

## 8. VALUE EDUCATION THROUGH JEEVAN VIDYA

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### INTRODUCTION

Technology is only a means to achieve what is 'considered valuable', in an effective and efficient manner. It is not within the scope of technology, to decide what is valuable. This decision lies outside its scope. It is important to find out what is that subject or thought that decides on "what is valuable?". Without this decision, technology is aimless, directionless and therefore can be put to any use-constructive or destructive.

Particularly, the student who is trained in this kind of technology without having any exposure to the subject or thought that helps him to decide "what is valuable?", leaves him aimless, directionless and he is subject to get misused. He lacks self-confidence, he has no commitment as he has no clarity about what he really wants to achieve as an individual and as a member of family, society and nature.

### VALUE EDUCATION

The subject that decides on "what is valuable?", what is of value for human being is called Value Education. This subject focuses on what a human being is, what is purposeful and meaningful for him- what is the aim of human being and his life and how he can meet this aim, this purpose. This elaborates on what role he has to play as responsible human being at the level of individual, family, society and nature.

With this clarity, he is able to see the meaning in life, purpose in life and is committed to fulfill that meaning, that purpose. This clarity and the satisfaction obtained out of the fulfillment

of this purpose, gives him a feeling of self-confidence. This instills confidence in their inner strengths. The students need to have this confidence in order to be able to proactively set their own goals. If the goal is set proactively and not by default 'peer' pressure, the motivation comes from within and the rest follows- in terms of his commitment, untiring effort leading to success in achieving his aim, and his purpose of life.

### BASIC GUIDELINES FOR VALUE EDUCATION

Basic guidelines to decide what will qualify as a course on value education

- Universal- with respect to time, space & individual.
- Rational- in the sense that it appeals to human reasoning.
- Secular- it is not dependent on any cast or creed or religion or sect.
- All-encompassing- it covers all dimensions (thought, behaviour, work & realization) & levels (individual, family, society, nature & existence) of human living.
- Natural for Human Being & Nature- it is naturally acceptable to every human being and there is every provision in Nature for its fulfillment.

That is, it must have a clear understanding of each of these and their interrelationship i.e.

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harmony underlying all of them.

## PROCESS OF VALUE EDUCATION

The process has to be that of Self - Investigation & Self - Exploration, and not of giving sermons or telling dos & don'ts. Whatever is found as a truth or reality may be stated as a proposal and every student may be able to verify it on their own right.

This process of Self- Investigation & Self- Exploration has to be in the form of a dialogue - a dialogue between the teacher & students to begin with and within the student finally.

## WHAT IS JEEVAN VIDYA?

Jeevan Vidya brings out the innate harmony in existence and clarifies that man by understanding this harmony is able to be in harmony within himself and with others in society and rest of nature. This in turn leads to value based conduct, education, constitution and order in the society which is the desire of every human being.

It gives you a process of dialogue between what you are and what you really want to be and helps you explore the natural acceptance for harmony within you and in your interactions with the existence. This exploration is a process of being in harmony in oneself and in harmony with the entire existence.

This forms the foundation of Value Education. And this way, it enables you to know values in human conduct, human character and to live accordingly.

The idea behind Jeevan Vidya is conveyed through seven-day workshops, popularly known as Jeevan Vidya Shivirs. In the shivir, Vidya is proposed to the participants in the form of propositions and the participants verify them at their own right without referring to any text, person or external source. Shivirs are being regularly conducted at IIIT Hyderabad, IIT Kanpur, NIT Raipur, SIDH Mussoorie and many other places. Effort is being made to put the

concept/proposals of Jeevan Vidya into school teaching and also create a module for teachers to empower them to become confident, thinking, aware and creative teachers.

## EFFORTS AND EXPERIENCES

Jeevan Vidya is holistic, covering a large canvas, and it has made a tremendous impact on people from different walks of life. Some experiences are given below. Although, the concerns of each of the groups are different, what they all realize at the end is that there is a need for human values and relationships and that is founded upon the knowledge in the self.

### 1. *Young Students In Engineering*

- Jeevan Vidya Workshops as an integral part of the academic curriculum at IIIT Hyderabad have had an excellent impact on the students.
- Jeevan Vidya has been formally accepted as one of the important inputs for value education by National Resource Centre for Education in Engineering at IIT Delhi and is being recommended to AICTE.
- A regular course in value education in the light of Jeevan Vidya is being conducted at NIT, Raipur since 2003.
- It has been proposed as a part of CPA activity for the first year entrants at IIT Kanpur from coming semester. One workshop per semester is also being conducted here for the faculty, students and staff since last year.
- It has been accepted by Chhattishgarh Swami Vivekanand Technical University (CSVTU) and is in process of being implemented in its 17 Engineering colleges.

### 2. *People from Different Walks of Urban Life*

Many people realize the lack of time they

give to their family in their relentless pursuit of wealth, and even more importantly, the way they behave with their children, spouse or old parents. Many such people are affected profoundly and come back to Jeevan Vidya shivirs with their family members, again and again.

### **3. Criminals in Jail**

Jeevan Vidya touches criminals in jail directly. Those who are seething with revenge, slowly start realizing that in fact their enemies are not bad. They are to be pitied and not hated. In turn, they themselves get depressurized and relaxed. This eventually gets reflected in their day to day behaviour with other jail inmates and with jail authorities. Bilaspur jail experience shows that some of the most violent criminals with also the worst behaviour inside the jail got slowly transformed.

### **4. Social Workers from NGO's**

People working for uplift of downtrodden in rural and urban areas are greatly affected by Jeevan Vidya. It dawns on them that along with work on employment generation, agriculture, irrigation, health, sanitation, scientific temper, it is important to work on understanding of the self and on relationship, without which their work and successes are short lived.

### **5. Farmers and Rural Folk**

Rural folk today are in a state of demoralization. The present political structure and market has led to a breakdown of the community living. They do not realize what they possess- clean air, clean water, and a stronger possibility of a wholesome life with fulfilling relationship in family and community. Experience of rural people who attend Jeevan Vidya shivir has been that they feel a sense of empowerment regarding themselves and their work & lifestyle. Rather than treating farming as an unworthy activity, they see value in what they are doing. The importance and necessity of physical labour for all comes out as a corollary.

Established businessmen who have done Jeevan Vidya Shivirs have taken up sustainable

farming where all the required resources for farming are generated from farm land itself. Several experiments in renewable energy are also in full swing. They are deriving happiness out of farming and physical labour.

### **6. People With Spiritual Background**

People with spiritual background usually take time to come to terms that one can talk about human values without bringing in after-life or after-world. Many are elated at this discovery. People from different faiths Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Islam, Christianity have started getting deep into a process of self-exploration after doing Jeevan Vidya Shivirs, and are able to see that the human values can be derived through this process of self exploration by each one of us and are the same as professed by their respective faiths.

### **WHAT JEEVAN VIDYA IS NOT**

- Jeevan Vidya is not a course in moral science. It does not tell you DO's and DON'T's. It does not tell you what you should become, or what you should do.
- Jeevan Vidya does not talk about rewards and punishments in an afterworld. The goal is happiness here and now.
- Jeevan Vidya does not say physical facilities are unimportant. It rather talks of prosperity in every family. It says that there is place for facilities in life and encourages people to fix their place in their own life.
- Jeevan Vidya is not an organization or society. It does not insist on any specific faith or any specific belief.

### **CONCLUSION**

Jeevan Vidya only proposes and asks its listeners to investigate and explore into their own inner self and connect to what is innate and intact in all of them as something which is universal, natural and all-fulfilling for them as well as others. One can do this irrespective of his/her own religion or faith or beliefs.

