



Human Values in Education for Global Citizenship

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Abstract:

The 21st century educational system is facing complex challenges technological, environmental, socio-cultural change and inequality. With this complex changes happening in the dynamic society, there has been rise in the problems in the society- violence, terrorism, communism, racism, anxiety, depression, suicide, crimes, divorce, bullying, murder, substance abuse, and other anti-social activities. In the crux of declining values across the world, education must move beyond mere academic and technical excellence. It should play a pro-active role in fostering in the individuals humane attitude, values, skills and competencies required to adjust with one's personal, professional and civic life. Human values are therefore integral to betterment of human life as it can empower the learners to effectively deal with the contemporary challenges. This paper focuses on how and why human values can be integrated into education, the pedagogical strategies that can be adopted, issues and challenges, suggestions to help equip learners into developing responsible and conscientious global citizens.

Keywords: Education, Global Citizenship, Human Value, Inequality, ESD, Pedagogical Strategy.

Introduction:

The rapid growth of globalization and technological advancements is creating complexities in human social life. People are more geared towards materialism, individualism, competitions and profits, leading to the decline in human values. This has led to rise in anti-social activities in every part of our society. The contemporary educational landscape is more oriented towards optimization of students' academic and technical excellence, but somehow, it has failed to equip learners with ethical, social, and emotional skills needed for a humane and progressive society (UNESCO, 2021).

Human values are the universal values such as integrity, honesty, love, truth, peace, empathy, respect, responsibility, social justice, compassion, patience, kindness, tolerance etc. They are essential in guiding individuals towards ethical behaviours and responsible decision making. The ethical theories of moral development- Kohlberg's stages of moral development from simple obedience to universal ethics; and Bandura's theory of social learning- internalizing values, social modelling, social interaction and self-regulation where people acquire behaviors, attitudes, and values through observation, imitation, and modeling others within their social surroundings (Okeke, 2025). These theoretical frameworks can guide the incorporation of human values in the teaching process.

UNESCO's Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) framework emphasizes the need for ethical, civic, and participatory competencies in learners (UNESCO, 2021). The 21st century learners requires

transformative competencies- moral judgment, teamwork, creativity and critical reflection, pro-social behaviour, ethical awareness, environmental stewardship and civic responsibility which can be developed through values education (OECD, 2018).

Human values and character building are the ultimate basis of genuine societal progress and individual success, and therefore, the educational systems need to instil character, moral reasoning and human values in addition to the cognitive skills. Human values are not only essential for the academic success of the individuals but also for also transforming the learners into responsible global citizens and for the well-being of the society. National Education Policy 2020 emphasizes that education must build character, enable learners to be ethical, rational, compassionate, and caring and specifies the fundamental principles which should guide education system such as ethics and human & Constitutional values like empathy, respect for others, cleanliness, courtesy, democratic spirit, spirit of service, respect for public property, scientific temper, liberty, responsibility, pluralism, equality, and justice (GOI, 2020).

Pedagogical Strategies for human values integration in Education:

1. Integrate social and emotional learning lessons into the curriculum to help students develop self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, interpersonal relationship and responsible decision-making (Okeke, 2025).
2. Organise community engagement activities such as tours to community historical and cultural places, handicrafts and workshop centres. Involve learners in practical hands-on activities that require real world environmental and social problem solving, collaboration and ethical actions
3. Incorporate reflective practices such as journaling, dialogue, and reflective writing to develop self-awareness and moral reasoning to enable students to engage deeply with the values being taught, making connections between the classroom content and their personal experiences (Okeke, 2025).
4. Collaborate with families, schools, and the community in organising community service programs to develop civic responsibilities and altruism (da Silva et al., 2024);
5. Children learn through observation and imitation, therefore, parents and teachers need to model virtues they wish to instill in the children such as fairness, patience, respect, honesty, and responsibility in their day-to-day lives to create a lasting impact on children's lives and enable them to apply the examples in their own lives (Brahmbhatt, 2025; Sakti et al., 2024; Okeke, 2025).
6. Incorporate different assessment methods like reflective portfolios, discussions, reflective writing, situational judgment assessments, and behavioural observation.
7. Integrate technology to make learning interactive and sensitize the masses about the importance of human values through social media.
8. Integrate life-skill activities in curricular as well as co-curricular activities (Brahmbhatt, 2025). Through Sports and games children can be taught punctuality, discipline, cooperation, sportsmanship, goodwill, and equality (Lakshmi, 2014).
9. Storytelling enables students to contemplate ethical dimensions through relatable characters and compelling plots (Choudhary & Bakshi, 2025). Stories of great personalities can be used to teach patience, perseverance and practice (Mondal, 2017).
10. Group activities such as think-pair-share, role playing, games, group discussion, group projects etc. to develop values of respect, tolerance, cooperation, communication, perspective taking and turn-taking

(Mondal, 2017). Roleplay enhancing critical thinking, empathy, and ethical decision-making (Choudhary & Bakshi, 2025).

11. Anecdotes depicting conflicts, dilemmas, human acts and approaches dealing with different life situations and portraying important values important for students can be integrated with curricular areas (Mondal, 2017).
12. Discussion on various social, political, economic, cultural issues to enable learners to deal with complex situations, dilemmas and issues related to social, political, economic and environment (Mondal, 2017)
13. Biography of great persons, scientists, social reformers, philosophers, and leaders with their ideas, actions, lives and different forces that moulded their lives (Santhanam, 2025).
14. Extracts of Essays, Classics, Articles and Newspaper on problems of social concerns that appear in journals, books, and magazines can be used as pedagogical resources to motivate learners to engage on the issues, or write essays on their chosen value theme with guided help from the teachers (Santhanam, 2025).

Significance of Human Values:

Inculcating human values in the learners has positive implications as follows:

1. Human values strengthen empathy, cooperation, pro-social behavior, and ethical engagement (Taylor et al., 2017).
2. Value education not only imparts knowledge but also shape students into responsible individuals who live by ethical and moral standards (Brahmbhatt, 2025).
3. Students with strong value orientations demonstrate resilience, self-regulation, ethical reasoning, and civic participation
4. Contextualizing values supports global cooperation, ethical decision-making, and sustainability-oriented behavior
5. School-based sustainability programs that integrate values improve student engagement, environmental responsibility, and commitment to ethical action. Embedding values reduces risks of intolerance, social fragmentation, and unethical conduct, thereby strengthening social cohesion (UNESCO, 2021).

Challenges in Implementing Values-Based Education

1. Curriculum overload in teaching academic content with less time allocated for value based learning
2. More emphasis given to technical skills and competencies than values
3. Lack of teacher preparation to teach values effectively due to lack of training and sufficient resources.
4. Need for culturally and contextually responsive pedagogies due to variation in cultural interpretations of values.
5. Need for varied assessment method to assess and evaluate value based behaviour
6. Lack of administrative support in organising relevant activities that enhances value development.

Policy and Practice Recommendations

1. Integrate human values across the curriculum

2. Provide training for teachers to develop pedagogical strategies and reflective practices in teaching values effectively.
3. Collaborate with NGOs, local communities, civil societies for community engagement and utilization of community resources
4. Monitor values development in the learners through assessment techniques such as reflective writing, reflective journaling, rubrics, portfolios, anecdotal records and observation schedule.
5. Collaborate with different institutions and governments to enhance ethical, civic, socio-emotional and sustainability competencies among the learners.
6. Educational institutions should organize events and activities that encourage value-based behaviours and actions
7. National and State governments should provide funds for organising value-based programmes in the educational institutions.

Conclusion:

Human values are essential for ethical reasoning, pro-social behavior, and global citizenship. Integrating values through experiential learning, project-based learning, reflective practices, service learning, and teacher modeling enhances student engagement and moral development. Embedding human values ensures that learners not only understand global challenges but also act responsibly and ethically in addressing them.

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