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**MORAL EDUCATION AS A FUNDAMENTAL FOUNDATION FOR  
TODAY'S YOUTH****Le Ba Thuong****(Bhikkhu Thich Minh Duc)****Ph.D. Research Scholar , Department of Buddhist Studies ,  
Acharya Nagarjuna University,  
Nagarjuna Nagar, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India.****ABSTRACT**

*In the context of modern society undergoing significant changes in culture, values, and behavioral norms, moral education plays a central role in shaping personality and guiding the behavior of young people. This article analyzes the crucial role of moral education, examines the current situation, identifies emerging challenges, and proposes solutions to improve the effectiveness of moral education in families, schools, and society.*

**KEYWORDS:** Moral education, youth morality, ethical values, globalization.

**INTRODUCTION**

Youth is a key force that determines the future of a nation. A generation of young people strong in intellect, ethics, and character forms the foundation for sustainable national development. Among these factors, morality plays a fundamental role, shaping personality, lifestyle, thinking, and behavior. Therefore, moral education is not only the responsibility of schools but also a mission shared by families and society as a whole.

However, under the strong influence of globalization, the rapid development of information technology and social media, and pressures stemming from materialistic lifestyles, many young people are experiencing a moral value crisis. This article aims to clarify the essential role of moral education, analyze the current situation, and propose concrete solutions to foster ethical development among today's youth.

**1. The Role of Moral Education for Young People**

Morality is a system of behavioral standards that helps individuals distinguish between right and wrong, good and evil, fairness and injustice. Teaching morality from an early age helps young people develop a well-rounded personality, live responsibly, act with compassion, and respect others.

In modern society, where traditional norms are gradually being eroded, preserving and promoting moral values is more necessary than ever. A morally upright young person will grow into a good citizen, an honest worker, a trustworthy friend, and a valuable member of society.

Moral education helps the youth build character, gain self-awareness, and adjust their behavior. It prevents them from being swept into negative lifestyles such as school violence, social media addiction, extreme individualism, academic dishonesty, and social vices.

When young people have a strong moral foundation, they can face challenges with calmness and integrity, avoiding unethical shortcuts to success. This is a vital key to protecting both individuals and society from ethical crises.

A developed society is not based on economic growth alone but also requires citizens who live for the community, take responsibility for the environment, and care about future generations. Moral education is the basis for building a civilized, fair, stable, and sustainable society. From one virtuous individual, a strong collective is formed, leading to a powerful nation.

## 2. The Current State of Moral Education for Youth

In recent years, moral education has received increased attention in both general and higher education curricula. Many experiential activities, life skills programs, and extracurricular projects focused on values, patriotism, and environmental protection have been widely implemented. Campaigns such as "Say No to School Violence," "Study and Follow President Ho Chi Minh's Moral Example," and "Volunteer Youth" have helped awaken humanistic values and a sense of community responsibility among young people. Furthermore, a portion of youth actively seek positive values, participate in charity work, preserve traditional culture, and behave respectfully within families and society.

**Despite some promising signs, moral education among youth still faces numerous limitations:**

**Lack of Depth:** Many moral education programs are superficial and fail to touch students' inner selves. Teaching remains overly theoretical, lacking real-life scenarios for students to experience and act upon.

**Influence of Social Media and Mass Media:** Harmful and culturally inappropriate content on platforms such as YouTube, TikTok, and others is infiltrating young people's lives. Unethical social media influencers are often glorified, distorting young people's perception of value.

**Lack of Family Attention:** In many families, moral education is underestimated. Parents are too busy or delegate responsibility to schools. Some even prioritize academic achievement over moral development.

**Negative Impact of a Materialistic Society:** When material wealth is overly emphasized, some youths are willing to compromise ethical values to achieve goals, leading to dishonesty, the pursuit of success at all costs, and apathy toward the community.

## 3. Causes Behind the Decline in Youth Morality

The family is the first school that shapes human character. However, today, many parents lack parenting skills, adopt authoritarian methods, or are overly permissive. Divorce, domestic violence, and the weakening of intergenerational bonds have led many young people to grow up in environments lacking love and discipline.

Although ethics is a mandatory subject in general education, in many places it is taught in a perfunctory manner. Moral assessments often rely on subjective criteria and are disconnected from real-life situations. Teachers are often not thoroughly trained in value-based education, making it difficult to inspire students.

Mass media, particularly social media, have a profound influence on youth perceptions and behavior. Images of violence, hatred, and materialism are widely spread, while positive role models and messages are scarce.

## 4. Solutions to Improve the Effectiveness of Moral Education

- Integrate life values and life skills education into core curricula and extracurricular activities.
- Apply positive education methods: encourage students to express their views, discuss ethical scenarios, and practice moral behaviors in school and real life.
- Honor exemplary individuals and good deeds to inspire students.

- Enhance the role of homeroom teachers and ethics instructors in guiding student development and monitoring moral progress.
- Parents must lead by example through speech, behavior, and conduct in daily life.
- Dedicate quality time to raising children, engage in conversations, listen, and accompany them in life.
- Encourage participation in volunteer activities, focusing on hands-on experiences instead of theoretical instruction.
- Media organizations should produce content that is educational, humanistic, and appealing to youth psychology.
- Develop community media campaigns to promote virtuous lifestyles and highlight exemplary young individuals.
- Establish filtering systems to block harmful online content, while equipping youth with "information immunity" skills.
- Religious organizations such as Buddhism, Christianity, and others can organize life skills, ethics, and meditation classes to nurture moral development among adolescents.
- Youth clubs and local organizations should boost educational activities tied to traditional culture, instilling national pride and love for the homeland.

## CONCLUSION

Moral education is not merely a component of the educational system—it is the cornerstone of comprehensive human development. In today's context, where young people face numerous challenges regarding values and societal pressure, investing seriously and holistically in moral education is a critical necessity. Families, schools, and society must collaborate to create a humane, compassionate living environment so that every young person has the opportunity to become a useful, virtuous citizen who lives meaningfully, with ideals and responsibility.

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