
Ethics in Professional Education : A Tool for Quality Enhancement

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Abstract

It is rightly said "Education is the manifestation of excellence in people-excellence of body, mind and soul". The two most important pillars which form the building blocks for the above statement are 'Ethics' and 'Values'. By the help of ethics and values it becomes much easier to resist the temptations to let the end justify the means in any education related operation. No individual or his/her function is complete in itself. It is only the sum total of all activities that creates completeness and brings full results and this can only be achieved by the tools of 'Ethics' and 'Values'. Ethics and Values in an atmosphere of education inculcate interpersonal affection, interpersonal respect and dignity. In my research paper I have emphasized upon the tremendous influence of ethical behavior on "Professional Education" such as: Win/Win situation, Karma yoga, Service, Work as play, Higher purpose, Surrender/ Patience, Openness, Reflection, Business as the health club of spirituality and Vedanta. By discussing these influences we can vividly understand the importance of 'Ethics' and 'Values' in social work and how 'Ethics' and 'Values' act as saviors in the era of cut throat competition.

In my research paper I have emphasized upon the various influences and positive effects which 'Ethics' and 'Values' incorporate in the social arena. These influences are as follows:

- 1. Win/win situation:** Ethics and values directly result in the belief of "Unity of Existence" and this directly creates social relations that creates 'win/win' situation. These are mutually beneficial relationships where both parties gain in an atmosphere of 'free choice' and 'mutual respect'. The most important factor affecting social work is cut throat competition. This is where the majority of society and individuals live today. Developing the value of 'win/win', the interactions or relationships an individual would welcome in a social environment would be mutually beneficial. Ethics and values not only create an aesthetic social environment to work, but also create a 'win/win' situation.
- 2. Karma Yoga:** - One of the foremost values in a society is the ability to approach work as a selfless service or workshop, called Karma Yoga. A social work or a business can become Karma Yoga when we are engaged in selfless action without regard to the results. This has immense ramifications in society. To the degree that we can practice karma yoga we experience freedom from the cravings of ambition. Without becoming overly attached to the results of our actions we can work without fear, focusing on the job in front of us. We can live in the present moment. As a result we can give our best effort to the job at hand, not letting worry or longing distract us. Karma Yoga also teaches us that motive is as important as action. We must strive to have the right values, right ethics, right intentions as well as the right actions.

Keywords

Ethics, Values, Ethical behavior, Ethical influences

3. **Service:** - All of the really successful society has established their success on the bedrock of customer service. This value is easily spiritualized into serving the highest aspect in man: seeing the customer as a manifestation of the divine. Ethics and values help us use all our abilities to engage in service that treats us as well as our customers respectfully.
4. **Work as play:** - Ethics and values allow us to maintain perspective; to see the big picture- it's all the eternal play of the self. From this point of view, challenges are now embraced instead of feared. To paraphrase the Gita "even a little knowledge of ethics relieves one of great fear". We can work with a real sense of cheerfulness, knowing that the results of the 'game' are not in our hands.
5. **Higher purpose:** - Industry and business are not the be-all and end-all of life. With the higher goal in life we experience a deeper sense of meaning and purpose. It becomes much easier to keep our sense of balance at work when we have a higher purpose that transcends all social endeavors.
6. **Surrender/Patience:-** Related to ethics and values, surrender is a key factor in society. We must recognize when we are 'Pushing on a string' – When something just isn't going to happen. Whether this is a social promotion or the hope of getting a new customer; the ability to 'Let go, Let God' is a valuable tool. It is also by patience and surrender that we learn to keep our ego out of our way. Any one on the ethical path must develop patience and perseverance. These two values become essential in any social endeavor.
7. **Openness:-** It is the stance of openness in social that often allows a new way of looking at something to occur. It encourages a flow of creativity in yourself and others – particularly when you share an attitude of openness with your associates. This reinforces the ability to celebrate variety.
8. **Reflection:-** Society provides the opportunity to complement one's personal meditation practice. By focusing on the work at hand, practicing concentration and mental discipline at work, the mind is less likely to wander when you ask it to sit quietly at home. Of course this assumes that your work environment is not too full of distractions and negative input.
9. **Business as the health club of spirituality:** - As farfetched as this may seem, social business forces each of us to exercise our spiritual values in an environment that resists such efforts. It is in the arena of work that most of us come to grips with our real level of spiritual unfoldment. This is where 'The rubber meets the road'.

10. **Vedanta:** - Vedanta provides a world view that embraces both the spiritual and the physical vision of unity. It provides a synthesis to the conflict between society and spirituality. If we look at society as an arena to develop the values necessary for spiritual practice we find that the opportunities to give work a spiritual turn are unlimited.

Conclusion: - Thus in my research paper I have emphasized upon the importance of 'Ethics' and 'Values' in a social environment. Without ethics and values a social community would be a chaos and individual life meaningless. A value-less life is a valueless life. And who wants a life that's not worth a dime? Ethics and Values therefore create a substantial framework where honesty, motivation and integrity go hand in hand ultimately resulting in the success of the society.

Values. A terrible business. You can at best stammer when you talk about them.

-Wittgenstein

(British Philosopher)

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