

Jagruti

A Handbook on Value Education

An initiative by IQAC Value Education Cell,
Narasinha Dutt College



“Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strengths. When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength.”

— Mahatma Gandhi.



Our College and Its Vision

Dr. Kuntal Chattopadhyay

Established way back in 1924 in the residential building of the Late I. R. Belilious with only seven teachers and 124 students, Narasinha Dutt College has grown up as a premier higher education institution in the district of Howrah. The initiative was taken by Late Suranjan Dutt, the second son of Late Narasinha Dutt Bahadur. The college started with Late Professor Motilal Chatterjee as its Principal and a renowned scholar, Late Jnanendranath Sen, as the Vice-Principal. Later on, Prof. Sen as Principal came to be reckoned as the architect of the college. With the passage of time, role strength remarkably increased, new honours courses were introduced and new buildings were added. The number of courses (Hons & Gen) now stands at eighteen. At present 75 Substantive full-time teachers and 44 State Aided College Teachers (SACT) teach more than four thousand students of the College. 22 Whole-time staff members and 23 Contractual staff members extend their services to the academic and administrative running of the institution. Post Graduate courses in Applied Mathematics and English have also been introduced.

Despite being located in an industrial belt, the college campus is like an oasis with its old trees, lush green foliage, seasonal flowers and a pleasant water body. The academic and infrastructural facilities which attract thousands of students from both rural and urban areas of Howrah and its neighbouring districts are being continually maintained and upgraded. Our college is like a happy home for all our students, teachers and staff members. The whole environment is quiet and soothing, ideally suited for being and growing together.

The college logo bears the motto of this seat of learning: “*Jnanat Parataram Nahi*” (There is no higher attainment than knowledge). Accordingly, apart from delivering the curricular and co-curricular in a learner-friendly manner, our vision is to achieve excellence in teaching and learning in a peaceful and friendly environment, catering to the social and moral needs and obligations of young learners in their pursuit of becoming truly knowledgeable and responsible human beings. Our mission is to make the learning process more student-centric for holistic development of an individual. With the motto, vision and mission in view, we have launched our Value Education Forum, *Ubuntu*, to extend the teaching-learning process beyond the limits of university curricula. That apart, we have our Science Club, Students’ Mentoring Groups, NSS & NCC units, and St. John Ambulance & Nursing Divisions so that our young learners may explore many other areas of their interests and capacities to develop a collective and harmonious view of life. Let our beloved students learn the precious values of life and living. We want them to add more values to their education.

“Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life — think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success.”

—Swami Vivekananda.



Challenges of imparting Value Education outside classroom: Role of the Teachers

Smt. Krishna Banerjee

The meaning of value education is to teach universal values like moral values, honesty, social responsibility, respect for elders, helping the downtrodden, showing empathy etc. A child learns the importance of value education in his or her family primarily. But it must be remembered that a teacher has a significant role for imparting value education among the students. The purpose of value education is the proper development of the character and personality of the students. Swami Vivekananda aptly declares, " Education is the manifestation of the perfection already existing in man". The responsibility of the teacher is to show the path of manifestation of the perfection of each and every student. The full development of children's personality depends on physical, mental, intellectual, emotional, spiritual perfection.

The responsibility of the teacher is not restricted within the boundary of classroom. The teacher can help their students to impart good habits, social responsibility, respect towards opposite sex, high moral values. It's very important that the teachers must have healthy attitude and should possess high ethical and moral values. Teaching is all about positive attitude in life. Teacher should act as a friend, philosopher and guide. A teacher is not only a source of information but is also a mentor and guardian. The primary role of a teacher is to deliver classroom instruction that helps students to learn. But the role of a teacher is more important than mere class teaching. Next to their parents, the teachers are most important part of the life of a child. Education is necessarily a process of inculcating values to equip the learner lead a life--- a kind of life that is satisfying to the individual in accordance with the cherished values and ideals of the society. In order to do it, the teacher has to take any responsibility to inculcate high and moral values among the learners. The teacher is expected to function not only as a facilitator for acquisition of knowledge but also as inculcator of values and transformer of inner being. Swami Vivekananda has asserted,

"Education is not the amount of information put into your brain and runs riot there, undigested all your life. We must have life building, man making, character making assimilation of ideas. The ideal, therefore, is that we must have the whole education of our country spiritual and secular, in our own hands and it must be on national methods as far as practical. "

In present situation, especially in the days of pandemic, the teacher can encourage the students to help the neighbours, to take active part in social works in these difficult days. If the teacher succeeds to inculcate moral, ethical values, the young generation can make a world that is ideal for every human being irrespective of wealth, religion, caste and creeds. It can be said that the teacher is real maker of the character of a nation.

“Difficulties in your life do not come to destroy you, but to help you realise your hidden potential and power; let difficulties know that you too are difficult.”

—Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam



Value Based Education – Role of Students

Smt. Arpita Basak

Education is the only means towards achieving the basic values of life. The keyword ‘value’ determines what is right or wrong, good or bad, what should or should not be done in a society. It helps the human beings to acquire knowledge and intelligence and makes us perfect to lead the life well. Thus, Value-Education helps to develop norms or values, rules and regulations needed for the members of an ideal society.

Value education plays a pivotal role in a student’s life, which helps to guide their moral actions and behaviours from childhood to adulthood. Studying alone cannot be sufficient to acquire knowledge and cannot be the only fundamental goal of a student’s life. It is also very important for a student to learn values of life and perform many other duties which make them a complete human being in real sense. Such values develop the character of individuals for handling situations and making decisions in the best way possible with the help of their experience and behaviour.

As illustrated by the Delors Report, created by the Jacques Delors Commission (1996) proposing an integrated vision of education, endorsed by UNESCO, the entire purpose of all human activities, in the field of education, commerce, agriculture, family, politics, art, culture etc. are guided by the following four pillars of life:

1. Learning to know – this process helps to gain information and expertise, attain in-depth knowledge in various subjects, understand how to solve problems and how to apply them in our lives;
2. Learning to do – it helps to acquire, develop, practice and strengthen our life-skills, occupational skills, special skills and competencies associated with our livelihoods;
3. Learning to live together – it actually creates and sustains relationships with other human beings in the various arenas of our life; and
4. Learning to be – through this pillar we maintain our physical and mental health, to act with autonomy and responsibility.

Therefore, each of these aspects, in one or another way are dependent on rules, norms or values, human behaviour pattern, attitudes, trust, and respect amongst human beings. All the activities listed here are based on our ability to establish what is right, what should be done, what ought to be done and what needs to be done.

“The best thing in life is to go ahead with all your plans and dreams, to embrace life and to live every day with passion, to lose and still keep the faith and to win while being grateful.”

—Charlie Chaplin



WHAT IS VALUE EDUCATION?

Smt. Tanima Chakraborty

Value means the regard that something is held to deserve; the importance, worth or usefulness of something. Education means the process of gaining knowledge or the process of receiving or giving systematic instructions, especially at a school, college or university. The aim of education is to provide to the purpose of the overall development of the child and create a personality that is equally balanced amongst the students. It shall always of human intelligence so that the child could be cohesive, socially responsible and culturally rich.

Value Education is the process by which people give moral values to each other. Value based education lays emphasis on the personality development of individuals in order to shape their future and tackle difficult situations with ease. It is a stimulated process through which we impart value-based education. The idea is about the educational procedure that sets moral guidelines to make progressively polite. Value education is a process of increasing the overall character of a student. It also includes character development, personality development and spiritual development. It develops a sensible person with strong character and values.

The purpose of value-based education is to make the student work with the right attitude and standards to face the outside world. It gives the students a progressive way for their future and also helps them to know the real purpose of their life. This education makes it clear to them, the best way to live a life that can be helpful to individuals as well as people around. This helps the students to better recognize the perception of life and lead a positive life as a responsible citizen. It also helps in developing a strong relationship with family and friends. Value education changes a positive opinion about life in the student's mind. It also changes the personality and character of the students. Value education is the teaching and learning about the ideals that society considers as important. The objective of the students is not only to recognize the values but also to reflect them in their behaviour and attitudes.

"Pay bad people with your goodness; fight their hatred with your kindness. Even if you do not achieve victory over other people, you will conquer yourself"

—Leo Tolstoy



Present initiatives and agencies

Sri Rajkumar Gangopadhyay

The continuous efforts of our college to impart Lofty human values to all the stakeholders especially our students have achieved a new dimension with the establishment of value education cell of our college. As it is mentioned in other parts of this handbook the prime motto of the cell is to inculcate values relating to Universal Bond of sharing among our students as well as teaching and non-teaching staff of our college and the population surrounding us. We have adopted the concept Ubuntu, a philosophy of Bantu tribe in Africa which say 'I am because we are', that is the belief meaning universal bond of sharing that connect all humanity.

Our college has been initiating spreading of lofty human values among the teachers since long before the establishment of value education cell. A number of seminars, discussions Workshops etc. was organised and is being organised by different departments and units of our college all these initiatives are aiming at transmitting human values such as love, compassion, tolerance, belongingness and other communitarian values.

On 15th August 2021 the value education cell of our college organised webinar lecture on Sri Aurobindo's teachings. Our guest was professor Tapati Bhattacharya, who delivered a valuable lecture on the topic. Again, a video (now available on YouTube) has been prepared by this cell titled 'Awakening', which is appreciated by a wide range of viewers. Apart from this different departments and units of our college-initiated seminars and workshops and social outreach programs to spread human values within and outside the college. The internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQ AC) of for college organised a seminar on value education in September 2020 on Swami Vivekananda's views on value education. The NSS unit of our college have undertaken a number of social outreach programs within and outside the college campus which reflect the sense of love to one's neighbours as well as humanity.

Nevertheless, a huge number of students, teaching and non-teaching staff of our college engage themselves in many programs organised for the betterment of the socio-economically weak people residing around our college. We usually go to the adjacent slum areas very often to help and support the poor people through the awareness programs on health care, Maternity health, child education etc. Sometimes we provide used garments to the poor children around our college. These are undoubtedly the beaming examples of the reflection of our services based on universal values.

"Life loses half its interest if there is no struggle, if there are no risks to be taken."

—Subhas Chandra Bose



Future Plans on Value Education

Sri Angshuman Sarkar

Value Education is a stimulated process through which we impart value-based education to the students. As it is clearly mentioned in the college website, our vision is to achieve excellence in teaching and learning in a peaceful and friendly environment, catering to the social and moral needs and obligations of young learners in their pursuit of becoming truly knowledgeable and responsible human beings. The idea is about the educational procedure that ingrains moral guidelines to make progressively polite and majority rule social orders.

The present-day world is completely outfitted with informatics, science, advances, PC dominances, and mechanical. For the blast of information, the people are compelled to fill in as component managing materials. Thus, a more extensive hole is keeping up among the students in the general public between their life and their fulfilment. It happens simply because of value less work on the life and value disintegration among them. Education alone can't make them to live with harmony, amicable and palatable, in actuality, circumstances. In this manner the value education is the main source to give each one of those in the human lives and made them into better and betters others conscious.

The college has already taken various steps to impart such values in the students, such as, organising inspirational lectures/ webinars on values of life, making videos on value education, publishing handbook on value education etc. The college has decided especially emphasis on few major areas in future:

Character Education: Character or moral education is a very important component of value education. It helps an individual to become well mannered, well-behaved, and socially acceptable well beings. The college authority has already conducted some programmes in form of lecture/ webinars for the students in this regard. The college has also plan to develop the moral character of the students by encouraging them to engage themselves in several social activities through different units like NSS, Internal Complaint Cell, Anti-Ragging Cell, IQAC - Value Education Cell etc.

Health Education: This type of education is designed for individuals to gain knowledge and skills to maintain one's or another person's health. The college has started to inspire the students to join the two active unit of the college, i.e. NCC and St. Johns Ambulance. In future, the college authority has the plan to involve more students by conducting special training programmes of NCC & St. Johns Ambulance. Various awareness programmes have planned to execute regarding well-being.

Environmental Education: This education enables individuals to explore environmental issues and take essential measures to solve them. It helps them to take responsible decisions to maintain the environmental quality. The college with its different committees/ units like, Science Club, IQAC - Extra Curricular & Extension Activity Cell, Research and Extension Cell, has taken some positive initiatives to aware people about the environmental issues. In future the college has plans to conduct more programmes and involve students in large numbers.

"The most important lesson that man can learn from life is not that there is pain in this world, but that it is possible for him to transmute it into joy"

—Rabindranath Tagore

