

DEVELOPING MORAL VALUES AMONG THE YOUTH IN THE CHANGING SOCIETY

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The world has advanced hastily as technology has become a familiar face in the everyday lives of people, especially the youth. With the accessibility to information, which is literally at the tips of our fingers, the world has become as transparent as glass to the eyes of the people. Everything can be “googled”: anything can be “uploaded” or “downloaded”.

But as the world embraces a more modernized version of itself, there are aspects of the lives of people which are compromised. And one of which is the moral values of the youth. And this effect on the values formation of the youth can greatly be seen inside the four walls of the classroom.

Morality can be described as the guiding principles that lead us to do what is right and avoid what is wrong, even when nobody is looking (Ginsburg, 2020). Values are easily acquired because of their presence everywhere, especially within the family. Although, of course, values formation is unique to every family. And these values from which somebody was raised are evident in both his actions and inactions outside of his home.

In an article by Heise (2021), he claims that the digital lifestyle has affected parenting styles in families. With the fast-tracked lives of everyone and every parent who wants to provide for his or her family, discipline, and child-rearing has been left out. Moral values are being learned by children from television or through social media, from which they could not actually filter which ones they should accept and which they should reject. In the end, children adapt to what can be seen on the screen, and parents tend to

give in to what exists because of their lack of attention to teach their children morality and valuing. As a result, children are mostly left off the hook for their actions and are rarely held accountable.

And this is one of the reasons why upholding moral values at schools is quite tedious. With all the different family backgrounds, methods of rearing, views, opinions, and moral stands of these children adapted from their parents and the environment, value formation in schools has become a great task for teachers. But, as second parents, it is the teachers' duty to reinstate the moral values of the youth. Because these will be the values they will possess when they become adults.

Heise (2021) enumerated a few reasons why it is essential to develop the moral values of our youth. They are outlined as follows:

It builds their character. The moral developed and reinstated among our youth forms the very core of their being and becomes the foundation of their moral beliefs. These values mold them into the person they should become in the future.

It helps them tell what is right from wrong. Children must be taught the responsibility they would be having in their future years with regard to the actions and inactions they have. Being able to teach the youth to do what is right and avoid doing what is wrong can create an idea for them on the essence of upholding moral values and living up to them.

It changes their perception of the world. As information is easily accessible, especially to the youth, their views of the world are based on what they read and watch on the internet. The more we should develop in them the values they will be needing to decipher the information they acquire and see which is reality and which is not.

It determines their behavior as an adult. Children grow up in the way they were raised by their parents and their environment. As the Proverb states, "Train up a child in

the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Values formation is crucial because it reveals what a person will become in the future. So we must ensure that the youth are raised to become the kind of people who will contribute to the world.

It counters bad influence from peers. As a child moves ahead with his life, he would be encountering other people, especially at school. He would be having peers and the pressure brought about by his wanting to belong can actually make or break him. But being able to raise a child well and instating the moral values he needs to develop in him, will be of great help to him in dealing with relationships outside his home and decisions that he needs to make on his own.

It helps them cope with difficult situations. Social media is one of the most influential things in the life of a youth. With the available information in the internet, children may encounter people dealing with the same situations as them. It helps when the foundation of the child is strong and his personality has been developed positively, for he would not be easily lured into negative feelings and emotions such as developing depression or anxiety attacks, or worse committing suicide.

It boosts self-confidence. Shaming has been an existing problem in the community for the longest time. And a child with an inferior personality may easily give in to negative attacks thrown towards him. So it is important to build the character of our youth so that their self - confidence will be boosted and they will not easily falter to the negativity of the world.

It teaches them to think about others. The world is in need of more positive beings. Kindness and honesty are practically the best moral values we can teach our youth so that their futures will be brighter. Instating these values in them helps them think about the welfare of others, as well. They should be taught that the world is not for them alone, but for every existing being. So teach them to be honest and to be kind.

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