

The Justification of Moral Values for Students in Akwa Ibom State Schools and Colleges

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ABSTRACT

This paper seeks to examine closely the concept of moral values in general, its relevance and justifications in promoting and cultivating moral values for students in Akwa Ibom State schools and colleges. The paper employed the philosophical methods of criticism, speculation and analysis. The work is relevant to stakeholders in education, viz, Government, educationist, teachers, parents, school managers and administrators. It is also relevant to students in Akwa Ibom State schools and beyond. It is recommended that if moral values are encouraged and integrated into school system, class curricula and counseling interventions, the resultant positive effects would be peaceful school environment. This would promote productivity and significant academic excellence.

Key words: Moral Value, students' moral, Virtues and Value Education

INTRODUCTION

The pre-eminence of moral values to human life cannot be over-emphasized. Without moral values, life would only be chaotic. The ever-increasing rate of immorality and indiscipline in our country, Nigeria and in our educational system in particular are due to lack of moral values. This has significantly affected our entire school system negatively. In recent time, there are so many cases of dishonesty, examination malpractice, disobedience resulting in blatant violation of school rules and regulations, bullying, stealing, assault, robbery, deliberate destruction of school property, rudeness to teachers, disrespect to school authority, rioting, violence, vandalism, abuse, corruption, harassment, sexual misconduct, etc. All these vices are due to the degradation of moral values. This is an issue of great concern among school administrators, educationists, teachers, parents and the entire Nigerian society. Where there are an indiscriminate immoral conducts, teaching and learning processes are disrupted. In a bid to checkmate such situations, this paper ex-rays moral values for students in Akwa Ibom State Schools and Colleges. It is a belief that through the cultivation, practice and promotion of good moral values (such as justice, respect and obedience) our school system would enjoy academic progress and serene environment for teaching and learning activities.

THE CONCEPT OF MORALS

Morals are so central to all cultures and ages, be it religion, philosophy, education, ethics or laws. There are acceptable human principles and ideals that govern human conducts.

Moral means standards and principles of good behavior. Moral can be viewed as the behavioral patterns of life that are valuable to the society and mankind. One who has a good character is a moral man while lacks of it is an immoral man. Whereas morals have to do with virtuous behaviours, standards and conducts that are expected in any society for peaceful co-existence of all members, immoral behavior is capable of obstructing the smooth and the orderly function of school system. It affects productivity and learning outcomes negatively. Obviously, the formation and cultivation of good moral should be encouraged to arrest these problems in schools.

THE CONCEPT OF VALUES

The concept “value” has been used to connote different things to various people. In a narrow sense, value is something we desire for, something that is important, useful, good or worth. They are ends to which we act. Dewey (1916) a renowned philosopher and educationist perceive values as primarily to prize, esteem and secondarily, to estimate. Value can be said to be something worth having and appreciative. Okafor (1984) refers to value as the basic understructures in all matters of choices and decision-making. Often we hear people denying that this or that is their value. In a broader sense, value implies all knowledge of rightness, beauty, virtue, obligation and truth. Value is a totality of all attributes that harmonize life or nature. Values are seen as present in all life experiences. Values as universal as they could be, cuts across all human experiences. Okeke (1989) opines that values connote importance and something qualitatively cherished.

In ethics, values denotes the degree of importance of something or action, with the aim of determining what actions are best to do or what way is best to live, or to describe the significance of different actions.

Amaele (2000) asserts that values are standard of conduct, efficiency or worth which a society endorses, maintain and ever transmits to her members-parent and future generations. Values are

moral conducts and code of behavior that motivate members of a certain culture or society. Generally, people are predisposed to adopt the values that they are raised with.

People also tend to believe that those Values are “right” because they are the values of their peculiar culture.

For Denga (1983), values represent reasons, beliefs, convictions or virtues that guide people’s actions. Values are also philosophical considerations which help an individual personally to judge how responsible, truthful and appropriate his actions and relationship with others are. Values are basic and fundamental beliefs that guide or motivate attitudes or actions. They help us to determine that which is good and important to us. Values describe the personal qualities we choose to embody to guide our actions and behaviours.

Udeniwomen (2001) identifies so many values. These include: social, religious, moral, spiritual, aesthetic, political, economic, technological, material, cultural, intellectual, etc. Thus let us take a cursory view of moral values briefly.

MORAL VALUES

Generally, moral is concerned with the principles of right and wrong behaviour. It has to do with a standard of behaviour. Moral is synonymous with good, righteous, upright, right-minded, blameless etc. Moral has to do with something that is praise worthy, approvable or good.

Thus moral values are certain principles which an individual or a society cherishes, deeply attempts to live by it and in sometimes sacrifices other things to uphold it. For some philosophers, moral values are synonymous with goodness generally. Moral values are said to be principles and standards that determines what could be considered as good in human relations and in social institutions and systems. Moral values must be certain standard of behaviours that are morally accepted otherwise they are immoral that have no value to the society.

Okoh (1998) asserts that moral values have to do with acquisition of moral judgment in interacting with fellow men.

For Aggrawal (1985), moral values must necessarily transcend the limitation of creed, race and culture. With this in mind, any action justified dues to its general acceptance as moral value in any society must be subjected to rational discussion. Moral values are the end to which we act.

According to Amaele (2000), moral values are those behaviours and attitudes exhibited and encouraged by members of the society for the fact that they are both good and desirable to mankind generally, the society and to the people in particular, as against those behaviours condemned and discouraged for they have been proved to be bad and unhelpful to the person, society and the entire mankind. Moral values are essentially for human relationship at all levels of life. They are required everywhere in order to work amicably and in a co- operative manner

THE JUSTIFICATIONS OF MORAL VALUES IN STUDENT LIFE

In Nigerian schools and colleges, moral values should be given adequate and prompt attentions. Let us briefly assess reasons of their justifications. The future of our great country, Nigeria is in the hands of our students. In other words, students are the future of the country and to a very large extend the good future of this country, depend upon the good moral values imparted and cultivated in them during their student life. Therefore moral values should be properly imparted to students as great leaders of tomorrow. Moral values are the basics and fundamentals in the life of any student. Without moral values, human life has no meaning and importance. Moral values therefore

reflect integrity and humanity. It teaches us more than any teacher or textbook could do. It is more beneficial to cultivate moral values at young school age. A young student who has no sense of wrong and bad, good or right has lost absolutely the sense of moral in life. It is important that student have sound base of strong moral values. This calls for much caution and observation from school's authorities.

Moral values show the real identity of a person. One's character and spirituality is determined by his or her moral values. They guide students to learn and show what ought to be, and what should be done and how it should be done rightly. Good life foundation is inspired and formed by good moral values. Moral values elicit a feeling of gratitude in a student towards life and especially towards their teachers. They are keys to building good relationships with one another. Moral values lead to honesty and sincerity among students which is essential in this age of learning. In practicing good moral values, students will have good moral mental strength to overcome many problems and difficult times.

Students who cultivate good moral values are prospective citizens of our country, Nigeria. Good moral values gradually exposed students to face various tough situations in life without getting blazed. A student with a good moral principle is looked upon with respect. His opinions matter and he holds his head high.

Moral values are the building blocks of people and it builds a better character of a person. One who has moral values has a great part of his life to achieve something big in the future. It lasts a life time and molds one's character to the betterment of the society at large. Moral values help in shaping the character and personality of an individual. Moral values are essential for human relationships at all levels of life. In other for us to work amicably, moral values are required in our families, schools, work places and indeed the entire society.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Moral values are virtues that must be practiced, promoted and cultivated. The following are the various ways to inculcate moral values.

1. Both teachers and parents should act as role models. Children should be exposed and taught good moral values like honesty, loyalty, respect, self-reliance, self-discipline, patience, kindness, forgiveness, courtesy, etc. at the age of 5-6. Parents should play a great influence to children by teaching them to differentiate between rights and wrong, bad or good. Parents should live good exemplary life to model and influence their children positively. Be sincere if you want them to be sincere. While maintaining good social and personal relationships, parents should be careful in every act of their behaviour.
2. Teachers at school should listen carefully and respectfully to students' idea and correct them morally whenever it required.
3. Media exposure plays a major role in children's life. Thus parents should guard and be interested in whatever their children are exposed to in their social media world. Parents should discuss the different aspects of news and movie that their children are interested.
4. Parent should encourage their children to take active parts in their religious activities.
5. Quality time should be spent with children at home. This will have a close effect in their future life.
6. At schools and home, children should be offered ample opportunities to help others. This will instill in them generosity.

7. Teachers should be interested in student's problems besides teaching. They should endeavour to give them good pieces of advice to boost their moral status.

EVALUATION AND CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, one will note that moral value is a must in a students' life as virtues. Continuous practicing of them will lead to forming a good virtuous habit. Hence, students should make conscientious effort to enrich their moral vision by regularly putting these values into practices. This will increase ones' personality, love, affection, peace, unity, mutual understanding and peaceful co-existence in our schools. Giving respect to each other, being Polite, and prudence in our dealings, being kind and helpful to each other will go a long way to achieve both collective and individual goals in our educational system. Obviously, this is the responsibilities of every one of us be it teachers, students, parents, governments, educationists, school managers and administrators etc. The invaluable treasure of moral values would bring about peaceful school environment, productivity and better future society in Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria.

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