brings out moral lessons which motivate the learners to take it up and practice it in their daily lives. Students automatically learn to monitor their behaviors by reading various stories and fables which have

morals attached to it. It leaves a deep impression in the minds of the learners throughout their lives.

Inculcating values through English poetry

One of the most powerful instructional tools to impart value is poetry. It is considered as a universal vehicle of human expression. It expresses emotions/ deep feelings, aesthetic beauty and in most cases describes the society at its best. Throughout the past, poetry has been used to address social issues, war, and love, beauty of the nature and love of the creator. It has been widely acknowledged that Poetry invokes experiences, emphasizes the important role of the senses and revisits one's memory. It has always been a means to encourage the learners to develop empathy and understanding to view the complexities the world portrays in ways which cannot be understood if we don't pay heed to its messages.

Poetry activates and awakens our senses. It tries to connect us with not only ourselves but with others as well.

For better understanding of the same, a poem was taken up from the syllabus of class 7th students and discussed during the school internship period.

The result to it had been as expected. The students were able to catch the concept and values incorporated in the poem and also establish an understanding as to why it is necessary in our lives and to what extent we should be following it in our daily lives.

As poetry is generally considered a means to express feelings and the values to be inculcated amongst the readers, a poem or a literary piece like Chivvy can indeed influence children to think critically and understand the necessity of the values passed on through it.

Once the poetry was completed in the class, it was understood that:

1. The poetry made the students correlate context with their own lives.
2. It opened doors for students to explore how to handle their feelings.
3. Use the values in the poetry to solve situational problems.

Chivvy

Ask yourself as well as your partner: Do you like to be always told what to do or not to do? Do grown-ups do this, in your experience?

When Michael was five years old, his mother took him to a nearby school for admission. The teacher asked, "What does your mother call you at home, child?" "Michael Don't," came the confident reply.

Note: To chivvy is to nag, "to continuously urge someone to do something, often in an annoying way", according to the dictionary.

Read the poem now.

Grown-ups say things like:
Speak up
Don't talk with your mouth full
Don't stare
Don't point
Don't pick your nose

Sit up
Say please
Less noise
Shut the door behind you
Don't drag your feet
Haven't you got a hankie ?
Take your hands out of
your pockets



Pull your socks up
Stand up straight
Say thank you
Don't interrupt
No one thinks you're funny
Take your elbows off the table

Can't you make your own
mind up about anything ?

MICHAEL ROSEN

Working with the Poem

1. Discuss these questions in small groups before you answer them.
 - (i) When is a grown-up likely to say this?
Don't talk with your mouth full.
 - (ii) When are you likely to be told this?
Say thank you.
 - (iii) When do you think an adult would say this?
No one thinks you are funny.
2. The last two lines of the poem are not prohibitions or instructions. What is the adult now asking the child to do? Do you think the poet is suggesting that this is unreasonable? Why?
3. Why do you think grown-ups say the kind of things mentioned in the poem? Is it important that they teach children good manners, and how to behave in public?
4. If you had to make some rules for grown-ups to follow, what would you say? Make at least five such rules. Arrange the lines as in a poem.

The students were enthusiastic while learning about the importance of values and their necessity

in today's scenario. They also came up with various real life situations that could be easily tackled with the values inculcated through the poem.+

Inculcating values through English grammar

To successfully become competent and fluent in a language, one needs to be able to produce grammatically acceptable sentences. This feature can be complemented by giving activities and exercises to practice which directly contains value based content. For instance while teaching Connectives; the sentences can be framed with the use of human values.

1. The bank's employees were sincere in their work. *Moreover* they were loyal to their company.
2. She *finally* won the match after many attempts.

Inculcating values through LSRW (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing)

As teaching of English focuses on the 4 macro skills - Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, English language teacher needs incorporate the necessary human values through these skills in the learners. The materials provided to read, listen, speak and write should be based on the ability get good values out of it.

Passages provided to the students for reading comprehension should include issues of concern such as climate change, global warming, racism, child labor, animal cruelty, globalization, poverty and pollution. Such comprehensions will not only prompt the learner to think but also derive out a moral value for their life from it.

For the practice of listening comprehension, audios which deal with human values such as a talk on evils of war, an interview of a survivor of domestic violence or anything that provokes the students to understand the need of a human value can be used.

Writing skills generally provide a platform to the learner to express their concerns, thought process and emotions. Taking advantage of this, the educator can plan writing activities which evokes human values out of them such as a letter to a newspaper editor explaining the plight of senior citizens around you who are abandoned by their children.

Speaking skills are always integrated with the rest of the skills. The students should be given chances to speak out their views and ideas on issues affecting humanity, situations creating differences between people and so on. Such practices will help them realize the importance of certain values that they should be practicing in their day-to-day lives.

Conclusion

Value education and Teaching of English can go hand in hand. It is really difficult to imagine a society without them. To create awareness of the human values and to successfully inculcate them in the young learners, English educator must work towards making it a success.

English as a language and as a subject with human values becomes a vital aid to assimilate culture, have a stable emotional life and develop positive attitude towards life.

Thus, we understand that the moment when the English is taught by incorporating the human values, students attain understanding which is helpful for a sustainable life and to build bridges from one community to another to maintain human unity, harmony and peace.

