



## Media Information

Talk by Assoc Professor M Sivakumar on Human Values in Education during the Historic National Walk for Human Values day, Sydney. Sat. 24 March 2007.

Respected elders, ladies, gentlemen, boys and girls

It is a pleasure indeed to talk on this historic day, a day we have dedicated nationally to bring about awareness of human values into the society. First of all I like to acknowledge and humbly appreciate the guidance I have received from the Chancellor of the Sathya Sai University in India on the importance of human values in education.

I am sure most of you are aware of the global and national problems we are facing at present. I would put deterioration of human values on top of the ladder. Human's impact on earth in various ways placing a significant amount of stress and one example is the climate change due to global warming. I see a significant link between the various solutions to climate change and the practice of human values. At the end of the day, it is the human values which will save us.

With the telecommunication revolution and use of the internet, huge amount of information is available at the click of a button. It has been said that if all the current information that are available in web space is printed as books, the thickness of the books will fill the distance between earth and the sun. We receive information through our five senses, and it is the human values that help us to discriminate from right and wrong, good and bad. We have access to information readily however transformation is slow without practice of human values, and this is where the importance of human values plays a significant role.

The five core human values that have we have shown prominently through the placards and posters relates to the five domains of human personality. The value of Truth (eg: practiced as honesty and fairness- these are called sub values) is related to the intellectual domain, Right conduct (eg: such as good action in life) is related to the physical domain, Peace (contentment and equal mindedness) is related to the emotional domain, Love (caring and sharing) is related to the psychic domain and the fifth value of Non-Violence (caring for all beings) is related to the spiritual domain. In other words, every human being (irrespective of nationality, culture, religion, educational status) posses these five key values however their practice do vary.

The awareness and practice of these values are most important among the children, students and teachers. Good students and good teachers create good nation. The human values can be taught as a direct approach (eg: some groups do in Sunday classes) or introduced as an indirect method where they can be incorporated into all aspects of the curriculum. The Australian government through the state school systems has embarked on a program of incorporating nine sub values (Care and compassion; doing your best; fair go; freedom; honesty and truthfulness; integrity; respect; responsibility; understanding, tolerance and inclusion) into the various programs in selected school clusters. This effort needs to be credited. We should not only wish them every success and if there is an opportunity as a parent or child we should proactively participate in such activities. There are a growing number of schools across the world in most continents have recognised the importance and introduced human values into the curriculum and have been very successful in not only producing good charactered school graduates but also helped in high academic achievements. They become an asset to any nation.

The United Nations have recognised the importance of value education. One of the significant problems being faced by the world is the lack of water. I am sure all of you are aware of the water problems in Australia (both in the cities and in country towns) however in Asia and Africa, these problems are much more acute. The United Nations Healthabitat has felt that a value based education approach to water, sanitation and hygiene is a good strategic entry point to bring positive attitudinal change among children and other consumers on a longer term with a view to create a new water use ethic on society. Education materials have been developed for Asia and Africa and the Institute of Sathya Sai Education in Canberra is also assisting the UN Healthabitat in this matter.

Our lucky country consists on multi- cultural, multi ethnic and multi religious communities representing practically most cultures of the world. Sydney is not only the gateway of this nation but also a microcosm of the world. We can show leadership in practicing the human values in our day to day life and show harmonious living with all sections of the society.

There are in fact two types of education. The first type is the worldly education that leads to diploma, degrees, jobs etc. Yes these are important but not enough, since they do not give the secret for a happy and peaceful life. The second type is the type of education where knowledge is gained from within. It is termed Educare. Education and Educare are both needed in today's world. It has been said that Education is not for mere living but for life. A fuller, more meaningful, and a more worthwhile life. Human value education helps us in achieving this goal. There is a quite revolution taking place in the world. Children, parents and others are learning and transforming themselves by the practicing human values. These practices not only help our fellow

humans but all animate and inanimate objects. This process produce 'solid' individuals who will be able to face any adversities that will come across them and I have no doubt that peace in the world can only be achieved by a critical mass of individuals transformed through practice of human values. My best wishes to you all in practicing the selected value and do become ambassadors of such ideal living.

Thank you.

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