

Degradation of Moral Values in Young Generation: A Study of Shekhawati Region of Rajasthan

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Abstract

Our behaviour and character reflect morality by which we live. A righteous person is one who has developed moral values and lives through them. Moral values are the basis on which we make decision about right or wrong, good or evil.

Moral values are developed in childhood by our parents and teachers, and remain with us through life. But now a days degradation in moral values has been observed. In this study survey method has been used and 48 respondents have been contacted to fill in the questionnaire. The study attempts to find out the causes of degradation of moral values and its consequences in our society. The study also attempts to find the remedial actions to upgrade the moral values in young generation.

Keywords: Morality, Ethics, behaviour, generation, degradation, values.

Introduction:

Values do reflect a person's personality, his behaviour, attitude, his mission and vision. Values are said to be the core strength of any individual, religion, society or a nation. Moral values can be said the basis on which we make decisions—right or wrong? good or evil? Other bases may be convenient, financial, arbitrary (flipping a coin), aesthetic (an artist), physical/health and rational (investigating a product before buying). Moral values are the guiding principles for a person's life. Moral values provide peace of mind, joyful environment, better quality of life, provide sustainability, and bring harmony in the global society. In the countries like India, there has been a tradition of moral values and its education at various stages. Because of religious and geographical diversity, moral education in India was basically through religious talks or otherwise. The degradation of moral values in our society today has become a phenomenon. There are many factors due to which the decline in moral values has been seen now a days. The consequences of degradation of moral values are very crucial. Family, society, culture and social values etc. Influence the morals. Family, school, church and society which are known as the agencies of education play an important role in developing ethical and moral values among Indian youths. Unfortunately, due to several social and economic factors many families are disoriented, disorganised and confused and are proved failed to play the vital role. Our educational institutions are preparing efficient individuals but not good citizens. Our society today is marked by greed, theft, violence, drug addiction, terrorism etc. Discipline today is lacking among young children in our society. They do not obey their elders and often show disrespect to them. The present generation today is busy in serving its own interests and has become

so much self-centred. Thus, the consequences of the rapid erosion of ethical and moral values among youths are clearly seen in our society.

Methodology: The study is descriptive in nature. Survey method has been used and 48 persons of Shekhawati region has been contacted to know their views about the degradation of moral values in young generation.

Total no. of Respondents	Age Group (40-60)	Age Group (60-80)
48	28	20

Response of the Survey:

S.no	Factors Responsible	Weightage
1	Social Media	32%
2	TV and Cinema	35%
3	Family Environment	12%
4	Education System	8%
5	Govt. Control	4%
6	Belief System	9%

Findings: The findings of the study reveals that there is a degradation of moral values in the present generation comparatively. The study also reveals the causes and consequences of degradation of moral values.

Causes of degradation of moral values:

The following causes of declining in moral values have been found as per the study:

Impact of mass media: Mass media has influenced the young generation very much. It plays a significant role in shaping the personality of the youth. A lot of content containing vulgarity and violence is posted, uploaded and shared amongst the youth through mass media and if the young generation watches such content, the thought process of the youth will obviously be influenced and the results will be negative for the society.

Behaviour of parents: In most of the families, parents are working so they are not able to give proper time to their children. They are stressed due to their jobs or working so they sometimes talk to their children rudely. They sometimes even do not know what their children are watching on TV, mobile phones or what they are doing. Now a days, many of the parents are not monitoring the activities of their children. They actually do not have proper time to teach them moral values hence there is a gap between them.

Faulty education system: Sometimes our education system also proves to be defective. Through this system the youth focus on learning about how to make money and they are running behind the means of

getting placement or running the businesses without thinking about the ethics. In the young generation, people are going to be materialistic and the educational institutions are not focusing on inculcating the moral values in youth now a days.

Life style of people: The life style of people is changed as compared to previous generation. Earlier the people were simple but now a days, people are materialistic and the youth mostly believes in showing off, they believe in self exhibition and the act of self-exhibition take them towards the immoral acts like they start smoking and drinking etc.

Moving from joint to separate family: The culture of moving from joint to separate family is also one of the reasons of degradation of moral values in youth. In joint families, the children used to learn moral values from their grand parents and other family members. They used to learn how to behave with elders and how to behave with younger ones. But in separate families, the young generation lack this valuable thing.

Consequences of degradation of moral values:

There are many consequences of degradation of moral values which affect our social system significantly. Following are the points which can throw light on some of the consequences:

- **Lack of honesty:** Due to the decline in moral values the youth have become dishonest in their dealings with others. Lack of truthfulness is shown by their behaviour. They just want to fulfil their motives irrespective of ethical behaviour.
- **Lack of respect:** It has been noted that the young generation is lacking moral values which is clearly seen by their behaviour. They sometimes disrespect their elders. They do not greet their elders and do not behave properly with them. They feel like they know better than their elders. They do not want to have suggestions from their elders. Sometimes they use disrespectful words to their parents.
- **Lack of spirituality:** Degradation of moral values is leading the young generation away from the spirituality. They do not have time to pray their gods or they do not want to devote their time in any spiritual act. The faith in spirituality is decreasing day by day.
- **Lack of cooperation:** The study reveals that the young generation has become self-centered. The youth lack the spirit of cooperation and focus on meeting the personal benefits or needs. Individual centered approach is increasing day by day. The young generation is more selfish comparatively.
- **Materialistic mindset:** It is observed as per the study that the people from young generation talk more about social status, creature comforts and they believe in self-exhibition. For getting materialistic things they do not care of good or bad sources of earning and even they do not think about the adverse effects on society.
- **Increase in criminal activities:** The study shows that due to the degradation of moral values the people get indulge in immoral or criminal activities. There is a rapid increase in criminal activities like murders, kidnapping, rapes, human trafficking, robbery etc.

- **Others:** Some other consequences are gender discrimination, female harassment in in-laws, domestic violence, lack of social welfare etc.

Remedial actions:

As per the study, we came to know about the consequences of degradation of moral values and based on that the following are some of the remedial actions:

- **Inclusion of study of moral values in education at all levels:** The study of human values should be introduced mandatorily in school education as well as at higher education level. The young graduates now a days focus only on making money and they study only about business or jobs and for getting those things they do not care of right or wrong ways. So, inclusion of human values at higher education level will give them a sense of morality.
- **Spending time with elders or aged people:** The youth must approach the elders or aged people to spend time with them. This act will create a sense of love and respect between them. This way the youth will learn the moral values from the experience of the elders.
- **Work-life balance of office going parents:** Working parents many times behave harshly with their children due to their job stress or job burnout. If they maintain work-life balance, they will be able to behave properly and will give sufficient time to their children.
- **Monitoring of children's activities:** Parents should monitor the activities of their children and should correct them timely. The youth spend most of their time on the usage of electronic gadgets like: TV, computer, mobile phones and they are addicted of social media. Parents should responsibly check that their children are not using these gadgets excessively.
- **Strict control of government over social media activities:** Social-media is a platform where any content gets viral with in a short period of time all over the world. The government must control that any content containing immorality should not be uploaded or shared through the platform.
- **Awareness about the joint family culture:** We should create awareness about the culture of joint families as in joint families the people learn to behave with elders and younger ones properly. The children learn moral values from their grand parents and other family members.
- **Awareness about simple living and high thinking:** The youth now a days believe in show off and self-exhibition which creates many social problems. So, we should create awareness about simple living and high thinking. The youth should study the case studies of those people who believed in simple living and high thinking.

Conclusion:

It has been observed that there is a degradation of moral values in young generation. The youth of present generation lack moral values and do not respect their elders. The present generation believes in self-exhibition and runs behind creature comforts. The desire of materialistic things and self-exhibition leads the youth towards immoral and criminal activities. The consequences of degradation of moral values are disastrous so we must know the causes of degradation of moral values and we must correct the immoral acts or behaviour through remedial actions. It is very important to inculcate the moral values in young generation. Youth are said to be the pillars of a nation so for the development of our nation we must

inculcate the moral values in young generation by educating them in right way. When people have moral values, they exhibit ethical behaviour and respect one another and number of criminal activities are reduced.

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Questionnaire

Declining of Moral Values in young generation

Q1. What do you understand by moral values?

Q2. How do you see this generation in comparison to your generation?

Q3. Do you feel any decline in ethics and values in youth?

No

If yes then

Q4. What Factors are responsible for the degradation of values?

Q5. What is your opinion about the usage of social media by young generation?

Q6. Does Education play any role in upgradation of ethical values?

Yes

No

Q7. If yes, then how?

Q8. What problems are occurring due to this value declining?

Q9. What should be the role of Government in maintaining the ethical values?

Q10. What changes are required to reform our tradition?

Q11. What are the suggested ways to overcome the situation of degradation of values?