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## Declining Ethical and Moral Values among Youth

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### Abstract

Our society once said to be the essence of culture, morality, and character, is today continuously degenerating and deteriorating in terms of ethics, morals and values. The result is that we are seeing an increasing change in the behavior of individuals especially among youth. The influences of mass media, science and technology, modernization, globalization etc. are the prime factors for the degeneration of the youth in our society and corrupting the mind of a large number of youngsters. The present research is an endeavor to underline and confer the concern of decline of ethical and moral values among young generation. Moral values are certainly decreasing and everything now has become materialistic and we are observing a situation where morals are nil and ethics have been sent off to the bottom of the ocean. The research also tries to highlight the different factors which are considered responsible for the deterioration and decline of moral and ethical values among youth. There is an urgent need to focus and develop ethical values among youth in the society, as materialism is affecting and covering every sphere, attention should shifted towards enhancing and developing ethical values among youth who identify the prospect of a society.

**Keywords:** Society, Culture, Morality, Technology, Science, Globalization, Ethics, Materialism, Morals, Values, Decline.

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### Introduction

Ethics is an attempt to guide human society and it is also an endeavor to help man in leading good life by applying moral principles. Ethics refers to well based standards of right and wrong that prescribe what humans ought to do, usually in terms of rights, obligations, benefits to society, fairness, or specific virtues. Ethics is related to issues of propriety, rightness and wrongness. What is right is ethical and what is wrong is unethical. Ethics is a matter of practical concern. It tries to



determine the good and right thing to do; choices regarding right and wrong, good and evil; questions of obligation and value.

Moral values undoubtedly have undergone many modifications and shifting, people have been applying the values according to their suitability and convenience. However, in the primitive societies people were more eager to follow and give importance to their values but now in the modern times values are somewhere losing their vitality. In the modern times when firm waves of modernization, westernization, industrialization and urbanization have impacted the lives of the people, the effect of the values seem to have been lost in that. The great values seem to have been replaced by selfish-motives, individualistic thoughts and egoistic drives of the human beings. The young generation of the society seem to have no faith in the old established moral and cultural values their mind-sets are structured in such a way that praises only the western values. Even the old generation of our society feels helpless in reforming the so called westernized mind-sets, thus some of them have accepted this fact (with no other option left) and some are still struggling with their young ones to convince them about the importance of the Indian values.

The youth of today seem to have been bamboozled by the fascinating picture of the western values which are apparently hallow and unsuitable for our society, still the young generation gives more importance to those values since they believe that western values administer more freedom, flexibility, self-promotion, newness and confidence to them. For instance, the young generation feels more comfortable in waving a simple hand or uttering a simple 'Hi' for greeting someone instead of following our religious and cultural value of greeting.

The young generation have not at all tried to understand the essence of own values and blindly following the foreign values. Our values are so meaningful and have been directed for the welfare of the human beings only, which intend to bring harmony and affection among the people of our society. But blaming the youth alone would not be justifiable over here, they have adopted the ways which they have seen in front of them they have many mediums through which they have learnt the western values but here we are missing one important aspect of this scenario and that is that it might be possible that we being the elders, parents and the guardian have not properly introduced values to our young generation, it might also be possible that we have not guided them properly and taught about the great implications of our own values. There might have been something missing in the process of their upbringing that has resulted in the lack of faith of the youth in values.

## **Degradation of Moral Value among Today Youths**

The moral deterioration of youth in our society is at present a blazing issue. The root of this issue is not a recent phenomena, its trace can be indented in the society of the past, the magnitude of which has spread over largely in recent days. The expression of this sort of degradation is being reflected in different undesirable aspects of the society. Although it is considered that youth power is the driving force of a nation, the instances of which may be cited from vigorous movement of the past. But the youth of now-a day is adversely diverted which does not only influence the society but also it stimulates the coming generation of our civilization. Consequently, we have to face an alarming and more violent situation in the coming decades.



Moral values are certainly decreasing and there are plenty of examples to illustrate it. Now you will no more see that bonding between individuals and this has eventually led to the void of misunderstandings and distrust now if you are a good and simple person you will be treated as bait or the mice of the experiment. Everything now has become materialistic and you should expect a situation where morals are nil and ethics have been sent off to the bottom of the ocean.

Unlike animals humans have evolved emotion in their evolutionary development. Evolution has given him the sense of morality. So we find morality is advocated and appraised in all societies of the world. Some unknown yet subtle evolutionary 'knot' has surely decelerated moral activities in all people in the present world. It is true ignorance and wrong influences from outside has made the youth vulnerable. Their weak brain and lack of understanding life accompanied by dear of the unknown has subjected them into victimization by alcohol, deadly drugs resulting into psychological impairments. This results into immoral activities.

Moral values and graciousness, in the past, were prominent in most teenagers. Majority of the youths then learnt respect, courtesy, consideration, decency, propriety, honesty and righteousness from a young age, and had enough self-discipline to hold to these values. However, these moral values and self-discipline are slowly diminishing over the years, as most of the younger generation is gradually disregarding these ethics. The listed values have slowly faded away, as they mean little to these adolescents, as moral values and self-discipline are on the verge of disappearing.

## **Research Methodology**

Research is a matter of raising a question and then trying to find answer in a systematic and scientific way. The present research is based on non-participation observation technique used the researcher to collect response from respondents of government degree college Baramulla. The significance of non participation observation is that the researcher indirectly observes the activities of the people in a social situation and seeks to understand such people's point of view. The researcher is interested not only in what people are doing and saying but also in how people perceive and interpret their own actions and actions of others. The area of selection for the present research study is Government Degree College Baramulla, pertained for primary and first hand data, assistance has been taken from different books, research papers etc for the collection of secondary data.

## **Factors Responsible for Degeneration of Moral and Ethical Values in Youth**

It has been observed on the basis of non-participant observation that there are number of factors responsible for declining of ethical and moral values among youth. Responsible and rational behaviour is expected from children but it has been observed that immoral and antisocial behaviour is increasing among them. A number of factors are responsible for fall in moral and ethical values among youth.



### ***1. Influence of Companion/Peer Group***

It is evident that the Influence of the companion and associate plays a vital role in developing of moral and ethical values among youth. They spend more time with them, discuss with them frankly and seek their advice. The youth evaluate and scrutinize their matters relating to morality practiced in keeping view of their companion in their homes or in their surroundings.

### ***2. Socialization***

Socialization bears a great effect on the personality of an individual, if a child has been properly socialized it reflects on his behavior. If parents inculcate good moral and ethical values among children that is predominant on his actions and activities, but unfortunately it has been observed that parents in the contemporary society are not taking active role in socializing ethical and moral values among children.

### ***3. Scientific Technology***

Scientific technology has having both positive as well as negative influence on the personality development of youth, depends upon its usage. Mobile, internet, influences and affect the moral and ethical behavior of youth, and on the basis of observation it has been analyses these are having most negative influence on the behavior of youth, result in decline of ethical values. Over the years, the rapid evolution of technology in various forms has significantly influenced the way people live and interact. These new technologies have become a mainstay for how people, particularly youth communicate and are entertained. Technology affords young people many benefits: the ability to talk to people worldwide, to more easily and regularly communicate with family and peers, but also the negative side is that we also find decline in ethical and moral values among youth.

### ***4. Parental Influences***

Although teenagers may not have the same decision-making capacity as adults, parental influences can affect the way that a teen behaves and makes choices. In particular, parental behavior plays an important role in how teenagers make decisions. For example, if a teenager sees his parents acting impulsively or making poor choices such as neglecting household responsibilities or skipping work, the teen might believe that he is entitled to make similar choices. Similarly, parents or caregivers abuse or neglect children, they may develop immoral or impulsive behaviors.

### ***5. Rise of Discretion***

The rise of discretion is being felt among youth, they witness freedom of choice and will result in performing such actions which are against the ethical and moral values of society. Desire of self exhibition often takes an youth towards crime and immoral behaviour like smoking, drinking, eve teasing, delivering abusing words, quarreling etc.

### ***6. Educational System***

One of the major reasons for degradation of moral and ethical values among the youth is the continuous worsening quality of education. Education plays a decisive role in youth development, both to prepare them for participation within the workforce, and to instill values of responsibility



and cooperation. The current education system is all about getting a good job, making money and satisfying desires and ends. The desire for materialistic gains and comforts, greed for luxury life has lead to corrupt practices and downfall of social values

### **7. Mass Media**

Mass Media which have become pervasive in the lives of youth, social network sites, online games, video-sharing sites etc are current features of youth culture. They have so permeated young lives that it is hard to believe that these technologies had barely registered in the lives of youth. Technological advances bring the promise of new skills and greater youth participation in society, but also increase the risk of youth exploitation and informational divides. There is an urgent need for societies to both protect youth and empower them to shape their own media environments.

### **8. Nuclear Family**

This is considered one of the very important factors for degenerating moral values among youth. In a nuclear family especially where father and mother both are working, have no time to share with their child. The feelings and emotions of child remained unentertained. So the child finds some other places like TV, peer group, bad literature etc to share feelings and emotions and start behaving immorally as revolt.

### **9. Very Strict Norms**

Rules, regulations and guidelines are considered important for controlling the behavior of a child but strict control and stern punishments during childhood prove harmful for the personality of a child may develop feeling of revolt as a result of declining moral and ethical values.

## **Findings of the Study**

The research was an unpretentious attempt to find out the different factors responsible for the decline of moral and ethical values among youth. The findings of the study revealed that the influence of peer groups, decline in the process of socialization, impact and influence of scientific technology and mass media, parental influence and impact on children, rise of discretion, worsening quality of education, nuclear family etc are the important factors considered responsible for decline of ethical and moral values among youth.

## **Suggestion**

Socialization is one of the important means through which we make our child to understand the significance and relevance of social and ethical values. Parents have to take the responsibility of inculcating good moral and ethical values among children, so that they can understand the implications of the values for the smooth functioning of society. Also youth have to make the mind to understand that scientific technology should be utilized in the constructive way so that our values are not going to be effected. Educational institution also has to take active role in educating the students to analyze the importance of moral and ethical values, introducing subjects related to ethics and morality



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