

Human To Humane



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My eyes opened with the first ray of the sun, peeping through the French window of my house! The morning was muggy. Little did I know then that the day ahead would be so pleasant and memorable? I got the invitation to participate in an educational

conference being organised in Bangalore by *EduEnlight*. It was immense joy meeting Justice N Santosh Hegde, the former Lokayukta of Karnataka. He was invited to the event as the Chief Guest. In his address, he was rather succinct in underling only two points—human greed and contentment. He shared a couple of examples just to highlight the demise of humanism in humans and the debauchery of mankind.

Two of the stories that he narrated based on his hands-on experience were pointers to the total collapse of values, ethics and morality in Indian society. The protagonist of his stories—an MBBS doctor serving in a government hospital was too obsessed with money, forgetting not only the professional ethics but also all basic human values like love, compassion and care. The moot question, however, remains: the said doctor being the product of our society and our own education system, can we as responsible citizens and all other stake holders such as parents, teachers, principals, curriculum experts and the honorable Minister for Education be spared the blame? It was a fruitful day for me no doubt but I have been restless ever since. The issue raised by the erudite Justice Hegde is too serious. We need to revisit core societal values. The values that our education system is inculcating among the young learners must also come under the scanner. There are fundamental questions that need to be answered. Are we humans getting denuded of humanism? Is it a global phenomenon or just an Indian reality? Are we, as society on the brink of moral bankruptcy? Is the ongoing decadence of human values and ethics turning out to be a new reality? Is the Indian society failing to groom new generation to meet their aspirations and challenges of the time? Is there not an urgent need to redesign our school curriculum to address these vital issues? Or can we still say that all the ills and malaise associated with the present education system is a gift of the British Raj and they must apologise to India? How long can we pass the buck?

Where is the way forward? Let us be clear about one thing. That, it is a divine bliss to be born human but to remain human is the real challenge! Humankind is by far the most superior creature on the earth. But that supremacy is at stake today, as never before. Human is not human just because of the human instinct for survival against odds and ordeals. It is more for being humane. Human society feeds on certain values. Education is the proven tool for nourishing and nurturing those core values. Today, education appears to be in a state of disarray, waiting to be resurrected. It has to rekindle a new spirit. That spirit will be born when we shun our greed and grow graceful. Education ought to be a catalyst for that inner awakening. Only then, will individual soul be one with the universal soul and every human will stand out for being humane!