Factors of Ethical Decline and Religious Measures to Overcome

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Abstract

This article aims to investigate the causes and factors involved in the moral decline of youth and its solution in the light of Islamic teachings. It is generally observed that the students studying at various education levels, especially undergraduate students of universities are seriously lacking in moral values and their ethical conduct is not satisfactory. Research shows that factors of bad conduct include, less emphasis on the moral conduct of students at secondary and higher secondary levels, lack of parent's interest in building their children's attitude and least efforts by the religious scholars and government institutions in morale building. To preserve a nation on its Culture and Values, character building is one of its important aspects, based on religious norms and principles. Positive building constructs approach to promote behavioral, social, emotional, and moral competence and raises spirituality, self-efficiency, loyalty, confidence, identity, and prosaically norms. The findings of this research highlight that there is a correlation between the ethical conduct of students and their university environment, which brings changes in human personality and character development. Social illnesses and moral deterioration are rooted in the behavior of the students, which they usually acquire from the home and university environment.

Keywords: *factors, moral decline, ethical nourishment, guideline, islamic approach*

Introduction

Moral qualities and generosity were common in the young generation. At the time of adolescent youth learn, politeness, thought fullness, goodness, respectability, trustworthiness as well as they learn about to had enough self-control. With time, youth face tremendous difficulties. Things are not that they use to teach, respect to the love of senior citizens and established specialists, fornication, distress, insecurity, stability, and others. It is fundamental to understand the risk capable of reducing moral standards in the public. Ethical features are the main part of every individual's life. Ethical deteriorations are the primary means of upbringing social disorders.

Moral Deterioration

According to the Oxford Dictionary, Moral degradation means:

"The state or process of being or becoming degenerate, decline or deterioration"[1]

In Merriam-Webster, moral degradation is defined as:

"The act of treating someone or something poorly and without respect"[2]

To summarize, moral deterioration refers to the state or act of behaving in a bad manner. The youth should be adorned with self-control and good conduct to remove the causes of moral deterioration and ethical degradation.

Moral Deterioration in the Universities

In any society, moral values are of great importance; whereas its deterioration causes the decay of the whole society or nation. It is observed that violence self-centeredness, dishonesty, bullying, and rudeness have increased immensely in societies worldwide. Researches show that youth are less care about moral and ethical values. Family-based moral values are essential for developing ethics in society to enhance family integration. Anangisye (2010) and Mngarah (2008) concluded that:

"policy intentions on the promotion of moral and ethical values are not in harmony with what is actually implemented in schools and colleges. Although moral and ethical issues have been included in the general studies' syllabus and teaching of the same is done, many students graduate with a lot of moral and ethical deficiencies."[3]

Causes of Moral Deterioration:

There are many causes of ethical deterioration in the universities whereas following causes play key roles in the moral deterioration of the society:

Family Background

The parents' behavior and guidance play an effective role in the development of youth. The parents' attitude and actions affect the moral values and help in the improvement of youth conduct in society. In today's world, parents are more concerned about their youngsters' scholastic accomplishments than social, customary, and moral qualities. Ted (2006) explains that:

> *"Parents should become the child's idols, best friends, and motivators who can implant moral principles in children but now a day's parents are blamed and the moral decay of our youth nowadays when they fail to play their roles well. Workaholic parents, parents who fail to discipline their youngsters as well as parents who give less emotional attention to the children are the argues for rising up spoilt teens."[4]*

Mostly, working parents do not pay attention to their youth, which results in the moral deterioration of youth. The parents are responsible to bring moral defects and ethical problems among youth. In the present situation, parental control over their youngsters diminishing day by day, this results in self-governance of youth. Subsequently, the youth are being redirected and guided by outside environment nightclubs, bad friends, and undesirable dialogues. Therefore, the communication gap between parents and children is the basic reason of moral decay and degradation.

Communication Gap:

Ethics are based on family, society, culture, social characteristics, and so on. The person who can't learn the moral values in youth wouldn't have the capacity to learn in entire life. Working parents neglect their children and they pay less attention to train them because of their jobs and /work duties. The communication gap rises due to parents' tough job schedules and other work activities. Youth depends on the way that meets the general standards of the public.[5] Especially due to some social elements, many families are ethically backward. In recent decades, it is assumed that moral values are declined with time.

Influence of Broad Communications:

Usually, parents neglect their youngsters' moral education. The youth directly exposed to Television, print media, websites, online sources, silver screens, and other electronic media. These sources are assumed as an essential part of forming the identity of youth and adolescents. Addler, Baranowski, Kalin, Lallatin, Smiley (2003) explains that:

> *"There are some factors that influence the negative and unethical behavior in youth; numerous media, pictures, motion pictures and recreations that*

kill brutality as well as regularly extol it. "[6]

Defective Education System:

The absence of an appropriate instructional framework is basic components from which our future generation can learn distinctive qualities legitimately. The defective education system is a cause of ethical deterioration because in this system students just get the degree rather than to improve their personality.

Absence of ethical values in the syllabus:

The present training framework has not understood to calculate the ethical features within them. In the current framework, understanding has been made to improve the knowledge it is an incorrect idea of our current instruction framework. The current academic curriculum is not able to keep our minds about our good qualities rather than ages.

Lacking extracurricular activities based on moral values:

Academic and non-academic activities are incredible to understand moral values. As it may be, now the extra curriculum is limited to sports, artistic rallies, quizzes, barely entertaining, moving, or gulf opportunities. Earlier events, applications, intellectual work, social issues discussed and other social exercises have been terminated. Today, there is a chance of the birth of our country's legends. Instructors and students must avoid the exchange of points and if the open level is discussed on such things, people are more centered to understand the real significance or ethics of the dialog.[7]

Factors Affecting the Universities

Following are the factors affecting the moral values of students in the universities:

Individual Factors

Financial Changes:

The economy is moving at such a high speed to materialism. Skilled persons advise socially different products, additional skills in the form. In such a bad environment, it is not surprising that the youth do not have to maintain high needs and individual standards. The practical standard is the reason for the unusual action of students related to standard issues due to the unusual state of mind and immoral behavior.

Friends and Groups:

Friends and groups are considered an integral part of the life of standard quality. In schools and universities, every individual has their groups and friends. They share their thoughts and arguments. The point is

that friends have significant moral values that may be overlap with others, but it is a fact that the peer group is an excellent way to learn ethical values.

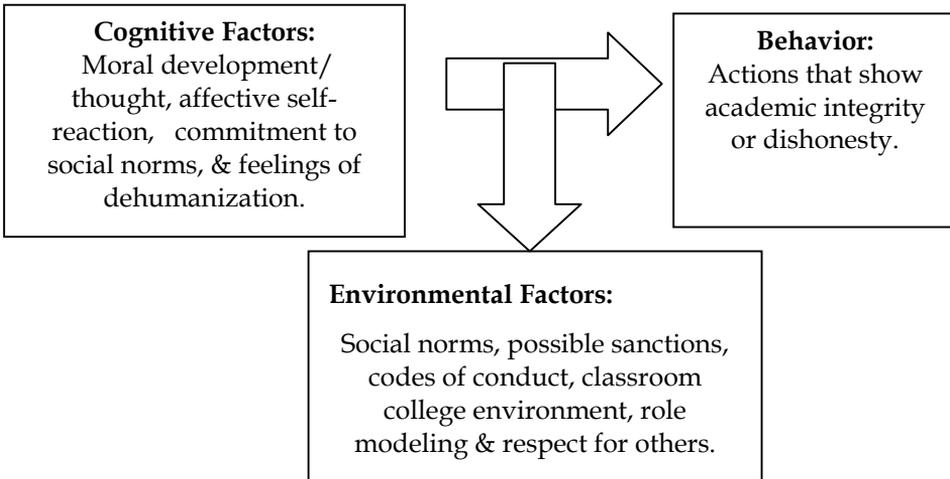**The willingness of Self-Presentation:**

Adolescence is a period when youth start to examine issues, create see focuses, legitimize, and question the present state of affairs, and battle to build up an identity of their own. Individuals want of self-display, frequently takes an adolescent towards wrongdoing and indecent conduct like smoking, drinking, conveying manhandling words, quarreling, sex mishandle, and so forth.

Political Parties:

The majority of the political gatherings tend to catch youthful age for utilizing them for serving their particular intrigue. All the political gatherings are indulged in diverse developments with the affirmation of business and various eagerness and guarantees. Being propelled by those, the youthful age is in effect unfavorably influenced and the public is being dirtied by an unsteady circumstance. There are students' associations in schools and colleges, which make the students, drew in additional in deceptive exercises. For example, hitting instructors if they bombed in examinations, making strikes for satisfying their pointless requests bringing about crumbling of moral and good norms of the public.

Social Factors

Numerous ways can help students in moral conduct. One less perceived hypothesis was created by Bandura (1991a, 1991b) called the "Social Cognitive Theory of Moral Thought and Action." This hypothesis can help clarify the numerous factors that influence youth activities. In characterizing this hypothesis, it is clarifying that activity is influenced by subjective and natural components. Psychological procedures incorporate scholarly and good formative levels, response to circumstances, and social standards (1991a). It is supposed that these elements have impacted our explanation of our surroundings. At the end of the day, we make our particular significance of the world relying upon our capacity to reason and past encounters. From this hypothesis, it appears to be obvious that the passionate associations between people are a critical variable in deciding conduct. In this manner, one can induce that when people trust that conditions are close to home and inviting, they carry more competently socially. Affiliations are basic, yet so are social principles and part exhibiting concurring. It prescribes that these two factors likewise emphatically influence conduct since individuals seek others for course on the proper behaves.[8]

Cognitive Factors:
Moral development/ thought, affective self-reaction, commitment to social norms, & feelings of dehumanization.

Behavior:
Actions that show academic integrity or dishonesty.

Environmental Factors:

Social norms, possible sanctions, codes of conduct, classroom college environment, role modeling & respect for others.

These models can be effortlessly connected to higher instructive settings. One can see that as far as scholarly genuineness, the subjective variables of good thinking and insight are critical. These individual factors influence youth impression of their surroundings, including their point of view having a place and variances. As indicated by this hypothesis, social standards and students indulge in them additionally influence in deciding how they carry on at school. Social standards might be to some extent set through the execution of implicit rules and activities of personnel, directors, students' undertakings experts.[9]

Environmental Factors

The earth influences the general population, or clients, that associate with it; this is particularly valid in youngsters who are unsafe to the impacts of their environment. The physical condition in the preschool setting affects a student's conduct. As indicated by Isbell and Exelby, the earth is a great pointer of how youngsters should react or act. Room course of action and materials figure out where students concentrate. Youngsters learn thorough investigation and examination of their environment. A learning condition must be necessary, energizing, and a place where a youngster can learn. The vast majority of the qualities in the physical setting can affect the way the inhabitants carry on and on their emotional wellness. This incorporates the connection with the earth, which helps youngsters in their improvement. How youngsters collaborate with their condition and its inhabitants should impact the plan of items and exercises in the space. In an ongoing report, children were offered in front of different types of roof length and shading. They felt that the adjustment of the roof of the ceiling was fundamentally changed by the children's behavior this investigation shows that progressions made to the physical setting may affect children's attitudes. It was found that the changes in the general association of the room were positive in the sense

of the room; thus, the positive behavior in youth has increased.

Cultural Factors

Some examinations have tried to show the effect of social factors on the development of people's identity, that they recognize that people's identity can influence the development of similar social order. At the individual level, social status will affect the Archives Map, through the administrative mental method (for example, on the move towards encouragement). Identify characteristics more than cultural assets. For example, the neurotoxic minimum is the minimum, and the additional version is included.

At the level of culture, overall identification characteristics or moral values (every culture or country means respect) have been identified with some social elements or to establish factors, for example, the overall national identity, geographical boundaries, and freedom. The general level National investigations have been linked to obstacles in some investigations. It is suggested that people, in particular, have difficulty in troubling financial arrangements and will continue to search after their goals, while in different examinations, national success. Similarly, the general identification profile of social aggregation and ethical deterioration has been identified with geographical restrictions (for example, scope). Besides, at large, those who live far beyond equality are more and less honest.

For a long time, unusual investigations have shown that the geographical and truly relatively comparative society is associated with identifiable profiles. Western society is usually open to engaging in functions and actions related to African and Asian society, which are more pleasant, more honest. Another way to consider the identity of the culture is to consider national character. It is usually shared widely on what is more, which is influenced by the environment and national affairs. Meanwhile, they are unsatisfactory with total identification features; with lines, they are uninterrupted.[10]

Teacher's Role in the Development of Moral Values

Teachers play an important role in the development of students' morals and values. Oladipo (2009) and Paul (1993) explain that:

"Scholars, especially educational psychologists acknowledge that children are born with certain innate endowments but not ethics or morals. This implies that children learn morals from their immediate environments in which they are brought up. It is the duty of teachers, parents, and other close relatives to ensure that children are morally upright."[11]

For the improvement of student behavior, it is necessary to use the

different layered schemes and models that are divided into five different phases. These phases not only show the progress but also enhance to bring the change in student attitude in the universities. These phases are a dynamic and persistent process that takes into consideration and students focused approach that can adjust and change, as the students' conduct needs change. These five stages are helpful to bring the change.

Tracking

The way to enhance students' conduct begins with the students and instructor in the classroom. The instructors require a steady strategy to watch and distinguish conduct in the classroom and afterward an easy to use approach to record and report it. Frank. B. Cross (2011) explains that:

> *"Students can also easily generate reasons to act unethically, but these are all patently selfish rather than noble, short term rather than the long term, shallow rather than thoughtful, and overall unattractive and often repellent. But there are many positive reasons to act ethically as well. Students seem to have a good sense that ethical actions breed trust and that trust in a society is a key to economic growth"*[12]

Through the gathering of significant data, educators can decide specifics of the issue conduct and the conditions that incite and fortify it about the classroom. Following practices, their recurrence and their force overtime, are the building squares to an effective social arrangement.

Summative

Once a classroom following strategy is set up, the overall image of wise behavior can be understood by the information and data. A successful conduct administration will be eliminated by setting up social information in a managed database. Everyday collaborations and perceptions followed by the educator can be classified and condensed for use by instructors, executives, and other schoolwork force. That makes it straight forward for educators and managers to get to what's the more, by examining the advertising, including key markers, for example, events of unique episodes, particular social destinations, and rates of consideration. [13]

Examine

After following and collecting the social information and data, the instructor can build up an unmistakable profile of the students' conduct. With a sensible and proof-based image of the issues inside the setting of the classroom, the educator can better comprehend the students and their basic issues that result in poor conduct. At that point, the educator can break down the data with a specific end goal to create and include the positive help that can be utilized to encourage the youth to enhance conduct.[14]

Intervene

Using information-rich investigations of student's attitudes, organizing management can make important data. Brown-Chidsey and Steege (2005) research intervening the ethical behavior of students and describes:

"An invaluable behavioral solution system endows teachers with strategies that allow them to meet and address behavioral challenges and facilitate and sustain improvement in their students. This process includes meaningful interventions, appropriate behaviors, and adaptive skills that students can use to replace poor behaviors."[15]

An unusual archive management framework has helped the teachers with methodologies that enable them to meet and address behavioral challenges and encourage and support change in their students' attitudes. This procedure incorporates significant mediations, proper practices, and versatile abilities that students can use to provide poor methods. These arrangements should be kept with school and conventions; however, it is quite applicable to understand and customize the students' needs and enough for their requirements.

Converse:

To increase the collection of every classroom feature by daily schedule from the classroom, they manage the information and should be in the way to enhance the positive change. The basic framework strengthens the methods for discussion that are considered in all classes, schools, universities, and homes. It provides the methods for understanding the same page and it allows intellectual, education, teachers, managers, and guardians for management and improvement in behavior.[16] These are the five steps that improve the student's behavior animated the feature, successfully identifying and recognizing the problems in the classroom and managed it. It means it a non-therapeutic procedure to maintain the ethical values and to improve it in, students. As information is collected and criticized educators, managers and guardians, with positive endurance with a special end. The students can be motivated toward moral values.

Institutional Environment and Moral Development:

It is the responsibility of the institution, to promote methods and approaches, decisions, and choices for ethical values, which may affect masses daily. Any organization can change the processes of the people through environmental changes, describe the importance of good character in the work environment, and can identify.[17] The following points describe the importance of the institutional environment in moral values:

Internal Communication:

To use internal discussion channels, a well-lost condition is to indicate the positive behavior in the working environment and by promoting volunteering through the network, and coaching, e.g., through (a) Internal pamphlet, (b) Ethical informative blurbs in containers and entertainment rooms, (c) Mailers (d) Electronic sends.

Outside Communication:

Concerning understanding the teachers and others, to convey messages about intentional roles and ethics. For example;

a) Make sure that you cannot weaken the construction of any of your procedures for the education and education process.
b) Include positive messages on a basic level of the framework.
c) Check the character that may be weak in the guideline to improve the quality.

Network Outreach:

a) Use open effort structures to empower coaching and other character-building programs.
b) Encourage instructive and youth associations to wind up dynamic in character building.
c) Use corporate impact to energize (assemblies of trade, conference, boards, classes, gatherings, workshops, addresses) and different organizations to help character building.[18]

Morale Deterioration: A Solution in the light of Islamic Teachings:

The history of the world has never seen the period won a legitimate sense of deeper quality. Only extends about 13 years of Islamic history, where the Prophet (ﷺ) established public in Madina, which can be considered perfect and example for the world.

"وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَى خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ"[19]

"And undoubtedly, you possess excellent manners"

The Prophet (ﷺ) presented a good example among them. The Quran picked it up as one of the roles. Ground quality is that man has to manage and decide directly with human instruction.

It is not the one-day snapshot certificate, it is certified when a person is not being caught with something or thinking. This is a routine procedure that goes through everyone's life. The inquiry chain continues when the accuracy of movement is compromised, right, or non-foundation. It has been identified with moral standards and Muslims to find the direction to decide their

leadership.

After the Qur'ān, the life of the Prophet is the best source of guidance. While explaining on everlasting verities he all the while exemplified through his character and behaviors direct. His life is loaded with such episodes, where he anticipates an appropriate feeling of ethical quality.

"مَّنْ يُطِعِ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ وَمَن تَوَلَّىٰ فَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ عَلَيْهِمْ حَفِيظًا"[20]

"*He who obeys the Messenger thereby obeys Allah; as for he who turns away, we have not sent you as a keeper over them.*"

Indeed, his opponents admitted that his ethics were very good. There are cases of their thoughts for human benefit, the work of generosity, their words for morality, their respect to calm support, and the brightness cases for everyone to copy their prayers for human salvation.[21]

Despite such a wonderful lesson, our common public is an extraordinarily powerful, today it shows the overall condition of goodness; it is facing various problems, however, the most severe condemnation at every level is moral corruption. Unfortunately, good ideas can be seen in businesses, workshops, manufacturers, plants, and open places, where people are involved most extraordinarily. Most likely, it would be for all accounts, individual, insight, and maximum purpose-based investment, impact, and economic prosperity. The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

"إِنَّ الرِّفْقَ لَا يَكُونُ فِي شَيْءٍ إِلَّا زَانَهُ، وَلَا يُنْزَعُ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إِلَّا شَانَهُ"[22]

"*The item which makes it soft, it becomes adorned and it becomes defective from the item that is removed.*"

At the national level, many open organizations have ignored good models. Universally, we face an unusual situation, so non-governmental organizations gave us the last step. Some have labeled us as scary or difficult. While facing foreigners, (Pakistanis are faced by foreigners) the fact is that there is a problem in the present situation, yet no one should have a challenge. The Prophet (ﷺ) help us to solve these problems in this way:

"إِنَّكُم لَن تَسَعُوا النَّاسَ بِأَمْوَالِكُم وَلٰكِن يَّسَعُهُم مِنكُم بَسْطَ الوَجهِ"[23]

"*You cannot save people's hearts from your wealth, but you can make their hearts happy with your happy and pleasant love*".

The Quran says that Allah changes not the state of a country unless it changes itself.

"لَهُ مُعَقِّبَاتٌ مِنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ يَحْفَظُونَهُ مِنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّى يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ وَإِذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِقَوْمٍ سُوءًا فَلَا مَرَدَّ لَهُ وَمَا هُمْ مِنْ دُونِهِ مِنْ وَالٍ"[24]

"For each one is successive [angels] before and behind him who protect him by the decree of Allah. Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves. And when Allah intends for a people ill, there is no repelling it. And there is not for them besides Him any patron."

The Qur'ān creates a moral course. However, part 17 specifically provides obedience that can be followed by material life, through which one person and society can clean the colors of their enemies. This lesson is the only reason for making a moral society. Allah explains that:

"رَبُّكُمْ اَعْلَمُ بِمَا فِيْ نُفُوْسِكُمْ ؕ اِنْ تَكُوْنُوْا صَالِحِيْنَ فَاِنَّه كَانَ لِلْاَوَّابِيْنَ غَفُوْرًا"[25]

"Your Lord knows well what is in your hearts, if you be righteous, then no doubt. He is forgiving to those who repent."

The desire of a slave is gaining less contact with Allah. Allah the Almighty says in the Qur'ān:

"فَخَلَفَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ خَلْفٌ اَضَاعُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَاتَّبَعُوا الشَّهَوَاتِ ۖ فَسَوْفَ يَلْقَوْنَ غَيًّا"[26]

"After that, those who came, they lost their prayers and started walking on their faces, so they would certainly be punished for error."

Conclusion

The findings of this research highlight that there is a correlation between the ethical conduct of students and their university environment, which brings changes in human personality and character development. Social illnesses and moral deterioration are rooted in the behavior of the students, which they usually acquire from the home and university environment. The purpose of this research was to provide students an opportunity to develop themselves in their ethical conduct and moral values by practicing certain modules and instructions.

We can't change society and profoundly settled in social states of mind overnight yet we should predict and design our future society at present and ask ourselves what will be our general public in the year 2036, for example, quite a while from now when a radical new age will have grown up. To recognize and acknowledge individual qualities, human beings must take their parts and desires and develop themselves, based on the belief of Islam under the umbrella of Islam.[27]

It might be a tough assignment, however, it should be tried, but it could be done with the help and support of the scholars of Islamic Studies. They should be firm with a dedicated soul to train the students' character to shape an ideal future society free from misuse, corruption, fraud, and arrogance. In this way, it is important to work that man is suitable for

developing emotions and self-esteem, and then he will have the ability to work until he is flexible with external weight. Hopefully, this research would help improve the ethics of the students at the university level and developing them with strong moral values and social norms. It is believed that this research would be a door opener for future research

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