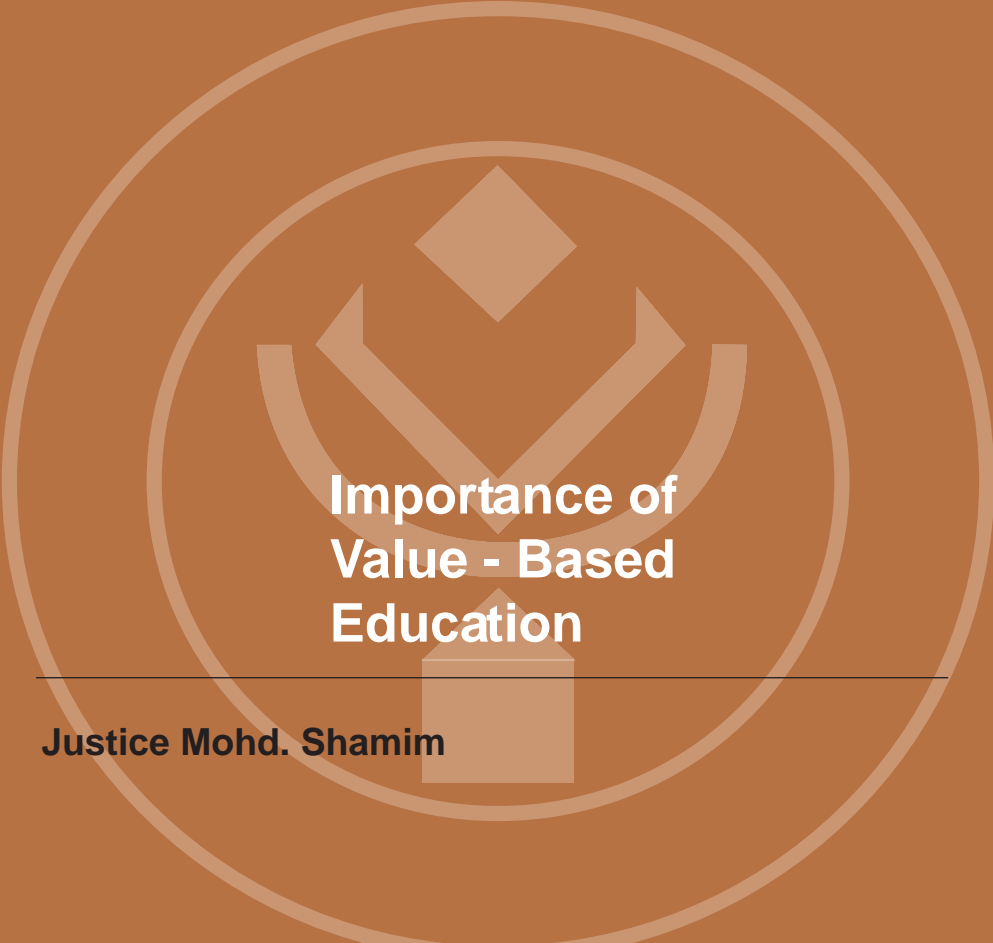




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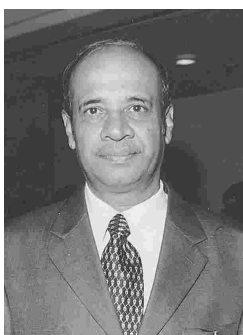
Importance of Value - Based Education

Justice Mohd. Shamim



UGC Golden Jubilee Lecture Series

Chairman's Foreword



The University Grants Commission, an apex body of higher education responsible for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education in India, is celebrating its Golden Jubilee Year during 2002-2003. As part of the academic activities the UGC has conducted the 'Golden Jubilee Lecture Series' throughout the country by eminent individuals who have excelled in their respective fields and made a mark not only in India but abroad too. These Lectures have mostly been organized in Universities located in remote areas. The basic concept behind organizing these Lecture Series was to bring UGC closer to students, teachers and intelligentsia in that region. It is hoped that these luminaries including academicians, scientists, social scientists and others, with their rich and varied experiences have motivated and enabled the youth of the country to understand things in better perspective.

To reach out to a wider audience, the UGC is presenting these lectures in the form of Golden Jubilee Lecture Series Booklets. I hope students, teachers, educational administrators and the general public at large, will benefit from the vast repository of knowledge of these achievers.

A. S. Nigavekar

Arun Nigavekar

This lecture was delivered by Justice Mohd. Shamim at Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Agra on 18 September 2003 as part of the UGC's Golden Jubilee Lecture Series.

Education not only makes a man a perfect gentleman, it also arms him to meet all the situations in life. An educated man can always face difficulties in a better way than an uneducated person. He knows how to face the difficulties in a calm and quiet way. Instead of getting worried on the onslaught of difficulties, he will welcome them. This is the only chance in the life of a man to bring to the fore the latent powers which lie hidden in a man, till they are put to use. So long as the man is in a comfortable position, he need not exploit this hidden treasure. However, once he is in straitened circumstance, he is compelled to use every bit of energy to fight out the adverse circumstances. This can be done only by an educated man, who is not frightened at the sight of the difficulties, because he does not allow them to get on to his nerves. It is said that it is not ease but effort, not facility but difficulty that makes a man. Thus, the education helps a man to develop a balanced personality.

The main in use dies, the moment we stop learning. Learning can be by observing the things, which are happening around us in case of a man who is an illiterate person. However, the main source of learning is education. A literate person can learn so many things within no time by going through a book. An educated man can also communicate with others and disseminate knowledge orally and in writing. Hence, the importance of education can hardly, be over-emphasized. To impart education, the best is to establish a school. A school-teacher can teach fifty or more children in a class. A child owes his physical existence to his parents. However, for his spiritual and intellectual existence, he is indebted to his teacher. There is no denying the fact that a man, in the absence of education is nothing but a beast. It is also after receiving the education that a man learns to distinguish between wrong and right, between good and bad. He also comes to know, what are his rights and what are his duties. He is also taught how to vindicate his rights and how to perform his duties. Thus, the importance of education can hardly be over-emphasized. It is said that the greatest charity is to impart education. In view of the above stated position, the truth of the above dictum can hardly be disputed. An educational institution can thus be said to be a permanent

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source of imparting education to all and sundry. It would thus be a source of charity, which is durable. It is likely to last for all times to come and so long it lasts, it will enkindle every hearth and home.

I cannot resist the temptation over here to cite an observation and the memorable words of Mr. Varle in order to substantiate my point.

“Education is a companion, which no misfortune can depress
No crime destroy
No enemy alienate
No Despotism enslave
At home a friend
Abroad an introduction
In solitude a shoe
In society an ornament
Without it what is man ?
A splendid slave and a reasoning savage”

In fact, as already observed above, a human being is not, in any proper sense a human being till he is educated. A child is just like a piece of clay in the hands of a sculptor. He can mould it into a beast or he can also mould it into an idol of god. This he can do only through education.

The development of the character is one of the greatest aim and object of education. It is said that if wealth is lost nothing is lost, if health is lost something is lost, if character is lost everything is lost. So we have to educate our children to have self-control over their passions, prejudices and evil tendencies. The same should be made subservient to an upright and reasoning will. If the said object is achieved, this world would be free of the crimes and the evil which has permeated every nook and corner of our society.

Now I would like to make a few suggestions to the young audience present over here, how they are to mould themselves into the finest species of human beings.

A book is said to be a best friend with whom a man can converse day in and day out.

My first suggestion, in this connection, would be that they should be very choosy in the selection of their companions. The word ‘companion’ is wide enough to embrace within its fold not only the human beings but also the books. A book is said to be a best friend with whom a man can converse

day in and day out. Thus, it is said if you want to make a child a great man then instruct him to read the best books available in the market. In this connection, I would like to suggest that the children be asked to read the biographies and autobiographies of great persons who while departing from this terra firma left their foot-prints on the sand of time. It is said that the mind of a child at this developing stage is pliable and is amenable to every sort of influence. A child while studying the life of the great men would imbibe within his character the traits of the said great persons and the small plant would develop into a very gigantic tree putting into shade each and everything.

On the other hand, if a child is given to study the books which contain material which is not worthy of reading rather which can be compared to a sort of cheap entertainment, he would develop into a menace to the society and sooner we get rid of such persons the better it would be. Thus, a duty has been cast on the shoulders of the parent and teachers not only to watch the companions in the form of flesh and blood of their children but they have also to keep a watch over the type of books which a child is reading. You can get rid of a bad companion but you cannot get rid of the everlasting impression, which a book puts on the mind of a child. It is just like his alter ego which would constantly and continuously pursue him wherever he is and wherever he goes.

Next thing, which I would like to impress on you is that you should be very fussy with regard to selection of your friends. A good friend is like a gem and rich is the diver who is in a position to lay his hands on it: it is a pearl of inestimable price.

A good friend is always to be distinguished from flattering foes. There are certain persons who will always be around in order to make use of your money, your resources but the moment you are not in a position to help them, they will always flee away from you. So while befriending a certain person, we have to ascertain the traits of his character as to whether he is worthy of our friendship, i.e. he is in possession of a good moral character. I am reminded here of certain lines from Shakespeare (Sonnets to Sundry Notes of Music) who has got to say the following :-

He that is thy friend indeed,

A good friend is like a gem and rich is the diver who is in a position to lay his hands on it: it is a pearl of inestimable price.

He will help thee in thy need.
If thou sorrow, he will weep,
If thou wake, he cannot sleep,
Thus of every grief in heart
He with thee doth bear a part
These are certain signs to know
Faithful friend from flattering foe.

A good friend must be in a position to interrupt you and to intervene whenever you go wrong. He must always be in a position to show you the right moral path. Your interest must be supreme in his eyes instead of his own interest. Thus, a good friend will always try to guide you on the right lines, whereas a seasonable friend will always show you a path which may lead to your destruction. A good and honest man will “cast off his friends as a huntsman his pack, for he knew, when he pleased, he could whistle them back.”

In our educational institutions an educational qualification is judged by putting a man to test in the form of examinations and on his successfully passing the said examinations, he is considered an educated man. I feel acquisition of educational qualification is not the main aim of the education; the aim of the education is to excel morally and to develop a good character. The children should be taught to think for themselves. We should try to develop them into the original thinkers not simply the imitator or emulator of others. Education is said to be a process of active self-growth, co-extensive with the whole work of man's life. Education should aim at the harmonious development i.e. intellectual, moral and physical powers. If there is only an intellectual development bereft of moral development, the said person cannot be said to be an educated man in the true sense of the word. The boys are to be taught to be good citizens; a man may be a scholar par excellence yet he may not be a good citizen. That is why I lay emphasis on the moral development, if he has developed a good moral character, in that eventuality the life's journey is very easy for him. He can perform the undulating actions of life in an efficient and nice manner. In case he has not developed his character then he would be a liability to the country and his fellow citizens. I am tempted here to cite a few lines from a convocation of Oxford University U.K. It was

observed

“Life’s path is not primrose path at all.

Part of it, I will say most of it is bristled with thorns, you lose oftener than you win in life’s journey unless you are a prodigy.”

“Now you may go out into the world..... disciplines, discipline at any cost must be your motto.

Obey so that you may command

Listen so that you may speak

Suffer so that you may prosper.”

We should always be ready and willing to help our fellow beings. This is what we have been created for and this should be our aim and object in life. We should always be ready to share our wealth and resources and our ideas with others because by giving them we would be adding something to our kitty and we would not be losing anything. It is said that “man should help man” that is the quintessence of religion in nothing do men approach so nearly to the gods as in doing good to men.”

The next thing, which is to be inculcated amongst the boys is that they should be taught to develop a strong will. A man is weaker or stronger in proportion to the will power at his command. A man with a strong will would be successful in each and every sphere of life because it is the tenacity of the purpose with which we attain our goal and it is this which we never lose sight of. Firm determination, constant struggle and all embracing love are the three weapons with which we can fight every battle of life. Even if we fail, we should not be daunted by failures. Failure is not something bad. Failure to learn from failure is, we should learn from our past mistakes and continue our future journey. Charles James Fox used to say he hoped much from a man who failed and despite failure went on than from a man who never failed.

I will substantiate my view with the following lines :-

“If you think you are beaten you are

If you think you dare not you do not

If you would like to win but think you can’t

It is almost a cinch you won’t

Life’s battles do not always go to the strong or faster but sooner or later the man who wins.

Is the one who thinks he can ?

Thus, I would impress upon you the desirability of developing and cultivating a strong will and a firm determination. I am here tempted to cite –

James Allen on the “Human Will” :-

“Human will that force unseen
The off spring of a deathless soul
Can hew a way to any goal
Though walls of granite intervene
Therefore be not impatient in delay
But wait like one who understands
When the spirit of man rises and commands
Gods are ready to obey.”

You enter the school and colleges to grow in body, mind and spirit and depart from it to serve better your God, your country and your fellowmen.

Profile

Justice Mohd. Shamim



Justice Mohd. Shamim is a legal luminary and has served on several important positions. Born on 30 December, 1937 in village Jalalpur, in Bulandshahar, U.P. Justice Shamim started his legal career in 1964, when he took over as Muncif, Kanpur after passing the Civil Services (Judicial Examination). He joined the Delhi Judicial Services in 1971 and was posted Sub-Judge, 1 Class, Delhi. He became Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Delhi in 1974 and was promoted as Additional District and Session Judge in April 1977. In 1990 he took over as District and Session Judge of Delhi and was elevated to the Bench of Delhi High Court on 19 of March 1991. In January 2000 he was appointed to the prestigious post of Chairman, Minorities Commission equivalent to the rank of Cabinet Minister. Since 12th of March, 2003 he is serving as Lokayukta of Delhi.