



“Turning Possibilities into Realities”

2011 “WINNING FOR SEYCHELLES”

100th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILO)

"A New Era of Social Justice"



An Eye on Social Values

Social values refer to human or moral values or principles that are essentially desirable for the wellbeing of an individual, a group or a society. Some of the important social values are:

- Truth and Honesty.
- Generosity.
- Patriotism.
- Respect for Seniors or Elders.
- Justice and Kindness.
- Tolerance.
- Cooperation.
- Excellence.

When I do good, I feel good;
When I do bad, I feel bad;
And that is my religion.

Abraham Lincoln 1809-1865, 16th US President, Abolisher of Slavery.

“It’s not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are”

Roy Disney – Film writer Producer, Nephew of Walt Disney

NATURE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIAL VALUES

The nature and characteristics of basic human values is explained as follows:

1. Values are inculcated:

Humans are not born with values. The values are developed through learning, observation, and/or social interaction. The values are generally learnt through parents, religious leaders, teachers, and other senior members of the society.

2. Well Accepted Principles:

The basic human values are well accepted principles by the members of a particular society. The values guide the behaviour and actions of the members of the society. The values enable the members to conduct their activities in an ethical and dignified manner.

3. Time-tested Existence:

For centuries, certain basic human values have stood the test of time. In all human societies, since the early days of civilization (which dates back to 5000 B.C), basic human values were accepted. The values of truth, respect for seniors, cooperation, justice, excellence, etc; are well accepted and practiced for several centuries by the members of all societies the world over.

4. Basis of Human Values:

Almost all basic human values are based on religious beliefs and practices. However, in modern societies, certain values are reinforced through deliberate efforts of certain people. For instance, the **Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles in its preamble advocates Justice (social, economic and political) to all citizens of the country.**

5. Classification of Values:

The human values can be classified as:

☑ Moral and social values:

The moral values reflect the ethical aspects of human life. The social values guide the behaviour of an individual in a particular society. The social values may differ from one society to another and form one period to another within the same society.

☑ Traditional and Modern Values:

Most of the human values are traditional in nature. They have been in existence since the ancient times. Such values include honesty and truth, concern for others, respect for seniors, etc. There are certain values that have been strengthened in modern affluent societies, such as material values or values relating to wealth and comfort. The value of excellence is given great importance in developed countries.

☑ Intrinsic and Instrumental Values:

The intrinsic values are considered as ends in themselves such as honesty and truth, whereas, the instrumental values are means to attain certain ends or goals. For instance, the value of excellence acts a means of attaining recognition and rewards in the society.

6. The human values can also be classified as:

Values reflect the character of a person. Character is the sum total of one’s values. It is said that values are responsible for the consistency of one’s behaviour

7. Values Change Gradually:

All values of a person may not remain the same all the time. They may change but gradually. However, at times, a person’s values may change suddenly due to some forced circumstances. For instance, an honest person may indulge in a dishonest act when faced with a traumatic situation or unavoidable circumstances. (Values are dynamic, judgmental, stable, and intrinsic)

“A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both”.

Dwight David Eisenhower, US General, 34th US President.

IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL VALUES

1. Values Foster Economic Progress:

Certain basic human values foster economic progress of a society. The fair dealing would enable a country to progress, whereas, corrupt practices will keep a nation backward or underdeveloped, as is the case of most of the developing nations. In western countries, the level of economic development is high due to excellence, and less degree of corruption. Therefore, we can say that there is a direct relationship between values and economic progress.

2. Values Foster Social Development:

Certain basic human values such as cooperation and generosity do foster social development. The social development in terms of education, health, and family welfare can get a boost due to the practice of basic human values.

3. Values Improve Social Relations:

It is true that basic human values tend to improve social ties or relations. For instance, respect for parents, teachers and seniors help to develop good social and emotional relations. The healthy relationships are vital for the well being of individuals, groups, and entire society.

4. Values Facilitate Regional Cooperation:

Human values such as cooperation and tolerance can help to facilitate regional cooperation. For instance, the regional cooperation among the states of a nation or among different nations can help to improve economic and social development of the entire region.

5. Values Generate Love, Peace And Happiness:

Values tend to generate love, peace and happiness in the society. For instance, the values of respect and concern for others, cooperation, etc; develop a spirit of togetherness. Conflicts can be solved through mutual understanding and as such there can be love, peace and happiness.

6. Values Improves Standards of Living:

Basic human values help to improve standards of living of a society. For instance, the value of excellence enables people to develop new products, processes, etc. such innovations enable people to enjoy new and better varieties of goods and services, which add to the standard of living of the people.

“Treating people with respect will gain one wide acceptance and improve the business.”

Tao Zhu Gong, 500BC, Assistant to the Emperor of Yue, 9th Business Principles.

SOCIAL VALUES AND BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS

The role of business organisations in social values is stated as follows:

A. Truth and honesty:

Truth is one of the most important basic social values. One should conduct his/her activities in a truthful and honest manner. One should avoid faking or lies. Business organisation should conduct their business activities in an honest manner. They should not cheat the customers. They can practice truth and practice in the following ways:

- Adoption of correct weights and measures.
- Provide good quality products.
- Charge the right prices, etc.

B. Justice and kindness:

Business firms must do justice, and show kindness wherever possible.

For instance, they should provide justice and kindness to their employees. They should pay reasonably good salaries to their staff, and provide them with good working conditions.

C. Generosity:

Business firms must be generous. They should contribute generously to social development activities such as health, education, and family welfare. Generosity on the part of business firms can help to uplift the standards of the society. They should also be generous to their employees

by providing good wages/salaries, and proper welfare facilities.

D. Tolerance:

Business firms should practice the social value of tolerance. They should tolerate the competitors. They should be involved in healthy competition, and not in unfair competition. They should not duplicate the products of competitors. They should not malign or spoil the name of the competitors through unethical or unhealthy practices.

E. Patriotism:

Business firms should support and encourage patriotic activities in the society. They should not encourage anti-social activities. They should not provide financial and other support to anti-social elements. They should work for peace and harmony in the society.

F. Cooperation:

Business firms should follow the social value of cooperation.

Cooperation involves:

- Positive attitude.
- Team spirit.
- Good relationships.

Source: www.scribd.com

Common Values for Success

It is said that “**knowledge is of no value unless you put it into practice**” and that the ability to see beyond today’s troubles is a crucial ingredient of hope and optimism.

We are hopeful therefore, that our modest contribution could be of use, in our continuous quest to further human values, both individually and collectively, imperative and necessary, for the betterment of our environment and for the enhancement **for our sustainable growth process**, in this “New Era of Social Justice”, for the benefit of all...

For “we are the masters of our own fate”.

President Nelson Mandela – Abolisher of Apartheid