

## **BOOK: Value Education in Context of Modern India**

---

Compilations from words of Swami Prabhananda of The Ram Krishna Mission

India is facing today the great challenge of the crises of its values. All sensible people are helplessly looking at the dark clouds of terrorism, corruption, alarming disparity between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots' and the lack of governance that have gathered over the Indian polity. And everybody expects that value education or some kind of or other should address this challenge.

A man's value formation materializes through an interaction of his needs, perceptions, emotion, sentiments and attitudes with the social ethos. In modern society, education has been primarily entrusted with the responsibility of equipping man with a suitable value system.

Now tributaries of education like sociology, psychology and history have their own standpoints on values. Psychology, a science of human nature is analytic approach and do not bother about preference of one value to another. Sociology is engaged in scientific analysis of the social processes and institutions. History is busy with impassioned enquiry into the past. Genetics suggest that human values are the outcome of specific human genes as modulate by environment. Physiology tries to explain human behavior by S-R Bond and man seems to be nothing more than complex computer. And values, sentiments and characters have no place in the scheme.

Indian philosophy is essential philosophy of values. Many expected philosophy to share the responsibility of directing education by charging its with values. But, education hesitates to recognize the authority of philosophy as a galvanizing discipline. Even as value is the polestar of education, unfortunately, there seems to be no definite or sound pedagogy and philosophy and science of education for values yet.

Individual and social aims of education clash with each other. However, values, practiced or cherished, are with reference to the society to which individual belongs. But the quality of society and for that matter the social ethos depends upon the quality of life of its members. Now, as regards the source of values, Vedas claim that Self or Atma is ultimate source of all values for men; whereas sociology says values such behaviors that a society nurtures, cherishes or practices.