

Preaching Moral Values through Teaching Poetry

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Abstract

Today, the world is mediacentric. Smart phones are digital devices that make a considerable impact on human values. Technology tends people to be confined to their self-centred space. One can notice so many events that occur every day. When any accidents or horrible incidents take place, people are inclined taking videos instead of helping the victims. It is obvious that students are engaged in anti-social activities in public places. Their curricula still comprise literary texts, which have prime objectives like promoting human values besides enhancing students' creative and critical skills. Especially, teaching poems are directly or indirectly preparing young minds in schools and colleges to be morally fit challenging the sordid society. So, learning of human values has been playing a vital role in the students' life. To rehabilitate society into the ethical one, Poem is a prime way to convey the moral values through its rhythmic lines. This paper aims to reassure the need of retaining literary texts, particularly poetry in the academic sphere.

Keywords: Learning/teaching poetry, Human values, Technology

One can convey his or her thoughts, values through literary tools like Plays, Short Stories, Novel, Prose, etc, but writing piece of Poem is one altogether the many tools to spread our inner thoughts rhythmically in systematic words. Supported the character, love, kindness, sad, happy, adventure a poet in conjunction with his personal experiences expressed in an unusual composition. To quote Robert Frost:

Poetry is once feeling has found its thought and thus the thought has found words. Once our thoughts properly organized and set of words for that a different piece of writing goes to change state. So, thoughts and orderly organized words area unit to be like of us of any piece of writing.

In the above lines, one can comprehend the production of poems from one's thoughts. Writing a Poem one of the artefact's in Literature. When one's thoughts and orderly words get together a beautiful poem is born, and it will speak, guide, and embraces numerous readers around the world.

Historically Greek song was divided into two classes- melic or lyric song, which was sung by a single voice to the accompaniment of a lyre; and choric song, which was intended for collective

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singing to the accompaniment of instrumental music, supplemented, probably, by a dance. The Elizabethans, in particular, were past masters of the art of investing words with the highest musical quality. The vowels and consonants are so artistically arranged as to compose a music of their own, independent of the aid of a musical instrument an art which was closely studied and developed in later times by such poets as Keats, Shelley, Tennyson, and Swinburne. Abttsael 5.

When the child is born on earth, it hears the first cradle song from mother. After several months' leftover, she feeds her child with a beautiful rhyme. Afterward, he learns many things about the world through poems in the school curriculum. In later life when he feels lonely, saddened, depression, sorrow, happy he starts to hear various types of the song according to the state of mind. So, our life is filled with full of songs or Poems. Sometimes songs will console the depressed mind, sometimes it will like catharsis to unfulfilled desires, and sometimes it will raise happiness. So, Songs or Poems blended with our life. We cannot move a single day without hearing a song or poem.

The Britishers introduced the western modern educational system in the second half of the 19th Century. In the olden days, we followed the old Indian traditional system. Christian Missionaries introduced Mathematics and Science newly into the Indian soils along with English as a medium of language. To govern the Indians without any hindrances they teach the English language, Poems became one of the tools to teach. The poem is the finest way to teach the English language because it develops the vocabulary skills, grammatical skills along with the cognitive development of a reader. So, learning poems is occupied as an inevitable place in the school curriculum.

Social Learning theorized by Albert Bandura and Walter Mischel (1962), Bandura claimed that social learning theory shows a direct correlation between a person's perceived self-efficacy and Behavioural change. It comes from five sources: performance, accomplishments, vicarious experience, verbal influence, and psychological states. So, learning a poem is verbal influence sources that will impact their social behaviour.

In addition, he says that when students learn, they can cognitively represent or transform their experiences. Social Cognition Pg:51,52.

Aristotle the legendary Greek philosopher said: "Man is by nature a social animal; an individual who is unsocial naturally and not accidentally is either beneath our notice or more than human. Society is something that precedes the individual."

So, a man cannot live alone, he depends on others in every way to live-in society. Social behaviour is starting from the school itself. Teaching moral values to the young children in the school, like a new nail hammered in a young tree. They will remember the human values at their remaining life and safeguard the world from conflict, violence, uprising, vehemence, disharmony, and they will establish unity, love, kindness, brotherhood, nationhood, etc.



Today we are using diverse sorts of communication devices for contact to the opposite nook of the globe. Additionally, Face book, WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter and different social media websites help to attach noted and unknown individuals round the globe. Even one will get several information from any a part of the globe. The newest communication technologies like Virtual Reality, and Augmented Reality helps to talk spirited from anyplace, anytime. These technologies just facilitate to link different persons however they cannot facilitate to hearty association to their associated people at large. Sadly, all the technologies on the youth's palm will increase the gap between the individuals. The younger generations fall deeply into the fashionable devices and neglect to talk with their relatives, friends, and their siblings. Within the matter devalued to be worse youths fall prey to the hands of dangerous games like Blue whale, Pass Out, Salt and Ice, Fire, Challenges, etc. Despite the fact that technologies facilitate to everybody in varied ways that, one should not regret its complications to the younger people.

Now a days Peace Education could be an international means of communication obtaining standard among the global citizen

“For implementing all academic activities and focuses on the importance of efforts in promoting peace information and building peace construction itself through strengthening the capability of learners in angle and tolerance further because the ability to figure along, avoid conflict and resolution conflicts, therefore learners have the strengthening of capability and motivation, each severally and in teams to measure in peace with others”. Pecitcoecd (1).

Refers to the process of promoting the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values needed to bring about behaviour changes that will enable children, youth, and adults to prevent conflict and violence, both overt and structural; to resolve conflict peacefully; and to create the condition conducive to peace, whether at an intra-personal, interpersonal, intergroup, national or international level. (Peace Education Curriculum in the context of Education Sustainable Development). UNESCO (1999:1)

Learning Poetry helps to know various people's culture and their geographical features. They may identify the various literary devices used in the poem if they read the poem carefully. With the help of these devices one can convey his thoughts, angry, prophecy, love, kindness, etc., in an artistic way. Poets are compared with a great Medical Surgeon because they could operate and correct the ignorance, cruelty, disloyalty, disgust, and helps to insert love, patience, peace, kindness to the numerous humans' hearts without piercing with his pen at a time.

Some Specimens of Moral Value Poems taken from school curricula are discussed further.

1. IF - Rudyard Kipling

The poet talks about to treat the victory and defeat to be same. The poet called two things as trickster. The above poetic lines teach the children not to dwell on the success or failure. The poem advices to move on next and not to fall in the hands of success or failure.

2. Good Timber - Douglas Malloch

He talks about the timber that grows very strong as much as it withstands the high wind, hot sun, and strong weather phenomenon, likewise the human can grow very strong physically, morally, and rationally when he faces the more problems in their life.

3. If I can stop one heart from breaking, - Dickinson

According to the poem, if we help others in their difficult times our life will not be useless. We must help others as long as possible throughout our entire life.

4. Sonnet 116 - William Shakespeare

From these 14 lines one can understand that true love will not fade away if any obstruction Comes, it will thrive in any circumstances, it will not change according to time. True love is eternal in nature.

5. Don't Quit - John Greenleaf Whittier

The poet talks about life is full of upside and down, turns and twists, failure and success, etc. But we should not end our life game, we should play our games till end.

6. Is Life but A Dream- Lewis Carroll

Long years before the Poet and his family members visited the river bank happily. Now he visits the place lonely. He recollects after so many years how his family members set out to picnic on the bank of river and how the tale was spun.

7. Be the Best- Douglas Malloch

This poet advices us to avert inferiority complex of the students. One may be inferior to others but should not think that they are useless because the tiny grass besides of highway could provide a good vision for travellers.

8. Alice Fell – William Wordsworth

He narrates the story of a little orphan whom the speaker of the poem meets on the road Durham. He shows clemency over the little girl and started to speak with her in order to get rid of the pathetic situation of her for a little time. The Poet wants to forget her grief for some time.

9. The Stick- together families

The Poem “The Stick-together families” written by Edgar A. Guest. This poem gives more emphasis on unity living in a family. Family is the ultimate happy centre compared with other happiness in around the world. The poet advices us to live in a family with our parents and kin to overthrow the miseries of the world.

Analysis

Teaching moral values indirectly gives some good ways to the students since literature itself is also a means of transformation. Although all literary works are not preaching or transforming the students can get good lessons through poem reading.

As Jawaharlal Nehru the former Prime Minister of India correctly said, “The only way to reform them (children) is to win them over with love. So long as a child is unfriendly, you can't mend his ways. He can be disciplined, if his attention is drawn to some other activity”, and further he added that "The children of today will make the India of tomorrow. The way we bring them up will determine the future of the country”.

Poem reading helps the pupils to become more genuine, developed, cleverer, and humanitarian. Literature helps them understand other human beings, issues, and values. It helps to bring everyone in the world in to the one love umbrella.

Our Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi says: “If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children”

American social reformer correctly said, ‘It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men’.

Conclusion

Teaching Moral Poems in school curriculum is a vital thing in this era, especially facing challenges caused by technology. With the help of poetic lines one can transform the future generation. Amidst the various confusing ways to make the children into good human beings we should not forget to teach moral values through poems. Learning moral values in young age, the children can easily adapt the moral values and kept all over life. When candle get a light from the other candle it will give same light to other places, the fire will not diminish due to spreading. Likewise, preaching the moral values through Poem is one of the finest ways to spread the moral values to the entire world. The poet could redeem the fallen people from the ignorance. They can create awareness about the changing nature of the world. They will prevent the society to the sinner



world. There are plenty of Moral valued literary works which are present all-over regional languages. Our prime duty of Literature students is translating them into the English Language. Particularly we should promote the poem reading habits among the Younger generations.

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