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**THE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MORAL VALUES IN  
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES: A CASE OF MADRASA SCHOOL IN  
ALBANIA**

**Abstract:**

This study aims to identify how to focus on rehabilitating of the students with various lost moral values in education, and training activities. Regarding moral values, many debates have taken place about how they are important and invaluable values that are disappeared in education system in recent years in Albania. Thus, a close look and detailed investigation were needed in the educational programs and practices to figure out those invaluable moral values which are urgently necessary for demonstrating humane manners in educational environments and also those are gained by individuals and the differences in understanding or mentality about values.

In this study, a research was done in Madrasa school in Tirana where a model of education structure was used in school program. The participants were the teachers and the students of that school requested anonymity. The main point were that how we can make the other students learn those moral values and equip them with those the values according to the changing world.

In this study, a combination of both qualitative and quantitative methods were used to get data through semi-structured interviews with respective students and teachers including directors.

This present study demonstrates that except lessons, the extra-curricular activities were considered more important for the development of universal and moral values of the students.

The limitation of the present study was that we did not have enough time to interview with each student and teaching staff.

The present study reveals the curriculum designers have to put them in the curricula as they are universal values among new generations and also they are needed to teach according to the rapidly changing and must be proportional to any change in the world as well. So, the school administrations ought to organize and apply moral values teaching extra-curricular activities in order to give students a healthy and right mentality regarding universal values.

**Keywords:**

Madrasa Education, Universal Values, Moral Values, Curricula

**JEL Classification:** I29

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Human beings have the desire of wanting to learn the things faced in their life. Starting from cradle, learning continues until death. This learning period is called education. Human life is the best example of this.

Man is grown with all kinds of values of the environment where he lives in. His behavior also indicates the culture and belief of that particular environment. Actually, learning is a continuing process, not only in schools, but in every field of life.

When we look at ideas related to education, Socrates argues that the purpose of education is to educate open-minded, virtuous individuals that believe in universal values and truths; whereas Plato defines education as the way to reach a just society and state by training noble and fair citizens. On the other hand; according to John Locke, education is to prepare people that will carry forward the happiness and prosperity of the society. Good character, comes from virtuous acting habits and well breeding. (Ulusoy, K., & Dilmaç, B. 2012).

We see the contribution of education on people's behavior, because individual takes the "shape" of the society where he lives in. (Ulusoy, K., & Dilmaç, B. 2012). We can observe education as formal and informal. Formal education is always conducted within the framework of a plan and program. Whereas informal education takes place within the professional groups in society and family.

As soon as the very first day, human beings come to world, he has been on an attempt to learn something and has started it by recognizing the their surroundings. Whereas, according to Islam, Allah has asked angels to teach human the reason of creation of everything that exists in the nature, and to show respect to them. Here, today we understand why mankind demonstrate respects to knowledge and science.

It's for sure that "Education of moral values" that constitutes to the content of the article, started with the very first human being. Because the characteristic that differs human from other creatures is his existence as a creature that thinks and uses its mind.

## 2.LITERATURE REVIEW

We can explain the word “value” in this way. In Latin language, it has the meaning “to be valuable”, “to be powerful”. Moreover, it is derived from the root of the word “valere”. Every field of discipline has explained it in a different way. The word “value” is manifested as a strong tie between society layers and constituting behavior standards. (Coskun. Y)

Values are standards manners to define the good, the right, the beauty and the ugly in the society. (Özkalp, E. 2005).Moreover; things or situations that hold an importance for a society, a class or a human take place within the explanation of a value. (Özkalp, E. 2005)

Thinking in general, values can be explained as things that we face in every field of life and include the abstract concepts such as behavior, lifestyle and beliefs among people.

Actually, values reflect the sociocultural formation of the society. Any approach that ignores the importance of the cultural elements will remain distance from understanding and explaining of social processes and differences. (Özensel, E. 2003)

Values on the view of human-beings and acts on people are accepted as any standard and moral, religious values are interrelated to each other. (Dönmezer, S. 1990)

Values are characteristics that add meaning to our life, empowering how to cope with our skills make us the ones we are. Think about values we possess; love, respect, justice, reliability, empathy, fairness, tolerance. Actually, we can count many others. If you are asked to give up some of them, which one could you get rid of?

According to Güngör, the best distinction of moral values is classified as good and bad and considered as value provisions. They are the things which are known as good and bad and also demonstrated in the behaviors of people in general. On the other hand, people evaluate the behaviors as follows; “generosity is good”, and “theft is bad”. It is important to be considered that value provisions are known as moral values, but not the whole value provisions are moral values. (Güngör, E. 2000).

Values are beliefs and rules that show the way of behaviors of people and direct us accordingly (Oğuz, E. 2012).

### **3.DISCUSSIONS**

Value is the thing that always holds us together as a society, but its value is understood when it's lost. Practice of informally existing values in the community into formal education will ensure a healthier society.

Humanity faces a continuous change. Along with the passing of time, we are facing difficulties to keep up with the change and to protect our values as well. Actually, parallel to the changes in scientific and technological fields, it's necessary to fit values in time and to make them always appropriate to live. The meaning of this is not to destroy the values, but to make proportional change with the changing world

Globalizing world is experiencing a very rapid change, in this change only societies that possess their values will be able to protect their generations equipped with considered values. Whereas societies that do not contain their real values are assimilated and disappeared. It is possible to see this change in the whole society. Especially the development of mass media shows us that this change is in global scale.

Therefore, it is highly possible that generations which aren't nurtured with values of society, together with the technology may reach a state of not worrying about the others, selfish and keeping themselves away from love. Because of this, right and proper use of technology, presentation of an approach to changes in a positive sense will bring us the most positive and useful result.

The truth is: values are accepted in society and applied that way. The results that respect of values leads society into interaction. In global world, with the help of internet and other technological tools, one society affect the other society easily. Through righteousness of different thoughts, this influence is changing the society. Therefore, helping behavioral models to help our growing new generations to deal with this change and clash of cultures, may be set through effective and properly planned education values in schools or different environments. In this educations, basic and qualitative concept is the concept of value.

Education system in Albania is planned to develop skills such as literacy curriculum and assessment tools, memorization, public understanding and so on. Unique abilities, communication skills, team work, reasoning and imagination skills neither take place in the curriculum nor in any way measure this type of behaviors. However, in today's world and life, people are evaluated according to such abilities and are gaining a privileged status. Therefore, our curriculum and assessment and evaluation tools are needed to give place to these new values.

In modern societies, school's importance and functions have become more important and one of the most important topics where the focus is the need how to protect the origin of the culture of society and to ensure its continuity. Of course, through educating manners that maintains to make prejudgments of values of society likeable for new generations. In this period, when everything changed with a dizzy rapid velocity, people are watching themselves losing in front of the raging waves of life. So, values that come in front of us on these raging waves are saviors that will take us in the coast in lieu of salvation.

Values have a great impact in our daily lives, because the thing that gives shape to norms are considered values also are given importance by society. If a society values democracy, it puts norms that protect people's freedom; if a society values hard work, it puts norms that punish laziness.

Each society has its own desired and emphasized values. Today, two values are considered in western societies: being materialistic and motivating success. Thus, in a class of individuals while considering as an important value such as being the most successful and reaching the peak in profession, and being materialistic and also having a certain material wealth is accepted as an important value. But, values show differences from society to society. For example, while materialism is a valid value to a state that ensures its development through liberal economy, it may not be valid to a society based on mystical feelings.

#### **4. Researching problem**

This present study aims to determine the contribution of Haxhi Mahmud Dashi Madrasa of Tirana to activities of education of values with the help of qualitative research methods.

Qualitative researches are the researches in which qualitative data collection techniques such as observation, interviews and document analysis are used, perceptions and events in the natural

environment are set in a realistic and holistic manner in an ordered qualitative process. (Yazar, T. 2012. p. 61-68).

For this purpose, the following problems have been studied to be answered:

- 1- What are the activities on education of values organized in Tirana Haxhi Mahmoud Madrasa?
- 2- What is the contribution of these activities to the education system in Albania?
- 3- How will these activities affect on student's personalities and personality achievements?

### **Research Objectives and Significance**

The purpose of the survey is to examine and determine the activities done under the name of education of values, in school site as well as outside of school, by Tirana Haxhi Mahmoud Dashi Madrasa as a part of education system of Albania. To determine in an analytic plan whether these activities took place or not, whereas in an analytic plan, it is important to take information how the system works. On the other side, the contribution of these applied activities on educational values to Albanian education system is likely to be an example how other institutions are concerned about this issue and take it into account.

### **Scope of Research**

Tirana Haxhi Mahmoud Dashi Madrasa was piloted for the research during the academic period 2013-2014. Most of the activities were taken place in this particular school. At the same time, the other schools affiliated with the same foundation were considered in relation with the research across Albania for collecting valid data.

### **Research Methods**

The interview methodology was used to collect data. The qualitative was considered for the present study based on interviews that was done through mostly verbal communication perspectives, experiences, feelings and perceptions of people are revealed. (Kaymakcan, R., et., al. 2012).

## **5. Activities in Haxhi Mahmoud Dashi Madrasa as methods for value outcomes**

### **a- Dear teacher, Beloved mom**

Since the teachers and mothers` day are celebrated one day after another, this week is dedicated to two important values at the same time. In Albania, teachers` day is celebrated on 7<sup>th</sup> of March and Women`s Day on 8<sup>th</sup> of March. Thus, this week throughout the school, it`s possible that you can find images describing mother and teacher. That week programs are organized and relevant gifts are given to everyone from the female parents to female staff working in school. Retired teachers and workers that have worked in this school are visited. Dramas and articles stand for showing that teaching value is important and mothers are ready for setting good good examples.

#### **b- Love for country, history week**

History and Geography Week are organized to give the spirit and love for respective country and motherland, as well as to promote the beauties belonging to Albania. During these weeks students exhibit folk dances and dresses belonging to their regions, some students prepare their favorite food, make demonstrations regarding their customs and traditions. In this week, in the ceremony, there are some sketches that illustrate how a girl is asked for marriage in a country`s north region and how all other steps occur until the final wedding ceremony was shown with the help of a slight humor. This type of activities attract awareness of forgotten beauties that our eyes can`t see and many people inside the modern life don`t pay attention as well.

#### **c-I love languages**

In Tirana Haxhi Mahmoud Dashi Madrasa, education is thought through three languages. Scientific courses are being processed in English, some social courses in Albanian and religious courses in Turkish. In a school where the language is so significant, the school principal talks about keeping alive the importance of language learning. Therefore, they are organizing language weeks twice a year. During these weeks, some mini seminars, contests, sketches and activities like these are organized “For a week, every corner of the school here and there smells language”, says Mr. Principal. He talks about other state schools that are invited as well in these weeks and the common activities that they do from time to time. Regarding to school director Mr. Ömer Çalış, those organized weeks increase the interest of students in languages, underlines that language is the most important value on communication between people, presentation from students of what they have learned definitely develops their self-confidence for the future.

#### **d-My dear book**

To make students love the books, book reading and the habit of reading during certain periods of the year in the morning, 15 minutes before the lesson starts with book reading sessions which are held under the supervision of teachers of the first lesson. On the other hand, under the supervision of class teachers and sometimes at the end of Semester, sometimes on holidays, the respective students come together and for one or several days, accordingly book reading and discussing programs are organized. By making personal tracking of their class students, form teachers ask how much time per week they devote to book reading and that can be also given as a separate activity.

#### **e- Being an example**

The most important method of teaching on education is certainly learning by seeing. This type of learning has seriously impact on human nature. The most important of social learning theory is considered "learning from models". I believe that this is the most important differences of teachers of Tirana Haxhi Mahmoud Dashi Madrasa. Almost everywhere in our interview, the focus was on the need that because of the fact, the teachers are setting good examples in educational and teaching activities, therefore their lives inside and outside of school should be regulated in this line. According to them, a model teacher is like in the footprint of a prophets whoa are the first teachers of human beings. How the prophets' experiences are taken as examples by other people (the prophets' influence on people comes from that consideration, because they have always forms exemplary life) that's how teachers should display activities and behaviors which are taken by educational institutions in order to create awareness of their responsibilities in real situations.

Executives and Teachers from Tirana Haxhi Mahmoud Dashi Madrasa consider the importance of those valuable manners and activities to be applied due to their necessities. To teach students several certain values, and in order to make them have better behaving manners, moral valu related activities are in need of being organized, also exemplary behaviors should be laid out inside and outside of school as well. As motto, the school takes their education model that has influenced the idea that the chances of success are higher in an act of saying such as "Examples from Yourself". On the other hand, family members and all school employees are required to exhibit always the same attitudes and behaviors in a "consistent" format, as the side effect of them, the development of values are likley to be persistent. That's why, it should be provided that



students believe and trust in case all educators and staff are to be fair and noble people for demonstrating exemplary behaviors and manners.

During education, the love and trust that are shown to child, will give comfort to people who educate as well as to those who are being educated. According to the studies, individuals show due love and trust to the other people in order not to lose the love and trust in a way they are expecting from others. Actually, it mutually occurs. In case of continuation of this state, continuity of good behavior and manner should be considered and also in the course of time, the students are likely to influence each other. (Aydın, M. Z, 2010).

### **f-Organization of activities that introduce lives of model people**

In relation with above-mentioned examples, the required schedule for watching films including ; green road, Ghandi, and etc. about the lives of people in Albania and in world who lived for others or people who have been helpful to mankind through showing sketches to watch; competition regarding novel reading. In this way, people who live their lives for the sake of a value will serve as good examples and are believed to contribute positively to educating activities.

## **CONCLUSION AND FINDINGS**

As it is observed, the recent years along with the world, our lives are changing rapidly. As a result of this change, to some extent of everything that is related to our lives in our lives that can be dealt with human factor is also changing. People who can't keep up with the quick transformations in issues that have an important place in our lives and people who can be easily adapted to this change are presenting themselves with different ideas and attitudes within society. In particular, while there is faster technological change, our habits, changes relevant our nature have been more slow and painful. Especially there are serious differences between the younger generations and over middle-age people in the way of life, habits, in the structure of the language they use etc.

So, education of moral values in a changing world foresees individuals with their own cultural and social judgments to gain universal values and to be prepared for the likely potential problems. (Doğan, İ. 2007). According to Kerschenstainer (1977: 8), to the question "What

should be the purpose of education?" the best pedagogues in the history of education have answered as "moral character".

According to Kirschenbaum (1994:14) education of values, value itself helps development. it serves to establish a satisfactory life for individual. It is in the nature of education of value to help others. In a broad sense, through knowledge, skills, attitudes created in educational institutions and transferred values they try to help other individuals. Education of Values has two objectives: to ensure that young people and all people lead a life with character and are satisfied with life, contributing to the good of society and "ask for compassion and kindness for people and other living groups". (Ulusoy, K)

The purpose of education of values is to reveal the child's innate abilities and angelic aspect; to ensure development of all aspects of personality, to integrate people into society and to educate him and society with moral values. Therefore, the children should be given accurate information on moral and non-moral status and acts. Thus, from the period of childhood, the human nature is determined to stand against evil tendencies, possibly provides more balanced acting in concussion times trough developing the best disposition for comfortable life.

Especially, in the name of transmitting values that are very important for the new generations; the plans should be done both in national extent and smaller scale. Moreover, all teachers when they plan training and educational activities that are needed to make indexed plans which explain values and make them livable. In this sense, because of the failure of studies of curricula based on educational values and plans in this country, we think that the concerned people may benefit from the following proposals:

- 1-To discuss with the concerned people on the issue of organizing School Club activities related to educational values in the curricula.
- 2- To attract the attention of media and relevant people in this issue through sports, as well as by organizing common activities with well-known personalities from arts and media screen.
- 3-Selection in all walks of life or more representatives that will carry out the activities about educational values, providing the more efficient happening of organizations, (choosing this representative from various group according to expectation) and putting importance in gaining individual or social responsibility awareness.

4-Parallel arrangement of activities inside class in the annual curriculum is important for its complementary role in learning.

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