

**Institute for Christian Learning
Education Department of Seventh-Day Adventists**

**TRANSMITTING CHRISTIAN VALUES
TO STUDENTS AT ADVENTIST COLLEGE, SURAT**

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INTRODUCTION

Transmitting Christian values to students at Adventist College, specially at a place like surat, is a hard and challenging task because of secularism that prevails in India, in particular in the state of Gujarat. In this competitive world, where the modern man is going astray from God, it is the duty of the Adventist Educational system to re-establish the religious values through the modern of education. In view of this it is my sincere desire to uplift the students through education to draw them closer to God. In the last half of the century, human ethical beliefs and values have evolved at an alarming pace. Since these were socially, culturally and religiously based, they have influenced society in a number of ways. The moral standards of almost every society has been affected. This has become a major issue as we enter the 21st century.

Christians in general, are fearful of the eclipse of Christian values and beliefs. Sadly, spiritual knowledge is not accorded the importance it deserves in a students curriculum. It is virtually non-existent in the courses and syllabi of our modern schools and colleges. It has barely been touched in some university degrees courses and is incomplete in our religious texts. It is of utmost importance that educational institutions especially those under the Seventh-Day Adventist Church endeavor to spiritually uplift their students.

Statistic indicate that 83 percent of the Indian Population are Hindus, 12 percent Muslims, 3 percent are composed of Jains , Sikhs, and Buddhists while the remaining 2 percent is made up of Christians of these, Seventh-Day Adventists make up a negligible percentage.

We are beautifully made, we reflect God's glory. "We have God-given, God preserved, God-restorable potential, a potential to be developed, disciplined, and invested in response to God. Such development discipline, and direction are the Christian's responsibilities and stewardship. To educate the whole person, to encourage disciplined learning and the quest

for excellence is a sacred trust. The Christian should give himself contagiously to looking around him to think the exploration of nature and to the transmission of cultural heritage, as well as teaching Christian beliefs and values. The educators task is to inspire and equip individuals to think and act for themselves."¹

Any student who walks through the portals of Adventist College should know and practice Christian values right from the point of student recruitment and admission through freshmen orientation into the various courses, the curriculum, chapel and extra-curricular activities. All the activities are focused in transmitting Christian values.

These Christian values that are being taught are like catalyst transforming ordinary students into extra ordinary ones. We have been given the promise, that He will give us power and strengthen us to guide us into truth.

EDUCATION IN INDIA

HISTORY AND RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND: The history of Indian education can be dated back to around 1,500 B.C. It is one of the oldest educational systems in the world, where the pupil stayed with the master, learned and worked.

Early Indian educational philosophy saw education as the means by which man could surmount his mundane experience and gain a vision of the absolute world spirit or Brahma. The aim of education was to aid the individual in liberating himself from the cycles of birth-death-rebirth. While this worldly often leads to mystical meditation, the ancient Indians also recognized the individuals' obligation to society. These social responsibilities were an integral part of the Hindu curriculum. Education was practical. Although rote memorization was valued even in the early days, a distinction was made between the wise men and the

¹ Arthur f. Holmes, The idea of a Christian College. (Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999), PP 15-16.

merely schooled one². Aristotle rightly said that man is a social being and education distinguishes man from animal.

Christian Education in India: Credit should be given to (British Government) that came to India with a missionary zeal to propagate Christianity to the native Indians.

Adventist Education:

Adventist Education in India can be traced back to 1904 in south India at a place called Nazareth. The school was started by a Missionary named as J.S. James, who remains to be the torch bearer to the entire Adventist community in India. Ironically the first teachers were non-Adventist. Gradually it spread all over India.

Adventist College:

In the year 1942, Seventh day Adventist Education entered into the city of surat, it started as a small church school which provided Adventist education to the mission hospital workers children. It had a humble beginning of 6 students in Church Vestry. The school began to grow and the church felt that the door should be opened to non-Adventist community. The Adventist philosophy of education had its impact on the city. In 58 years the enrollment has risen from just 6 students to more than 4,000. The school has distinction of being the largest in the Adventist Church in India. The school is also rated the best in the city of Surat.

In the city, most people want an Adventist Education the people come two days in advance in line and even sleep two nights on the road just to obtain the admission forms. Why do they do this? Simply because they are aware of the value of the Adventist education and the values that are reflected in the students.

The need arose to start a second Seventh Day Adventist college in India. In 1998 the "Adventist college" was opened. It is affiliated to the Southern Adventist University of

² Humayan Kabir, Indian Philosophy of Education (New York : Asia Publishing House, 1961), PP. 170-172.

Tennessee. The college offers a wide range of courses both in graduate and in under graduate.

The courses offered are

BBA

1. Management
2. Marketing
3. International Business
4. Computer Technology

M.A

1. Sociology
2. History
3. Economics
4. Political Science

M.B.A

1. Executive Management
2. Financial Management
3. Hospital Administration
4. Marketing Management
5. Personnel Management.

New courses are being offered in the coming Academic year commencing from June 2001,

They are

B.Sc

1. Nursing
2. Home science
3. Computer Science

Bachelor of Computer Application

Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Technology

Bachelor of Imaging and X-ray Technology

Bachelor of Medical records

Bachelor of Physio Therapy

VALUES

DEFINITION: According to Oxford dictionary, the word VALUE is defined as "that which is worthy of esteem for its own sake, that which has intrinsic meaning"

GENERAL MEANING: When we speak about values, we generally think about values such as love, co-operation, trust, acceptance, joy, dignity, respect for individual differences compromise, truth, understanding and reverence. These are the human values that must be taught in the classrooms wherever education goes on. Human values must be taught because they are the key to the survival of the species Homosapiens. Teaching human values is teaching survival skills³.

Certain values that one has learnt at home, school, and religious places of worship bind man. Robert and Isbel Hawley say, "In a society based on human values, mans most precious resource is his fellowman. If the school has a function for the future, it is to teach our young these human values, these survival skills⁴.

In order for man to live in peace and harmony within the society he has to attain and develop values.

HINDU VALUES:

The moral values of Hinduism and Christianity seems to be similar. It is difficult to differentiate it. It is easy to synchronize the values of both the religions.

³ Kenneth Eble, A Perfect Education , (New York: Mcmillan Company, 1966), p-3

⁴ Lobert C. Hawley, Isabel L. Hawley, Human Values, (New York: Hart Publishing Company, 1975), p.13

CHRISTIAN VALUES:

The Bible is the world's most powerful and life transforming book. The values found in it are innumerable (complete) The Christian views a human as a person who is totally dependent upon God and cannot achieve goodness by his own free will or intelligence. His goodness is due to the grace of God. Christian values are stated in the Golden Rule, "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the law of the prophets."⁵ Christians love their enemies, "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."⁶

Jesus also said, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesars and to God the things that are God's"⁷ But the true essence of the Scriptures expresses, "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."⁸

⁵ Matthew 7:12

⁶ Matthew 5:44

⁷ Matthew 22:21

⁸ Matthew 22:37

Christian Values are beautifully brought out in the love chapter of the Bible, which is found in I Corinthians 13.

I Corinthians 13	Values
Love is patient	Patient and Perseverance
Love is kind	Compassion and kindness
Love does not envy, love keeps no records of Wrong	Contentment and thankfulness
Love does not boast Love is not proud Love is not self seeking	Humility
Love is not rude	Respect
Love is not easily angered	Self control
Love does not delight in evil	Integrity and Honesty
Love rejoices with truth Love always trusts	Faith
Love always protects	Responsibility
Love always hopes	Assurance and Beliefs
Love always perseveres	Perseverance

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSMITTING VALUES

There are many factors responsible for transmitting values. According to a Gallup Survey, they had interviewed 48,000 youth and asked them, what influences the youth most. These were the answers.

1. Friends - 87%
2. Home - 51%
3. School - 45%
4. Music - 41%
5. T.V - 32%
6. Religion - 13%

These six factors play a very vital role in transmitting values. The mother is the first teacher that inculcates in the tender minds in building the character. As the children grow the influence of friends play a tremendous role. School is the gateway of knowledge and wisdom. A good education system breeds worthy students. Through the media of Television, internet and music the youth are attracted having endless thirst for violence, sex and disorders making the young minds loose their identity, In this fast growing computer age. It is surprising to a realize that religion is no more playing a key role in the lives of students. Where the creator is forgotten and creation is high lightened. Thus there is a need transmit Adventist education through our institutions.

TRANSMITTING VALUES AT ADVENTIST COLLEGE

It is imperative that we teach all subjects from a Christian perspective. A strong Christian values system will be of immeasurable worth to the college students. Christian values provide a sense of direction and purpose in life. Every course taught should be from a Christian world view. The mission of Adventist College is:

1. To provide the comprehensive and high quality education.
2. To enhance the spiritual growth of the students.
3. To prepare the students for superior academic scholarship

4. To instill in students, the values and doctrines of moral standards.
5. To make the student a responsible thinker.
6. To prepare a student to be successors of traditional and non traditional business firms as well as educational and medical ministries.
7. To prepare a student to serve God and man
8. To provide a clear vision and power to become creative and responsible citizens
9. To prepare the youth for leadership in the intellectual, civic and moral life of the country, so that they may be worthy citizens of the world.
10. To offer ethical values through instruction and to tell them who we are, why we are here, and where we are going

To prepare the young minds to be truthful and loyal to lift up the minds of the students to eternity. To have uniformity of purity of mind, purity of heart and purity of the body. To build stabilize character, that can be firm as a rock even in times of trials.

To build Christian foundation where there is search for truth, love, and to serve in this world, specially to serve the poor, serve every good cause that is for the common good, to serve with sacrifice of self in the midst of a selfish world, to serve always because it is in serving that we become free and maintain the universal standards of God. In other words we mould and fashion the students life to face the battle of life, which is a conflict of good and evil. In this materialistic world where the modern man has lost his sense of belonging on the threshold of confusion and chaos, its religion that brings him back to the path of light, that reflects radiance of Christ.

CHANNELS OF TRANSMITTING VALUES

1. CURRICULAR APPROACH:

Definition:- Curriculum can be defined as the entire body of courses offered in a teaching institution. Through the college curriculum, integration of faith and learning can be achieved.

Therefore it should be planned very prayerfully, because the destiny of the students is in its curriculum.

The curriculum should be composed of four dimension. In Luke 2:52 , it states that "Jesus Christ developed in four areas in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and Man." In essence every aspect in the Christian educational program must be Christ-centered, Bible based, student-related, and socially applied"⁹

	Spiritual	Intellectual	Physical	Social
Jesus Christ	Favor with God	Wisdom	Stature	Favor with Man
Metaphor	Heart	Head	Hand	Humanity

Figure, dimension of Christian Curriculum (Luke 2:52)

Contents of Curriculum:

The curriculum should be planned with the purpose of accomplishing the aims and objectives of education.

"Every human being created in the image of God is endowed with a power akin to that of the creator, individual power to think and to do. The man in whom this power is developed are the men who bear responsibilities, who are leaders in enterprise and who influence character. It is the work of true education to develop this power, to train the youth to be thinkers and not mere reflectors of other men's thought."¹⁰

⁹ John Wesley Taylor V, " A Biblical foundation for the integration of faith and learning." paper presented at 27th International faith and learning seminar, Muak Lek , ThaiLand , Dec 6 2000

¹⁰ White, E. G. Education . (California: Pacific Press, 1953).

Careful planning should be done in choosing the subjects. Unnecessary subjects should not be included.

" All unnecessary matters should be weeded from the course of study, and only such studies placed before the students as will be of real value to Him."¹¹

The curriculum should necessitate physical, mental and spiritual moral training, in order for man to be fitted to do service for God and uplift humanity. Ellen G. White says,

"True Education embraces physical, mental and moral training, in order that all the powers shall be fitted for the best development, to work for the uplifting of humanity."¹²

2. ROLE OF A TEACHER

If there is one single factor that plays a major role in integrating faith and learning, it is the teacher. "Teaching is not an insignificant, irrelevant, paper shuffling kind of a job. It has meaning worth and value. It gives you the opportunity to touch a young and impressionable life and make it better."¹³

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is recognized by many as the world's greatest teacher. There was compassion, kindness, power and life in His teachings. Ellen G. White says, " As the highest preparation of your work, I point you to the words, the life the methods of the Prince of Teachers. I bid you consider Him. Here is your ideal. Behold it, until the spirit of the divine Teacher shall take possession of your heart and life"¹⁴.

What a challenge is placed before the Adventist Teachers. Every single one should have Jesus Christ as their role model. Teachers are sharpening and directing the delicate minds of the youth.

¹¹ White, E. G. *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, (California: Pacific Press, 1946).

¹² White, E. G. *Fundamentals of Christian Education*. (Tennessee: Southern Publishing , 1923).

¹³ R. C. and I. C. Hawley , *Human Values*, (New York: Hart Publishing, 1975)

¹⁴ White, E. G. *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*. (California: Pacific Press, 1943)

It is very important and practical for the teachers to come down to the level of the students, the teachers should be able to be identified with the students. We are told that Jesus, "in teaching He came down to their level. He, the majesty of heaven, answered their questions and simplified His important lessons to meet their childish understanding."¹⁵

"The teacher is the key to a climate of learning. His teaching is His ministry. His enthusiasm about ideas, His scholarship, and the importance he places on teaching provide a model."¹⁶

While transmitting Christian values, the teacher should have focused aims. I suggest five aims of a teacher:

Aim1:

The teacher should attempt to develop the Christian Character in Himself and his students.

Aim2:

The teacher should try to reach the pedestal of excellence.

Aim3:

The teacher should motivate the students with noble principles to be valuable in the society.

Aim4:

The teacher should encourage the students to be civic minded. They should contribute to the peace and harmony of the society and be a blessing to the world at large. "It should be a

The teachers aim to prepare every youth under His care to be a blessing to the world"¹⁷

Aim5:

The teacher should direct the students life to the ultimate goal, which is eternal life.

"Train the youth, mould the character educate, educate the future immortal life."¹⁸

¹⁵ White, E. G, Education.(California: Pacific Press, 1952)

¹⁶ Arthur F. Holmes, The Idea of a Christian college. (Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company,1999)

¹⁷ White E.G., Counsels to Parent, Teachers and Students.(California: Pacific Press,1943).

¹⁸ White E. G, Testimonies for the Church, (California: Pacific Press,1948)

The teacher as a mentor. Many students are confused disoriented. They seem aimless in life when the world around the student is crumbling a good teacher seeks to arouse hope and aspiration in the youth and to make them realize their potential and possibilities.

If every Adventist teacher can become a mentor, many problems can be solved, and a christian atmosphere will prevail in the college campus.

3. INTEGRATION THROUGH THE CLASS ROOM

As we have seen earlier, moral or ethics classes should not be restricted to a single period, but rather through each and every course offered. Generally, the students view education as painful and boring, but the teacher should make the class inspiring and interesting. Each class should begin in delight and flourish in wonder.

The atmosphere in class room should be warm and friendly. The teacher should inculcate in them an attitude towards learning. In the classroom the teacher should make a very clear that through studies God should be honored.

4. CHAPEL SERVICE

The chapel service can be very interesting place and time where we can share our Christian values collectively. Clearly define, values should be placed before students, which allow them to reason, think and come to a decision. Doubts should be eliminated from the students mind. Topics that are popular and relevant should be addressed.

These topics can range from dating, marriage, sex, entertainment, drugs, sports, social issues, etc., Every chapel service should be conducted from a Christian point of view.

"A college chapel service that renews the vision and keeps things in focus is essential in cultivating a climate of faith and learning. It is the college community at worship cultivating

Christian devotion, dedicating all its activities to the glory of God, Seeking Biblical instructions that will guide its life and thoughts and reflecting on its God given Calling".¹⁹

Archbishop William Temple of England has described Christian worship beautifully, "Worship is to quicken the conscience by the Holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open up the heart to the love of god, to devote the will to the purpose of God."²⁰

God can be worshipped anywhere, because worship is the thing of the heart. It is the welcoming of God into our life. "We can create an atmosphere in which Christian worship can take place and make sure that the God we represent is a God of the Bible."²¹

CONCLUSION:

Transmitting these Christian values is a noble and fulfilling task. There is an euphoria of contentment and satisfaction that God's love was shared and multiplied.

"When these values permeates through the entire system of the college, then, the Christian education embraces the total sum of a man's activities: physical and spiritual, intellectual and moral, individual and domestic and social; not with the view to attenuating that activity, but in order to enable it, guide it, and perfect it according to the example and teaching of Jesus Christ."²²

¹⁹ Arthur F. Holms, *The Idea of a Christian College*. (Michigan : W.B. Eeramans Publishing Company, 1987), p- 84.

²⁰ Janet King, *Leading Worships in Schools*. (Suffolk: Monarch Publishing Ltd., 1990),p-29

²¹ Janet King , *Leading worships in schools*, (Suffolk: Monarch Publishing Ltd, 1990),p-30

²² W. F. Connell & R. L. Debas , *Readings in the foundation of Education* (Sydney, Ian Norak)

This has a deep impact in the lives exemplified by the students, faculty and staff then, " our self esteem is enhanced to the extent that we are clear about what our values are and then we act in accordance with them".²³

Christian values should remain distinctive , " In the world but not of the world, (John 17:15,16). It enables the students to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18). May our faith commitment affirm, "But as for me and my class room, as for me and my school, we will serve the Lord".²⁴

²³ J. Canfield & H. C. Wells, 100 ways to enhance self control in the classroom,(London: Allyn & Bacon , 1994)

²⁴ John Wesley Taylor V, " A Biblical foundation for the integration of faith and learning," paper presented at 27th International faith and learning seminar, Muak Lek , ThaiLand , Dec 6 2000

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