

A Study to Determine the Attitude of Students towards Ethical and Morals Values

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Abstract

It is a well-known fact that ethical and moral values act as a guideline for behavior in certain situations. A person learns about ethical values from his/her childhood from various sources such as parents, teachers, friends etc. Thus, various internal and external factors are involved in influencing moral behavior of human. Nowadays, students are mostly affected by societal changes. And for this study, engineering students are taken into consideration as they are the future of any country. Tomorrow they will be in a situation in which they have to take decisions for their own and their family benefits, for the benefit of the society and ultimately for the benefit of their country. At this time their values especially, their ethical values will determine the validity and usefulness of their decisions. These moral values determine the competency to assume responsibility.

Through this research an effort has been put to check and analyze what the engineering students of today's generation thinks about ethical and moral values, up to what level they are inclined towards ethical values and up to what level they adopt these values in their life and are they competent enough to assume the responsibilities at various levels tomorrow. Thus, in this context, a sound and effective value-based education has become very important to prepare youth to live and behave within ethical boundaries. In conclusion, to strengthen the formation of ethical and moral attitudes of students, an attention to various factors viz cultural or other socio-cultural factors should be focused.

Keywords: Attitude, Ethics, Values, Behavior, Ethical values, Moral Values, Favorable and unfavorable attitude.

INTRODUCTION

This research report has been done mainly to focus on what a student thinks or what is his/her attitude towards ethical values and up to what level they adopt it in their life. Ethics is that field of philosophy which examines the norms or rules that individuals must follow concerning their behavior in the society and the values of the cultural structure (Sönmez and Alacapınar, 2011, p.204). Ethical values are those principles which determine what is right and what is wrong. They are the moral guidelines to take all kinds of decisions and to perform all kinds of task.

On the other hand, Attitude is mainly defined as tendency to feel and behave in a particular way towards objective, people or event. They reflect how one feels about something. As per Psychologists, Attitude is an informed tendency to measure people, things, situation or objects. In the formation of attitude, past experience, social norms, social roles, long term observation are very much effective. Psychologists define attitude as an informed tendency to evaluate things, people, issues, objects or events. Previous experience, social roles and norms, long-term observation and classical or operant conditioning are effective in the formation of attitudes (Glasman LR, Albarracín D. (2006). On contrary, Science and technology are concerned solely with man's victories over external nature, the material world. They have nothing to offer for man's internal progress. Ethics and morals relate to this internal domain. The average level of moral behavior has not improved. There is no evidence that so called civilized societies are morally superior to so called primitive societies. The progress that we called civilization is an

improvement in technology, science and the impersonal manipulation of power; it is not an improvement in moral i.e. in ethics.

The main objective of this research is to know what the attitude of the engineering students towards ethical values. Whether it is favorable or unfavorable, whether they are inclined towards it or not. Ethical values work as a guideline in taking decisions. It works as a strong base on which the future of the students as well as the future of the country will be standing. The stronger ethical values they will have the stronger their future will be and ultimately the future of the country.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Ethics refers to principles that define behavior as right, good and proper. Such principle do not always dictate a single “moral” course of action, but provide a means of evaluating and deciding among competing options. (14)

The term “ethics” and “value” are not interchangeable. Ethics is concerned with how moral person should behave, whereas values are the judgments that determine how a person actually behaves. Values concern ethics when they pertain to beliefs about what is right and what is wrong. (20)

Swami Vivekananda once said “Man’s development lies in rising above both external and internal nature.” (Debashish Samantha, 2021). Ethical values depend on many factors including culture. (Lesińska-Sawicka, Małgorzata & Kızırmak, Aynur. (2023). Indian psychology gives great emphasis on “*bhava-shuddhi*” or “*chitta-suddhi*” e.g. yama and niyama practices of patanjali. Before intellect and reason can render a proper account of their office, methodical Ethio-moral education and culture is essential (17). The classical, traditional and eternal values, they must be cultured and internalized again and again by every generation. It is plain self-deception to brush them aside by invoking the argument that all values are relative to time. Moral education means an ethical education that helps choose the right path in life. Moral education makes one perfect. Values are positives potential in human being. (Debasish Samanta 2021). Some of the ideas of Swami Vivekananda towards ethical values are: - (19)

- The foundation of a healthy society is sound morals and ethics.
- For the individuals own peace of mind and strength of will, morality and ethics are essential.
- The world is not good or evil but man’s selfishness is the chief source of evil, of diminished morals and ethics.
- Selfishness springs from the non cultivation and non realization of the feeling of openness with all.

On the other hand, Attitude is evaluative statement, either favorable or unfavorable concerning objects, people or events. They reflect how one feels about something. (Stephen P. Robbins & Timothy A. Judge, (2016). Attitude is made up of three elements i.e. cognition, affect and behavior. Cognition gives a value statement, affect is the emotional or feeling segment of an attitude, and behavior refers to an intention to behave in a certain way towards someone or something. (S. P. Robbins & Seema Sanghi, (2005).

Attitude is the persistent tendency to feel and behave in a favorable or unfavorable way towards some object, person or ideas.”- as per Reitz (17). The importance of attitude in understanding psychological phenomenon was given formal recognition early in the history of social psychology. From the time of the concept’s entry into the language of psychology until now interest in attitudes has been strong and growing. However, over the years attitudes have been studied with differing emphasis and methods. Till now the researchers have developed a loosely structured theoretical framework formulating the psychological process underlying attitude change and the direct application of the study of attitude to contemporary social problems. (17)

Individual’s behavior is not a simple and direct stimulus relationship rather it is affected by the individual concerned which is explained by S-O-B-C model. The work situation is interpreted by an individual and attitude plays an important part in which the situation is interpreted. Only after individual’s interpretation and comparison

does the response occur. The response of an individual depends completely on how he/she interprets the situation and on his/her own personal attitude towards the situation. (18)

Attitude alone do not influence behavior but it acts with other factors in the individual influencing behavior such as personality, perception, motivation etc.

PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

India is a land of values, customs and traditions which gives us a separate identity in the whole world. India is that country which has given the light of knowledge to the whole world. It is that country which has taught the path of 'moksha' to the people of whole world. We are having such great heritage which no other country in the world has. At one point of time, we were known to be the richest country of the world, Richness, from the aspect of values and traditions. Then what went wrong today? Today if we pick up the newspaper, we will find that more than 80% of the paper covers the news related to robbery, murders, rapes, riots, dirty political game and end number of such different cases. What has gone wrong to the people of India? Why the person has become an evil? Are these values we are gifting to our coming generation? Is this that we have learnt from our greatest and oldest civilization and culture? The people of India were known to be most civilized people in the whole world. Then where is the fault?

Students are the future of the country. Tomorrow they will be leading their country. They are future decision makers of the country. Their decisions will determine their success as well as the success of their society and country. This will be determined only on the basis of their values and principles. India is moving very fast on the path of becoming a developed country. But will we be able to maintain consistency in that position? Students are the base of tomorrow's India and if students are weak with their values and principles then tomorrow it will be like a multistoried building without a strong base and which certainly has to fall one or the other day. This is a question which has to be thought and answered by every citizen of India

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is a scientific way of solving research problem. It includes all scientific methods and techniques required for solving a research problem. It describes all the steps which a researcher has to undergo while solving a research problem. (18). It deals in detail with all the scientific methods and techniques for solving a problem, making interpretation and giving the findings.

"Research design is the arrangement of condition for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure." (20)

RESEARCH DESIGN: "A research design is the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data of manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in process". This research work comes under descriptive type of research as the studies have been made through primary data collection method using questionnaires. It includes survey and fact-finding enquiries of different kinds. The major purpose of descriptive research is description of the state of affairs as it exists at present.

SAMPLING: Sampling is the selection of some part of an aggregate or totality on the basis of which a judgment about the aggregate or totality is made. In other words, it is process of obtaining information about an entire population by examining only a part of it. In this research survey a sample of 50 engineering students of Raipur city has been taken. These students belong from different educational background and of different categories and thus non probability sampling technique is used. In this research study, the sampling unit consists of individual students who have been considered for getting the sample. The category of students mainly consists of under graduates and post graduates. They have given their individual opinion over the topic by filling the questionnaire provided to them. For conducting this research, the sample size taken is of 50 students of different categories which mostly includes under graduates and post graduates. A questionnaire consisting of 25 questions each were provided to every

individual student and their opinions were taken accordingly. The reasons for taken 50 students as sample size are: - Time limitation, Limitation of the sample i.e. students as well as of researcher's.

DATA COLLECTION: The task of data collection begins after a research problem has been defined and research design. While deciding about the method of data collection to be used for the study, the researcher should keep in mind two types data collection methods are used. Primary data collection is done through Questionnaires (open/closed aided), interview. A Likert type style Questionnaire consists of 25 questions printed were given to the students and their individual opinion were taken. Likert scale as taken up by (Xavier, Titi & Sagayamary, Sagayamary. (2014). On the other hand, Secondary data are those, which have already been collected by someone else and which have already been passed through the statistical process. Secondary data may either be published data or unpublished data. In this research the secondary data were collected from following sources: Books, Journals and Internet.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

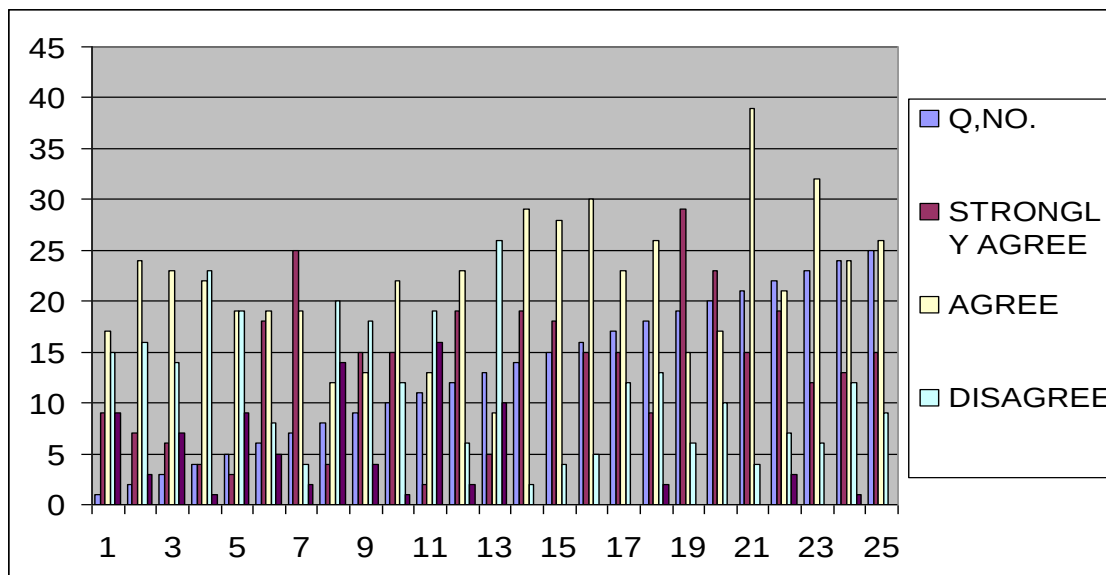
In Likert style questionnaire, each point carries a score. Response indicating the least favorable degree is given the least score i.e. 1 and the most favorable has been given the highest score i.e. 4. The Likert scaling technique, thus, assigns a scale value to each of the four responses. (Prasanta, Sarmah. (2014). The same thing is done in respect to each respondent, which would then measure the respondent's favorableness towards the given point. Here the instrument consists of 25 statements, the following score values would be revealing: -

- $25 \times 4 = 100$ - (Most favorable possible response)
- $25 \times 2.5 = 62.5$ - (A neutral attitude)
- $25 \times 1 = 25$ - (Most unfavorable attitude)

The scores for any individual would fall between 25 and 100. If the score happens to be above 62.5, it shows favorable opinion to the given point of view. A score below 62.5 would mean unfavorable opinion.

As in this study, the can't say option for neutral attitude has not been given to the respondents. Due to this disagree and strongly disagree option has been combined for giving highest score whereas agree option has been used as neutral attitude and further calculation has been done accordingly.

INTERPRETATION

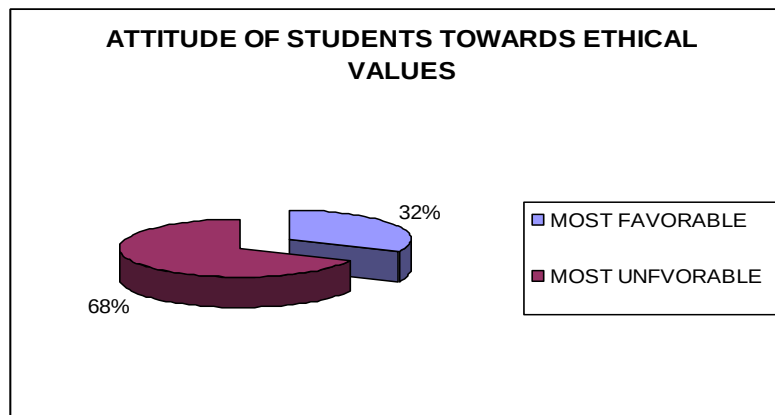


The above graph shows the responses of engineering students which range from strongly agree to strongly disagree. By using Likert Scale method, the following scale has been drawn:-

- $25 \times 4 = 100$ (Most Favorable Attitude)
- $25 \times 2 = 50$ -(A Neutral Attitude)
- $25 \times 1 = 25$ -(Most Unfavorable Attitude)

As in the questionnaire can't say option which would have acted as neutral opinion has not been used. Due to this in this research the scale varies from 1-4 points. For scoring purpose disagree and strongly disagree have been merged and made a single point as strongly disagree whereas agree has been used as a neutral attitude. The scores falling between 25 to 50 points has been marked as most unfavorable, and the scores falling between 50 to 100 has been marked as most unfavorable and the results has been drawn accordingly.

FINDINGS /RESULT



By using Likert Scale, following result has been drawn:-

- Only 32% of the total sample comes under most favorable attitude i.e. only 16 students from the total of 50 students have scored more than 50 marks and it shows that only 32% of the total students have favorable attitude towards ethical values.
- 68% of the total sample comes under most unfavorable attitude i.e. 34 students from the total of 50 students have scored less than 50 marks and it shows that near about 68% of the total students of today's generation have unfavorable attitude towards ethical values.
- 32% of the students who have most favorable attitude towards ethical values have very strong believe that:
 - ◆ Ethical values support growth, gives joy & happiness and self-satisfaction.
 - ◆ Ethical values develop the ability to cope with frustrations, depressions
 - ◆ The ethical values have the capability to identify the potential competencies of the students to assume future responsibilities.
 - ◆ Ethical values make us more trustworthiness and confident.
- 68% of the students who have most unfavorable attitude towards ethical values believes that: -
 - ◆ If necessary, cheating, fraud and using other trickery method is right to sustain in today's competitive world.
 - ◆ Breaking promise made to someone is right if fulfilling those promises affect them negatively.
 - ◆ There is nothing wrong in taking the advantage of the weakness or ignorance of others if it is advantageous for them.
 - ◆ "Winning at all cost" is today's best philosophy.
- Students of today's generation have very unfavorable attitude towards ethical values, though they know about these values but they do not agree on using or practicing these values in their life.

LIMITATIONS

Due to time limitation, very limited number of engineering students were selected for sample. Also, Unwillingness of the respondents to answer the questions was seen, as they do not take that seriously. Incomplete knowledge of respondents subjects the accuracy of data. The situation in which the students have given their responses may not be favorable. They might not like to answer in the presence of other people. The mental situation of the respondents might not have been favorable while giving their responses.

CONCLUSION

This research report has been done to check and analyze that whether the students have favorable or unfavorable attitude towards ethical values. Also gathering on the information that whether they believe in these values and practice in their life or not.

Attitude of a person differs from person to person and change according to situation and conditions. Various factors which affect the attitude of a person are his/her parents, family members, friends, society etc. These factors help in shaping one's value and belief system.

While doing the analysis of the received responses, it has been found that the students have very unfavorable attitude towards ethical value, though they know about this value, but do not agree on practicing the values in their life. This is a declining trend in the attitude of the students of engineering towards the ethical values and is a big problem on which everyone especially the institutes should think & solution should be given for this problem, otherwise it will affect the future of not only our students but also of the country adversely and if this trend remains then we as an Indian will lose our identity in the whole world.

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