

Rhythm of Life

A textbook on value education



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Teachers-copy

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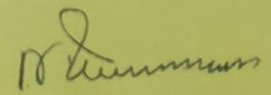
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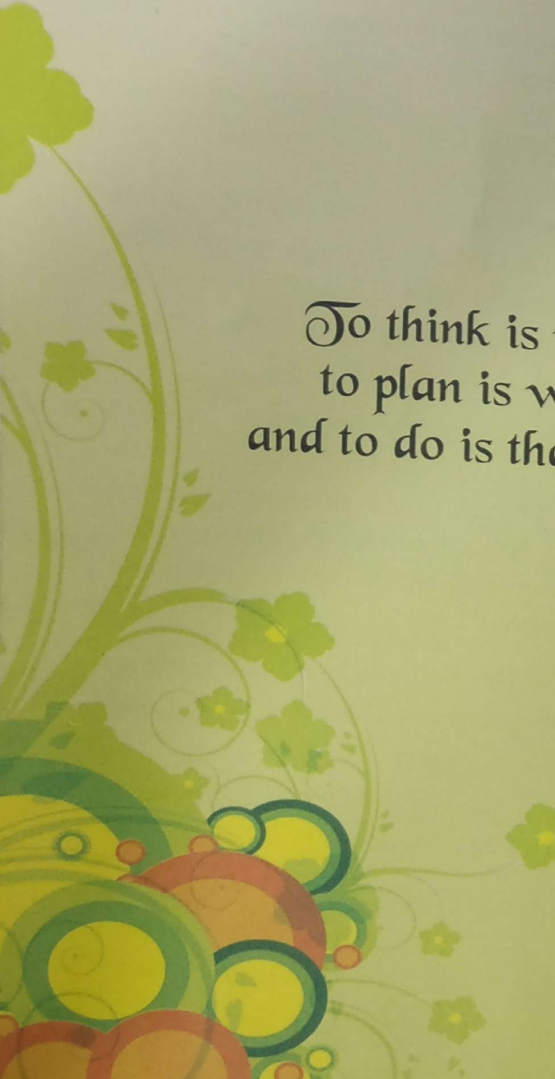
Knowledge by itself has its limitations. Only when it matures into wisdom, it becomes boundless, benefitting the whole universe. Though the idea of “Value Education” seems out of place, never is it more necessary than in the present times.

The mission of our University is not only to give rise to scientists and technologists with expertise in their respective fields, but also to help them become wholesome human beings. This is possible only when they can strike a fine balance between their personal, social, professional, moral and spiritual aspects (beings).

Aptly named, *RHYTHM OF LIFE*, this book on “value education”, aids the learners to live in resonance with the music of humanity.

I congratulate the HoD and the faculty of the Department of English and Foreign Languages on their laudable effort in bringing out this book.


(Prof. N. Sethuraman)



To think is wise,
to plan is wiser
and to do is the wisest

PREFACE

"Education is the manifestation
of perfection already within man."

-Swami Vivekananda

This book is an attempt to help the students follow the great man's footsteps and bring out the perfection within them. Man often tends to ignore his inner self and splits himself into different personalities and this has resulted in the creation of man as a 'political animal' (Aristotle), 'biological animal' (Freud), 'tool making animal' (Benjamin Franklin) or 'economic animal' (Alvin Toffler), in his pursuit of happiness. He is "distracted from distraction by distraction" (T.S. Eliot). The humdrum nature of man's existence has drowned out the music and rhythm of life.

Honing the analytical abilities and technical skills of students has become the goal of engineering education. However, this has led to a total neglect of the intuitive, imaginative and humane side of the youth of today. Technology, thus, ends up as a tool of division and destruction in the hands of misguided individuals. Values are required to provide a balance in life. However, as Kant says, "Values without reason would be blind, without feeling would be impotent and without deeds would be empty".

This book of abiding values, *Rhythm of Life*, we hope, will add a spring to the steps of our students in the chosen paths of their lives.

Life Satisfaction Activities

"Live life at that particular moment rather than worry about the past, present and future."

"Know how to enjoy every moment."

"See the brighter side of every moment, which would make a person's life extremely relaxed and happy."

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UNIT I

UNIT I

INTRODUCTION

Values are to a human being as fragrance is to flowers. Values can be defined as qualities or traits that enhance the personality of a human being. Human values are those higher human qualities which help human beings transcend the limitations of biological existence.

They make us rise above the normal pull of selfishness, lust, greed, anger, sense enjoyment, fear and frustration, which are common in a purely biological life thriving on a sensate, individualistic and consumerist culture.

The seers of Vedic age experienced that man is basically divine, and the goal of human life is to attain this divinity through a value based life. These values are inculcated in or imbibed by a child from his home, the society he lives in and the educational institutions he attends.

In spite of the scientific and material advancements of the present day, we also witness an erosion of values resulting in misery all around the world. Growing incidents of planned killings in schools and indulgence of young boys into drugs in various countries show the dark aspects of the modern world meant primarily for physical pleasure, individualistic success and selfish wealth generation in external life. The degeneration is not sudden; it is a process of long years. The UNESCO report says, "Malaise of the

young is due mainly to their own elders who are daily flouting ethical values the young cherish in their hearts."

The terror attack on the World Trade Centre, New York on 11 September, 2001 and the attack at the Hotel Taj, Mumbai on 26 November, 2008 are some instances where thousands of people were killed due to the thoughtless actions of some misguided people. Incidents such as the notorious hacking of confidential websites by an IIT-ian in Mumbai only prove that "education" does not necessarily involve the imbibing of values.

For right actions what is needed is assimilation of ideas and not a mere intellectual understanding of ideas. Therefore Swami Vivekananda said, "If you have assimilated five ideas and made them your life and character, you have more education than any man who has got by heart a whole library. If education were identical with information, the libraries would be the greatest sages."

Wars are being fought in different parts of the world with every country vying to be the superpower. Racial attacks are on the increase, as is evident in the recent happenings in Australia. Coups and terrorist activities have rendered hundreds of people hungry and homeless.

This poses some serious questions

FOR DISCUSSION

Is the human race progressing or regressing?
Can something be done to rectify the situation?

Can we contribute in some way to help make the world a happier place to live in?

TYPES OF VALUES

The dictionary meaning of 'value' is 'that which is worthy of esteem for its own sake'. Books on moral philosophy define it as 'a belief that a specific mode of conduct or objective is personally or socially desirable'. Hume feels that value judgments are based on human nature, sympathy or selfishness.

Different perspectives of 'values' or 'value' lead to classification of values. Classification can be made as ultimate, ideal values and mundane, operational values. It can be in the form of absolute and instrumental values. Some classify values as self-oriented values and group-oriented values. Classification of values can be made by their content or source: aesthetic, economic, political, moral and spiritual. Values can also be classified as positive or negative. Freedom and nonviolence can be considered as positive values whereas slavery and violence can be considered as negative values.

The future of the world rests in the hands of our young citizens and tomorrow can be a brighter day provided the young decide to make it so. Learning about values and developing a set of beliefs about what is right and wrong and what is important in life will pave the way for a healthier and more peaceful life, not only for the individual but for humanity as a whole.

Where the Mind is without Fear

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by
narrow domestic walls;
Where words come out from the depth of truth;
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the
dreary desert sand of dead habit;
Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening
thought and action --
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country
awake.
This is my prayer to thee, my Lord - Strike, Strike at the
root of penury in my heart.
Give me the strength lightly to bear my joys and sorrows.
Give me the strength to make my love fruitful in service.
Give me the strength never to disown the poor or bend my
knees before insolent might.
Give me the strength to raise my mind high above daily trifles.
And give me the strength to surrender my strength to thy will
with love.

-Rabindranath Tagore



UNIT II

UNIT II

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP BEHAVIOUR

Individuals make society, hence personal values are important for the wellbeing of society. A strong system of personal values forms the basis of a well-knit and harmonious society.

Each of us has our own set of personal values; these are the things which we believe are important, which motivate us and to which we give priority. The reality is that most of us are not fully aware of our own personal values. This is the same as saying that most people are not aware of what is important to them.

The problem is made worse by the fact that not only we but also other people and other institutions have their own set of core values. Friends, partners and employers, each has values that have an effect upon us and our lives. Consequently, we may find ourselves living our lives according to the values of other people instead of following our own values. This is not to say that the values of others are not important. They are important and it is important for us to recognise these values especially when they impinge or affect our lives. However, it is more important for us to recognise our own personal core values. It is by our own core values that we measure our success and happiness. It is they that tell us what is important in our lives.

PERSONAL VALUES

Some personal values include –

SELF-MOTIVATION

Life offers numerous opportunities for self-motivation. Lives of leaders and successful people inspire and motivate everyone. A self-motivated person feels confident, he is able to face the odds in life and at times even turn them to his advantage.

SELF-RELIANCE

“Self-Reliance” by Ralph Waldo Emerson is an essay that urges readers to trust their own intuition and common sense rather than automatically following popular opinion and conforming to the will of the majority.

TRUST YOUR OWN INNER VOICE

Emerson urges his readers to retain the outspokenness of a small child who freely speaks his mind because he has not yet been corrupted by adults who tell him to do otherwise. He also urges readers to avoid envying or imitating others viewed as models of perfection; instead, he says, readers should take pride in their own individuality and never be afraid to express their own original ideas. In addition, he says, they should refuse to conform to the ways of the popular culture and its shallow ideals; rather they should live up to their own ideals, even if doing so heaps on them criticism and denunciation.

AVOID CONSISTENCY AS AN END IN ITSELF

Being consistent is not always wise. An idea or regimen which you stubbornly cling to can become outmoded tomorrow.

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

"Else, tomorrow a stranger will say with masterly good sense precisely what we have thought and felt all the time, and we shall be forced to take with shame our own opinion from another."

A man should believe in himself. When he has an original thought, he should embrace it and make it known to others rather than reject it simply because it is his own and therefore unworthy.

However, if one wants to be a man, he must be a nonconformist. Unfortunately, though, we let others have too much influence over us. Men of vanity and malice who take up philanthropic or noble causes, a bigot, for example, says he supports abolition but keeps black people at a distance. He loves from afar.

Many men think virtue is the exception rather than the rule. They perform acts of charity as if they were paying a fine or doing a penance. But Emerson asserts: "I do not wish to expiate, but to live. My life is for itself and not for a spectacle. I much prefer that it should be of a lower strain, so it be genuine and equal, than that it should be glittering and unsteady."

NOTABLE QUOTATIONS FROM "SELF-RELIANCE"

- The great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude.
- What I must do is all that concerns me, not what the people think.
- A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines. With consistency a great soul has simply nothing to do.
- Insist on yourself; never imitate.
- Society never advances. It recedes as fast on one side as it gains on the other.
- The civilized man has built a coach, but has lost the use of his feet.
- Discontent is the want of self-reliance: it is infirmity of will.
- Nothing can bring you peace but yourself. Nothing can bring you peace but the triumph of principles.

SELF-CONFIDENCE

The term "self-confidence" brings to mind the warrior prince Arjuna, in the *Mahabharata*, who was so confident of his ability that he practiced all night and day to achieve ambidexterity in archery.

Self-confidence makes a person very sure of himself and this helps him win half the battle even before it begins.

SELF-DISCIPLINE

"Nothing is free, just ask Nadal" proclaimed the headlines of a news column (*The Business Line*, 11 January 2010) which spoke about the self-discipline practiced by Rafael Nadal. Self-discipline coupled with toil and sweat has made him a true champion who reached the highest of highs - the position of being one of the world's top ranked tennis players. Self-discipline makes a person systematic, organized and a good manager of time and money. He also learns to prioritize and complete tasks within the stipulated time.

SELF-RESTRAINT

Conquering the world is easier than conquering one's own self. The present day world offers countless opportunities for progress, at the same time there are innumerable distractions too which may divert a person from his chosen path and plunge him into an abyss. Training in self-restraint was perhaps the motive behind penance, fasting and other rigorous practices which are being followed to this day, across cultures.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

An analysis of the self helps a person identify his strengths and weaknesses. Once aware, it only takes a little effort to convert one's strengths into assets and overcome or transcend weaknesses to become stronger and more efficient human beings.

DETERMINATION

"Arise! Awake, and stop not till you succeed".

These words of Swami Vivekananda urge the youth to stay focused on the envisioned goal. A "never-say-die" attitude propels a person to achieve success in spite of the hurdles that may block his path.

Helen Keller ~~has inspired~~ visually challenged people and helped to light up their lives. Actors like Sudha Chandran and Kutty have continued to dance and act in spite of accidents rendering them handicapped. There are a number of famous people, including Hrithik Roshan and Marilyn Monroe who overcame speech difficulties to deliver some powerful dialogues in films. (<http://www.mnsu.edu/comdis/kuster/famous/famouspws.html>.)

AMBITION

"Nothing ventured, nothing gained" is an ancient saying. Unless one ventures out and makes an attempt to do something, he does not stand to gain anything. It is important to have a clear-cut goal and work single-mindedly towards it. The lives of Dhirubhai Ambani and Abraham Lincoln are examples of ambition-driven success stories. Many are born with skills but few are ambitious enough to fight hard to the finish. Ambition not only involves taking the first steps, but also having the desire to see it through to the end and go all the way with it.

ASHISH J. THAKKAR: SHAKING AFRICA'S BUSINESS UNIVERSE ACHIEVEMENTS

Ashish J Thakkar has been called Africa's youngest billionaire the company he founded, the Mara Group, will soon have a footprint in more African countries than any other conglomerate or diversified group. And all this from humble beginnings and against all odds. He was already a successful businessman in his own right and was also widely known for being the first African to sign up to Virgin Galactic's space programme, which would make him, after internet millionaire Mark Shuttleworth, the second African into space. [For him] 'It's as much about the experience as it is about putting Africa in the news for other than war and famine,' he said back. And indeed, that seemed his vocation.

.....

... he has been selected in the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders (leaders under 40 who are seen as drivers of change in the regions they live and work in) and has a seat on the very select WEF's Global Council on Africa, which is chaired by Donald Kaberuka of the African Development Bank and has the likes of Nkosana Moyo, the executive Chairman of the South African-based think-tank MINDS, on board. Both can be described as intellectuals and doyens of African development thinking.

NEVER SAY DIE

His family is originally from Uganda but when Idi Amin came to power and expelled the Asian community

in the 1970s, his family effectively lost everything. They emigrated to the UK, where Ashish was born: "My father worked at Ford and my mother in a factory at Walkers Crisps".

Having saved a little money, they sold their house and with their savings decided to return to East Africa, moving to Rwanda in 1993. A year later, the infamous genocide took place and his family again had to leave everything behind and start from scratch. He even says that people close to his family were avoiding them because they feared his parents would ask them for a favour. His father took a loan and started over again in Uganda. The sheer willpower, work ethic and never-say-die attitude of his parents rubbed off and at the age of 15, he decided to emulate them.

With a loan of \$6,000, he went to Dubai to buy hardware to bring back to Uganda. It was as basic commerce as it could be. Every weekend, he'd go to Dubai, fill his suitcase with goods, bring it back to Uganda, pay his taxes on Monday, sell the goods between Tuesday and Friday and then take the plane to Dubai, gradually increasing his inventory. With IT demand growing and seeing other Africans do the same thing, he decided to set up shop in Dubai and become a major supplier to the African continent. He supplied to African traders and kept up their incentives by offering credit.

The group today employs over y,000 people and although no financial accounts are public, from figures touted, the group turns over in excess of \$200m a year.

It still has its IT business which has expanded to offer the full suite of IT services to companies and governments, but it also has diversified. It is now into business process outsourcing, it runs the largest corrugated packaging manufacturing plant in East Africa (Riley Packaging), large-scale agriculture in East Africa and a glass manufacturing plant in Nigeria. The group has other operations outside Africa, but that is by default through other acquisitions and today 90% of the group's revenues are from in Africa.

By the end of this year, Mara, which means 'lion' in a dialect from Tanzania where his mother is from, will be in 22 African countries operating across a diverse number of businesses.

PRINCIPLES BEHIND SUCCESS

ACKNOWLEDGING THE WORTH OF OTHERS

One of Thakkar's strengths is that he seems aware of his own limitations. "Take my IT business. It was 16 years ago when I started it and I was great at running it, but if I look at where the business is today, there's no way I would have been able to get here without our partners. They're experienced in running large operations and understand IT like nobody else so we leave it to them to run the operation, they're the guys driving. We sit on the board, we help out where there are issues, we add a lot of strategic value but we don't get involved and start getting in the way of operations."

INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY

He attributes part of his success to transparency in the way their business is conducted. "We tell people that we're nothing out of the ordinary, we are a normal group that has a great ambition. But we're African so we want to do things in the right manner. We're not that desperate that we want to make a quick buck here or there.

.....

"So I think our strength has been obviously sniffing out the right opportunities, leveraging off what we understand and just being very honest about it."

DOING THINGS THAT EXCITE

What does he want the group to be seen as? "We want to become the most exciting African brand, that's the ambition but doing it in the right way, in a sustainable manner. We do things that excite us. The simple policy that whatever we do must have a positive social impact and the second thing is, whatever we do must have a pan-African scope. Number three, whatever we do must be Mara branded and number four, it must be different. "We don't want to just go into a market and copy and paste what somebody else is doing just because they're making money. It doesn't make sense, it doesn't excite me."

And what exactly does he consider exciting? "Glass isn't being manufactured, that's exciting. Sugar, 98% is being imported into the country, that's exciting. So it's all opportunity. If it's something that's never been done

before, that's exciting." Thakkar is not boisterous like many bigger-than-life business leaders yet he is enthused by the entrepreneur's bug of wanting to disrupt the business norm.

"Offshoring is the big thing in IT outsourcing, right? We said forget offshoring let's go onshore, let's actually create the skills on the ground, let's execute from on the ground up. Now, does that work? Is that more efficient, more cost effective? Maybe not, even if in time I am sure it will become so, but all the countries we do this in love it and the corporates who are giving you work love it as well. So it's about doing things differently and adapting it to the market. And it has worked amazingly well for us."

HELPING NEW ENTREPRENEURS

What of Thakkar's passion, his foundation? Right now the foundation focuses on mentorship. He aims to make it self-funding (he says running it costs the group approximately \$120,000 a month). It's an online platform that offers mentorship programmes to young entrepreneurs, and so far they have received applications from over 30 countries. One senses he feels the continent does not have enough entrepreneurs and 'disrupters'. He is confident that the continent is there for the taking and that it's the entrepreneurs and the SMEs that can transform it. And Thakkar is taking this challenge especially personally. With a past like his, it is not a challenge he will give up on either.

<http://africanbusinessmagazine.com/>

Not everyone who's on top today got there with success after success. More often than not, those who history best remembers were faced with numerous obstacles that forced them to work harder and show more determination than others. Next time you're feeling down about your failures in college or in a career, keep these famous people in mind and remind yourself that sometimes failure is just the first step towards success.

BUSINESS GURUS

Many businessmen and the companies they founded are today known around the world, but as the following stories show, their beginnings weren't always smooth.

- Henry Ford: While Ford is today known for his innovative assembly line and American-made cars, he wasn't an instant success. In fact, his early businesses failed and left him broke five times before he founded the successful Ford Motor Company.
- Soichiro Honda: The billion-dollar business, that is, Honda began with a series of failures and fortunate turns of luck. Honda was turned down by Toyota Motor Corporation for a job after interviewing for a job as an engineer, leaving him jobless for quite some time. He at 31 started making scooters of his own at home, and spurred on by his neighbors, finally started his own business.
- Akio Morita: You may not have heard of Morita but you've undoubtedly heard of his company, Sony. Sony's first product was a rice cooker that

unfortunately didn't cook rice so much as burn it, selling less than 100 units. This first setback didn't stop Morita and his partners as they pushed forward to create a multibillion dollar company.

- Harland David Sanders: Perhaps better known as Colonel Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken fame, Sanders had a hard time selling his chicken at first. In fact, his famous secret chicken recipe was rejected 1,009 times before a restaurant accepted it.

SCIENTISTS AND THINKERS

These people are often regarded as some of the greatest minds of our century, but they often had to face great obstacles, the ridicule of their peers and the animosity of society.

- Albert Einstein: Most of us take Einstein's name as synonymous with genius, but he didn't always show such promise. Einstein did not speak until he was four and did not read until he was seven, causing his teachers and parents to think he was mentally handicapped, slow and anti-social. Eventually, he was expelled from school and was refused admittance.
- Robert Goddard: Goddard today is hailed for his research and experimentation with liquid-fueled rockets, but during his lifetime his ideas were often rejected and mocked by his scientific peers who thought they were outrageous and impossible. Today, rockets and space travel don't seem far-fetched at all, due largely to the work of this scientist who worked against the feelings of the time.

PUBLIC FIGURES

From politicians to talk show hosts, these figures had a few failures before they came out on top.

- Winston Churchill: This Nobel Prize-winning, twice-elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom wasn't always as well regarded as he is today. Churchill struggled in school and failed the sixth grade. After school he faced many years of political failures, as he was defeated in every election for public office until he finally became the Prime Minister at the ripe old age of 62.
- Abraham Lincoln: While today he is remembered as one of the greatest leaders of our nation, Lincoln's life wasn't so easy. In his youth he went to war a captain and returned a private (if you're not familiar with military ranks, just know that private is as low as it goes.) Lincoln didn't stop failing there, however. He started numerous failed businesses and was defeated in numerous runs he made for public office.
- Oprah Winfrey: Most people know Oprah as one of the most iconic faces on TV as well as one of the richest and most successful women in the world. Oprah faced a hard road to get to that position, however, enduring a rough and often abusive childhood as well as numerous career setbacks including being fired from her job as a television reporter because she was "unfit for TV".

Look on my works, ye Mighty, and ^{energy to go for} ~~despair~~ ^{by despair}
Nothing beside remains, Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The ^{shows that nature is the victor.} lone and level sands stretch far away.

-Percy Bysshe Shelley

CONTENTMENT

Contentment should be the ultimate goal of every human being. Contentment however does not imply complacency where we stop reacting to situations unless it concerns us personally. Contentment refers to the peace of mind that comes to a man who lives his life honestly and well. Greed never brings contentment and is at the root of all evil

This is well illustrated in the story How much land does a man need? by Leo Tolstoy.

The Story — A landlord in Russia once offered to give as much land free to a person as could be covered on foot by him, from morning to sunset. Of the two brothers who decided to take advantage of this offer, one ran and covered as much land as was sufficient for him. However the other, in his greed to amass as much land as possible ran from morning to evening and finally collapsed and died due to exhaustion.

SYMPATHY AND COMPASSION

Sympathy and compassion involve a basic understanding and concern for another's predicament, be it

human, animal or plant. The story of King Sibi tells us of the time when kings had the time and patience to care about all living things in their kingdom.

Once King Sibi was relaxing in his garden when a frightened dove came flying and perched in his lap. Following the dove was a ^{her} hawk which demanded that the king return the dove as it was its food. The king offered flesh from his own thigh in exchange for the dove and thus saved the life of the bird. Even a small bird could be sure of protection in the kingdom of such a compassionate ruler. King Paari was another such king who used his golden chariot to prop up a languishing creeper.

ALEXANDER FLEMING

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to eke out a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved.

"I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life."

"No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied, waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel.

"Is that your son?" the nobleman asked. "Yes," the farmer replied proudly.

"I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow to a man you can be proud of."

And that he did. In time, Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia.

What saved him? *Penicillin.*

The name of the nobleman? *Lord Randolph Churchill.*

His son's name? *Sir Winston Churchill.*

Someone once said what goes around comes around.

GRATITUDE

Being thankful for favours done is gratitude. The greatest wrong a human being can do is to forget acts of kindness, extended to him.

"Androcles and the Lion", a story from Greek mythology is a fascinating tale of kindness and gratitude.

The story goes that Androcles, a Greek warrior once lost his way in a forest and was forced to spend the night in a cave. No sooner had he settled down than he heard the roar of a lion close to him. He took out his sword to defend himself, when he realised that there was a lion in the cave. He saw that it was limping on one foot and was obviously in great pain. Summoning courage he approached the huge animal and removed the thorn which had pierced its paw. The lion looked up at him and then disappeared into the night.

Many years later, Androcles had the misfortune of being accused of treachery, and as a punishment he was to be thrown into an arena with a lion. On that fateful day Androcles crouched against the arena walls convinced that he would be killed. As hundreds of spectators watched, the lion was released into the arena. It charged towards the poor man with a roar but stopped suddenly on reaching him, sniffed him and then turned and walked away. It was the same lion that Androcles had helped many years ago and the animal remembered his kindness.

FORGIVENESS

The Toys

My little Son, who look'd from thoughtful eyes
And mov'd and spok'd in quiet grown-up wise,
Having my law the seventh time disobey'd,
I struck him, and dismiss'd
With hard words and unkindness,
His Mother, who was patient, being dead,
Then, fearing lest his grief should hinder sleep,
visited his bed,
But found him slumbering deep,
With darken'd eyelids, and their lashes yet
From his late sobbing wet.
And I, with moan,
Kissing away his tears, left others of my own;
For, on a table drawn beside his head,
He had put, within his reach,
A box of counters and a red-vein'd stone,
A piece of glass abraded by the beach,
And six or seven shells,
A bottle with bluebells,
And two French copper coins,
ranged there with careful art,

To comfort his sad heart,
So when that night I pray'd
To God, I wept, and said:
Ah, when at last we lie with tranc'd breath,
Not vexing Thee in death,
And Thou rememberest of what toys

We made our joys,
How weakly understood
Thy great commanded good,
Then, fatherly not less
Than I whom Thou hast moulded from the clay,
Thou'lt leave Thy wrath, and say,
'I will be sorry for their childishness.'

—Coventry Patmore

Forgiveness is the most important but most difficult virtue to be cultivated. If one can "forgive and forget", the world would be rid of all the tension arising as a result of the need to take revenge. Jesus Christ's teaching with regard to showing the other cheek when one cheek is slapped is the greatest lesson in forgiveness.

The story of the Malayalam film is based on a true incident and is a classic lesson on the need to forgive and move on.

It was adapted to Hindi by Nagesh Kukunoor as *Dor*.

The film won the National Film Award for 'Best Film on Other Social Issues' in 2005.

Perumthazhakalam means the season of heavy rains and is symbolic of the nature of events that take place.

The movie begins with a country boat coming to land with a few passengers including an old man. His daughter-in-law, Raziya, whose husband Akbar works in the Persian Gulf, is at a wedding with her baby.

The next morning she is surprised by a number of visitors including her husband's uncle, a concerned but pessimistic man. Raziya is bewildered and wants to know exactly what is going on. She realizes that it has something to do with her husband, she overhears people whispering as to how tragic it was and so on...

The uncle blurts out that her husband was sentenced to death for killing another man, Raghu Rama Iyer in the Gulf region.

A shocked Raziya demands to know the details and when she comes to know she rushes to the MLAs and the Chief Minister accompanied by her father-in-law, to no avail. Finally a friend of Akbar's tells them that there is only one way out of the predicament and that is to obtain a letter of forgiveness from Raghuram's widow, Ganga. This alone is acceptable by the Shariat.

Raziya, a Muslim woman now goes to the *agraharam*, the Brahmin locality, where Ganga lives. When she reaches there, Raghurama Iyer's brother Sethu sees them and knowing that Raziya's husband is the murderer of his brother, screams at her and unable to control his anger takes a bucket of soap water, as he was washing clothes, and throws it at her. Raziya cries her heart out in the heavy rain that starts falling. Ganga who is upstairs is unaware of the happenings below.

In the case of Ganga - when her in-laws come to know of her husband's death they do not tell her. She is depicted awaiting her husband's call, then she is seen walking in the rain and next she is seen taking a dip in the river following the brahminical rituals for a widow. (The excellence in editing and filming is simply remarkable!)

Raziya returns to see Ganga the next day. She sees Ganga praying at the temple. She waits for her on the way and begs for pardon. Ganga is horrified on knowing her identity and refuses to listen. Raziya tags along, pleading for mercy.

On reaching Ganga's house however, she is forced to leave, intimidated by Ganga's in-laws. The next morning she is back at Ganga's house saying that it is the last day for her to get the letter as her husband's friend is leaving for the Gulf the next day. Ganga now listens to her but blames her husband for killing Raghuram. Raziya leaves totally shattered and her father takes her back to her home.

Ganga in the meantime, reflects on her actions and wonders whether she has done the right thing. Razia's cries of desperation return to haunt her and she decides to give her the letter. Ganga realizes that the greater virtue would be in forgiving and that by reducing another woman to her state she is not going to gain in any way. She decides to go to see Raziya. However, her family objects and threatens to ostracise her. Ganga leaves her house unmindful of their threats and goes in search of Raziya. She reaches Raziya's house and is astounded to see her in a shell-shocked state. She rouses her and asks her for the paper to sign.

Feeling at peace, Ganga returns to her village to discover the outer doors shut for her.

A few days later

Akbar, who is pardoned, returns to India where he is received by his wife and daughter. They then go to visit Ganga to thank her for her kindness.

They are pleasantly surprised to see that Ganga has become a self-confident, independent woman, having started an entrepreneurial unit with women employees.

The important point here is that though the two main actors come from totally different religious backgrounds, it is the spirit of humanity that is stressed; religion has no role to play.

Forgiveness is truly divine....

Moral of the story – Let bygones be bygones.

Nursing hatred can only make a person bitter and bring unhappiness. So let us learn to forgive and forget.

COURTESY

Courtesy lends grace and makes a person affable and well liked. Even the impact of negative criticism can be offset when expressed courteously. Politicians have made courtesy an art and refined it to perfection and this ensures them a seat in the hearts of the people.

Courtesy

Each of us has their own definition....

For some it is a habit learned in childhood

A matter pride and family tradition.

For many it is a smile that makes us feel good

A hug, a kiss, a pat on the back

Whatever the reason, encouragement we lack.

We are all grateful for our moment in the sun.

So as we go through from day to day

Remember to give what we need to receive

The warmth of true kindness each step of the way

Given freely and generously, like warmth from the sun.

This shows how we feel about others

And brightens our inside and makes our heart grow.

So when you say "thank you" or "job well done"

When you ask "may I help you?"

When you hold the door open, or carry a bag

Or slow down to let somebody pass

Remember the good feeling courtesy brings.

- Lynda Leigh (c)

However, certain values can also be negative in its impact on young minds.

PEER PRESSURE

Competition among peers can lead to unnecessary stress and depression. Focusing on one's goal and strengths helps to put things in proper perspective and allows the individual enjoy the work that he has taken up and fulfill his ambition.

It is not necessary to be like another or to have all that another has. We only have to remember that what is meant for me will come to me, it will never be given away to somebody else. This outlook could go a long way in reducing harmful and bad practices like excessive smoking, drinking and so on.

FAMILIAL AND SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS

Family and society while being a source of support can often have unreasonable expectations, trying to rise up to which a person dithers and ends up a failure neither true to oneself nor the people around. Rigid rules imposed by society, which is becoming largely intolerant, along the

lines of caste, gender and material success has led to many tragedies in the recent times. The honour killings in the North and the case of Divya and Illavarasan are examples.

MEDIA

Media has a huge influence on young minds these days. Unfortunately, the medium which should have truth and the welfare of the people as its dictum has most often turned into a sensation mongering monster. The lifestyle, value system and language, among the young has undergone a sea change, thanks to the modern media with its ephemeral system of values.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Should respect be demanded or earned? Is honesty the best policy?

Friendship

I accept you in confidence.

I listen and admire your wisdom.

We are one when we are together.

You and I will always be friends.

When you are angry,

I am there to sooth your aggression.

When you are sad,

I am there to cheer you up.

We understand each other's thoughts.

Words with us aren't needed,
We have a trust that is very rare,
You and I will always be friends,
What we enjoy doing together comes natural,
We accept life and move ahead,
I am your shadow and you mine,
We are inseparable if only in mind.

—Randall Beers



UNIT III

UNIT III

SOCIETIES IN PROGRESS

Society or human society is the manner or condition in which the members of a community live together for their mutual benefit. By extension, society denotes the people of a region or country, sometimes even the world, taken as a whole. Used in the sense of an association, a society is a body of individuals outlined by the bounds of functional interdependence, possibly comprising characteristics such as national or cultural identity, social solidarity, language or hierarchical organization. Human societies are characterized by patterns of relationships between individuals sharing a distinctive culture and institutions. Like other communities or groups, a society allows its members to achieve needs or wishes they could not fulfill alone (Wikipedia).

UNITS OF SOCIETY

The units of society comprise of the individual, the family, the town, the city, the country and the world at large. These units are interdependent and if one brick in the fabric of the structure loosens it results in the collapse of the whole. Good behaviour is a pre-requisite for an individual to get along well in society.

Good behaviour begins at home. A child takes his first lesson in etiquette from his parents. Etiquette at home or outside involves showing respect for others, having civic sense and observing the unwritten codes of conduct no matter where one may be.

In the present era of globalization, a person undertakes frequent trips within and outside the country and it has become imperative to understand and adapt to the cultural set up of the particular region or country that one visits.

It is important to recognize that people from different cultures are different in a variety of ways, including different ways of looking at things, of dressing, of table manners and of expressing one's personality.

ANCIENT AND MODERN SOCIETIES

Past-oriented societies are concerned with traditional values and traditional ways of doing things. They tend to be conservative and slow to change those things that are tied to the past. Past-oriented societies include India, China, Britain, Japan and most Spanish-speaking Latin American countries.

Present-oriented societies include the rest of the Spanish-speaking Latin American countries. They see the past as passed and the future as uncertain.

Future-oriented societies have a great deal of optimism about the future. They think they understand it and can shape it through their actions. The United States and Brazil are examples of future-oriented societies.

In some cultures, time is seen as being a limited resource which is constantly being used up. It's like having a bathtub full of water which can never be replaced, and

which is running down the drain. You have to use it as it runs down the drain or it's wasted. In other cultures, time is more plentiful, if not infinite. In old agricultural societies, time was often seen as circular, renewing itself each year.

In societies where time is limited, punctuality becomes a virtue. It is insulting to waste someone's time, and the ability to do that and get away with it is an indication of superiority/status. Time is money. In cultures where time is plentiful, like India or Latin America, there is no problem with making people wait all day, and then telling them to come back the next day.

Time-plentiful cultures tend to rely on trust to do business. Time-limited cultures don't have time to develop trust and so create other mechanisms to replace trust (such as strong rule-by-law) (<http://www.analytictech.com/mb021/cultural.htm>)

AGENTS OF CHANGE

Early man had few basic needs to fulfill when he moved from place to place. As his physical and mental needs grew he started cultivating land leading to agrarian culture which necessitated the development of societies.

The communal living and gradual advancements in Science and Technology has ensured the creation of comfortable and secure living conditions with societies with their inbuilt codes of ethics.

For stable and sustainable societies it is imperative that we adopt the following values:

SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS

Social Consciousness is an awareness of the individual's responsibility and accountability to society.

The story of a little boy who braved the cold all through the night to save his village from flooding is an oft-repeated childhood tale.

This story is about a little seven-year old boy Hans Brinker. Hans was returning home after giving cakes to a blind man one cold evening, when he noticed a hole in the dyke from which a steady trickle of water leaked through. Hans looked around but saw no one. He then decided to plug the hole with his finger. The courageous little boy spent the whole freezing night at the dyke and was discovered the next morning almost frozen. His concern for his village drew accolades from the whole village and his story has become an integral part of children's stories all around the world.

TOLERANCE, BROTHERHOOD AND EQUALITY

In order to live together as a community, it is imperative that we learn to respect each other's ideologies, beliefs and habits. Intolerance results in bitter quarrels and on a larger scale even leads to violent, communal riots with groups of people taking up sides based on caste, religion, political preferences and so on. There are no victors in these fights as man's logical reason flees, leaving behind chaos and destruction, and it is the human spirit that takes a beating.

The United States of America stands as a shining example of tolerance, equality and brotherhood as the predominantly white population has voted to elect an African American, the President of their country.)

Happenings such as these convince us that all is not lost and there is hope of better things to come.

GENEROSITY

Generosity means sharing what you have. However, to be truly generous you must do more than give things away that have little or no value to you, and you must give with no expectation of being compensated. True generosity involves sharing things that are meaningful or have value without expecting any thanks or consideration in return.)

- A random act of kindness,
- Volunteering to help others,
- Refusing to judge others,
- Donating money to help a cause,
- Generosity..without an agenda,
- Calmness in the midst of stress,
- Positive humor to weather the storm,
- Generosity...a gift from the Heart.

- Joseph Wardy

There are many ways to show our generosity. We can be generous with our time, money, possessions, and even talent. The most important thing to remember is that

there is a very strong need for generosity in our society. If each and every one of us were to add just one more generous act of kindness each day, then our society would be a better place to live in,

Ejaz Khan speaking on generosity says:

The burning of stars

The glowing of sun

The blowing of winds

The clouds that rain

The rivers that flow

The crops that grow

In truth these all are

Acts of sacrifice.

An openhandedness.

And yet

Nothing's ever lost.

All that goes around

Must ultimately come around

Nickel turning gold.

So no need to capture Lesser need to hold.

All that abounds the universe Is nothing but energy

Seeking the powerful flow.

So give n do it profusely.

Share n do it conclusively

The joy springs forth
When offered without a catch May it be love,
sympathy or care Or possessions that you hold.
Generosity is nothing but a burning wish
To sacrifice for the benefit of those that need A deed, always
awarded

By returns manifold.

DIALOGUE

Most of the problems in this world can be solved through dialogue. Civilized societies should engage in meaningful dialogues to put an end to conflicts.

"A family that eats together stays together" goes a saying. The opportunity has to be created for discussion whether at home or outside. Discussions make it easier to put a rest to any misunderstandings that exist among people.

UNIFIED EFFORTS TOWARDS PEACE

It is unfortunate that international organizations that have been created to bring about world peace have not been very successful in their attempts to do so.

In order to be truly successful, it is mandatory that every country in the world irrespective of its size or strength has a representation in the organization for world peace. Healthy discussions with representatives of the countries could solve conflicts and reduce the feeling of rancor between the countries.

Student exchange programs, cultural and sports programs can also go a long way in easing tensions and forging friendships around the world.

CO-OPERATION

"United we stand, divided we fall".

Co-operation between countries can ensure a beautiful planet and co-operation between regions can ensure beautiful countries. The Global summit at Copenhagen to discuss climate change is a major step taken by different countries of the world to put an end to global warming by cutting down on fuel emissions.

Though the talks were only partly successful, it is one big step and we can be sure that more positive results will follow.

Within India too there have been instances of villagers coming together, unaided by the government, to build their own railway stations and power generators.

Odanthurai in Tamil Nadu is one such village that generates power to fulfill its needs. Co-operation among women has resulted in the creation of numerous SHGs (Self Help Groups) through the length and breadth of India paving the way for the empowerment of women. Human Resource is India's strength and if we stand together we can easily become one of the most developed, self-sufficient countries.

PATRIOTISM

On Homi Bhabha's birth centenary, the nation remembered him for his single-minded pursuit of the vision that he had for India. It was while working at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore that he realized that the equipment needed for atomic physics was not available in India. However, he did not flee to greener pastures but instead wrote a letter to the Tata Trust asking for help to set up a centre for research in nuclear science.

Thus the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research was set up in 1945.

In contrast, now we have a number of students abandoning their motherland for better prospects in other countries giving rise to the "Brain drain" phenomenon. A patriotic fervour is necessary to accept the shortcomings of one's country and countrymen and to work towards their development. If every IIT and IIM student, on each of whom the Indian Government spends thousands of rupees, decided to stay back in India and work for the development of the country, we would be able to create a paradise in our very own land.

FREEDOM

"The truly great man is he who would master no one, and who would be mastered by none" (Kahlil Gibran). The power or right to act, speak or think freely is the prerogative of every human being. However, one's freedom should not entail trespassing into another's. Freedom should not be confused with indiscipline either.

History is replete with examples of nations overthrowing marauding invaders and autocratic rulers in their attempt to regain their lost freedom. We, in India can be proud of the fact that we are perhaps the only country that has never attempted to invade another. Though India has been invaded and ruled over by the British, Portuguese and French, it is to our credit that we have been able to drive them back and retain our identity as Indians.

REPENTANCE AND MAGNANIMITY

Repentance and magnanimity are the two qualities that ennoble human beings. It takes a clear conscience and mental courage to make a person accept his mistakes, own up and face the consequences. Repenting over a misdeed also makes a person look for ways to set right a wrong that he has committed. The story of the repentant criminal, who stayed in the house of the victim and took care of the family despite being hated and cursed by all, forms the theme of many movies — *Thirudan*, *Tum Bin*, *Babu*, *Amritham* *Gamaya*, to name a few.

Magnanimity, on the other hand, requires that we do not judge people too hastily and absolutely. It is important that we try to empathise with and forgive the mistakes of others.

Harper Lee's timeless classic *To Kill a Mockingbird* is the story of how an innocent person is victimised by a presumptuous society.

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

This is a coming-of-age story of Scout Finch and her brother, Jem, in 1930's Alabama. Through their neighborhood meanderings and the example of their father, they grow to understand that the world isn't always fair and that prejudice is a very real aspect of their world no matter how subtle it seems.

... Scout [is] six and Jem [is] ten, they meet Dill, a little boy who [is spending] the summer with his aunt who lived next door to the Finches. Dill and Jem become obsessed with the idea of making Boo Radley, the neighborhood recluse, come out of his home. They go through plan after plan, but nothing draws him out. However, these brushes with the neighborhood ghost result in a tentative friendship over time and soon the Finch children realize that Boo Radley deserves to live in peace, so they leave him alone.

Scout and Jem's God-like father, Atticus, is a respected and upstanding lawyer in small Maycomb County. When he takes on a case that pits innocent, black Tom Robinson against two dishonest white people, Atticus knows that he will lose, but he has to defend the man or he can't be at peace with himself. The case is the biggest thing to hit Maycomb County in years and it turns the whole town against Atticus, or so it seems. Scout and Jem are forced to bear the slurs against their father and watch with shock and disillusionment as their fellow townspeople convict an obviously innocent man because of his race. The only real enemy that Atticus made during the case was Bob Ewell,

the trashy white man who accused Tom Robinson of raping his daughter.

Despite Ewell's vow to avenge himself against Atticus, Atticus doesn't view Ewell as any real threat.

Tom Robinson is sent to a work prison to await another trial, but before Atticus can get him to court again, Tom is shot for trying to escape the prison. It seems that the case is finally over and life returns to normal until Halloween night. On the way home from a pageant, Bob Ewell attacks Jem and Scout in the darkness. After Jem's arm is badly broken, their ghostly neighbor, Boo Radley, rescues Scout and her brother. In order to protect Boo's privacy, the sheriff decides that Bob Ewell fell on his own knife while he was struggling with Jem. Boo Radley returns home never to be seen again.

Through the events of those two years, Scout learns that despite their differences or peculiarities, the people of the world and of Maycomb County are all people. No one is lesser or better than anyone else because they're all people. She realizes that once you get to know them, most people are good and kind no matter what they seem like on the outside.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Are foreign television channels destroying our culture?
Are joint families a blessing in disguise?

Effect of Will Power

"Determination and will power alone can make an ordinary person a giant personality."

"Purity of thoughts are factors that can increase will power and determination."

"If the willpower has to be increased, then it is essential to be away from feelings such as jealousy, false allegations, small talk etc."

UNIT IV

UNIT IV

ENGINEERING ETHICS

ENGINEERING ETHICS

"When you work you are a flute through whose heart the whispering of hours turns to music"

- Kahlil Gibran

When we are part of an organization, we bring our deeply held values and beliefs to the organization. There we combine those with that of the other members to create an organization culture or family culture.

Professionalism refers to the high standard that is expected from a person who is well trained in a particular job. A true professional thus ensures that his work benefits society.

Just as doctors take the Hippocrates oath before they embark on their practice, all other professionals should pledge to work for the larger cause of human good.

COMPETENCE AND EFFICIENCY

Competence is the basic requirement in order to be a success in one's profession. Competence, however, should be coupled with a will to perform efficiently with openness to new ideas or techniques. Efficiency requires work to be completed perfectly and within the stipulated time.

ACCOUNTABILITY

A profession does not merely expect a person to do a job but also to be responsible for his actions and if required, explain them too. If a person is found to be trustworthy and willing to take responsibility, employers have no hesitation in entrusting him with very important projects that would see the employee's career graph zooming upwards.

CREATING AWARENESS AND POLICY MAKING

A true professional's goal is not fulfilled once he carries out his job perfectly. He should make his voice heard in appropriate forums and clarify the good and bad of a product or technology to the public in layman's terms. He should take a firm stand and influence policy making and see to it that the scientific advancements are deployed only to the advantage of whole mankind and not in favour of only a select few. We can recall Einstein who regretfully commented that he would rather be a watchmaker to being a helpless witness of the unleashed power of an atom and the resultant havoc. Thus the onus lies on the engineers and experts to boldly state the truth of affairs in such controversial matters such as the Mullai Periyar Dam thereby averting the political turmoil and the suffering of common people. If professionals from various fields stand together determined to do good to the common man, they can very well help to frame international laws regarding even sensitive issues such as bio- and nuclear weapons, cyber crime, stem cell research and so on.

ALERTNESS

A professional should be able to notice things quickly and take immediate action.

Not being alert can lead to opportunities being lost and this may result in a down slide in one's career.

PROFESSIONAL HONESTY/INTEGRITY

Scientists and technologists should consider themselves to be above regional / national boundaries. They should be citizens of the universe and hence should be uncompromising in the quality and purpose of their work. We have heard of Salman Butt and Mohammed Asif, reputed international cricket players with immense talent who by their alleged involvement in match fixing at Lords in their match against England in August 2010 tarnished the image of world cricket. There are also exemplary examples of professionals who have even given up their lives in pursuit of keeping up the integrity of their professions. Shanmughan Manjunath, a marketing manager from Bangalore serving in Lakhimpur, Kheri was murdered as he sealed the petrol station which sold adulterated diesel. Satyendra Kumar Dubey, Director, NHAI supposedly got killed in his courageous attempt to expose the corruption and under quality work in the execution of the Golden Quadrilateral Highway project. They were bound by nothing else except the common good of humanity. They were relentlessly unyielding to the political gamesters who turned the dubious areas of any profession to their narrow ends.

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty should be an essential part of any individual, especially so with an engineer. Plagiarism or stealing others' ideas and flaunting them as one's own and fabricating facts are the first things that should be avoided by a professional. Hwang Woo-suk, a Korean scientist was suspended from his professorship as he faked facts to claim that he has cloned human embryo cells from which he was able to extract stem cells for further research. Such occurrences are outrageous insults to humanity.

PROCRASTINATION AND SLOTHFULNESS

Procrastination is the tendency to put things off for a later time, causing inordinate delay in the completion of tasks.

Slothfulness is laziness akin to the slow movement of a sloth bear. Procrastination and slothfulness are two of the biggest obstacles to a successful career.

There is a couplet in Hindi where Kabir advises — "*kal kare so aaj kar, aaj kare so ab,*" which roughly translates as "do not wait till tomorrow for what can be done today and what is to be done today can be done now".

TEAM SPIRIT AND DISCUSSION

In today's corporate scenario it is the team that is more important than the individual. A number of individuals working in a spirit of togetherness can produce far better results than can be produced by a person working alone.

Group discussions are an integral part of a company's functioning as brainstorming sessions bring out the best in the participating individuals.

Various perspectives bring the larger picture into focus and there is absolutely no place for personal biases or prejudices. There is more attention to details leading to greater clarity in decision making.

DEVOTION TO DUTY

The captain of the *Titanic* who went down with his ship exemplifies the sense of devotion to duty.

In the present day, Ratan Tata, the MD of Tata Group of companies can be taken as a role model by young professionals. His brilliance as an entrepreneur, visionary and ideal employer is unsurpassed.

He is said to have remained in his office all through the attack on the Taj remaining in touch with the updates on his guests and employees. He even refrained from meeting some very important people who had come to see him during this time. Once the carnage came to an end, he saw to it that all his guests and employees were taken care of. The widow of one of the employees killed at the Taj said "I always knew that he was a great man but now I realise that he is a great employer too". He has ensured that his company stays in touch with the families of those killed, offering whatever help they require, up to the present day.

After spending crores at Singur, Ratan Tata decided to move only because he felt, after a certain point of time, that his employees' safety might be threatened.

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Professional ethics is a set of standards adopted by a professional community. Professional ethics are regulated by standards which are often referred to as codes of ethics (Wikipedia).

The code of ethics is very important because it gives us boundaries that we have to stay within in our professional careers. These internally enforced codes of practice that members of the profession are required to follow, prevents exploitation of the client and preserves the integrity of the profession.

Professional ethics related to medical, engineering, legal and business specializations have currently gained a lot of importance due to the advance in all spheres of technology and the development of expert skill sets that are often deployed in erroneous ways. The codes of practice implemented by the various professions aim to set aright any wrong doing that may occur within the ambit of that particular vocation.

ENGINEERING ETHICS

Engineering ethics is the field of applied ethics and system of moral principles that apply to the practice of engineering. The field examines and sets the obligations by engineers to society, to their clients, and to the profession.

As a scholarly discipline, it is closely related to subjects such as the philosophy of science, the philosophy of engineering, and the ethics of technology (Wikipedia).

These codes of practice for engineers came into practice in the 19th century when engineering emerged as a distinct profession and engineers saw themselves as professional practitioners or technical employees.

Four societies were formed in the United States of America to safeguard their interests.

1. The American Society for Civil Engineers (ASCE) (1851)
2. The American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE) (1884)
3. The American Institute of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) (1880)
4. The American Institute of Mining Engineers (AIME) (1871)

ASCE and AIEE were more closely identified with the engineer as a learned professional, whereas ASME, to an extent, and AIME almost entirely, identified with the view that the engineer is a technical employee.

At the beginning of the 20th century there were a series of engineering disasters notably bridge collapses, the most prominent being the Ashtabula River Railroad Disaster

(1876), Tay Bridge Disaster (1879) and the Quebec Bridge collapse (1907). These disasters forced the engineers to acknowledge certain shortcomings related to the profession such as technical, construction practices and even ethical standards. This led to three of the engineering societies, except the AIME (till today it has not), to formulate a code of ethics.

One of the first requirements for an engineer was to hold a proper license in order to practice. This license would be provided taking into account education, qualification and prescribed test taking. This was considered most essential for engineers involved in work which directly posed a risk to life, property, and environment.

The general principles of the codes of ethics are largely similar across the various engineering societies and chartering authorities of the world. The following is an example from the American Society of Civil Engineers:

1. Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public and shall strive to comply with the principles of sustainable development in the performance of their professional duties.
2. Engineers shall perform services only in areas of their competence.
3. Engineers shall issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.

4. Engineers shall act in professional matters for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees, and shall avoid conflicts of interest.

5. Engineers shall build their professional reputation on the merit of their services and shall not compete unfairly with others.

6. Engineers shall act in such a manner as to uphold and enhance the honor, integrity, and dignity of the engineering profession and shall act with zero-tolerance for bribery, fraud, and corruption.

7. Engineers shall continue their professional development throughout their careers, and shall provide opportunities for the professional development of those engineers under their supervision (Wikipedia).

Many ethical problems are encountered by engineers in the course of their professional life.

Ethical cases may involve

- Public safety: prevention of and protection from events that could jeopardize the safety of the general public from significant danger, injury, harm, or damage, such as crimes or disasters (natural or man-made).
- Bribery: Act of implying money or gift given that alters the behaviour of the recipient.
- Fraud: Intentional deception made for personal gain or to damage another person.

- Environmental protection: Practice of protecting the environment
- Fairness: Being free from bias or injustice
- Honesty in research and testing: Avoiding falsification of data, adoption and reproduction of another author without due acknowledgment, etc.
- Conflicts of interest: When an individual or an organization involves in multiple interests.

CASE STUDIES

In late 1994, reports began to appear in the media that Pentium microprocessor manufactured by Intel was flawed. It was claimed that computers that use such microprocessors could not correctly compute some simple calculations such as multiplication and division.

Intel rejected and denied such claims at first. Later however, Intel accepted that there might be minor problems with the processors only if the user does some very sophisticated calculations. It was also argued that Intel was aware of the problem and was working to fix it.

Many people who had already bought the defected chip asked Intel to replace them with flawless chips. Intel refused to do so at first.

The result was a public relations (PR) disaster for Intel.

UTILITARIANISM

Actions are good only if they maximize human well-being. The emphasis in utilitarianism is not to maximize the wellbeing of the individual but the well-being of the society as a whole. In this respect it is a collectivist approach.

Example: Hydroelectric dams often lead to great benefit to society by providing stable supplies of drinking water, flood control and recreational opportunities. However, this is done at the expense of people leaving their homeland.

Utilitarianism tries to balance the needs of society with the needs of the individual, with an emphasis on what will provide the most benefit to the most people.

Utilitarianism is analogue to many engineering analysis methods including risk-benefit analysis or cost-benefit analysis.

However, as good as the utilitarianism sounds, there are some inherent problems with it. Sometimes what is good for the society may be bad for a particular individual or a group of individuals.

Example: WIPP (Waste Isolation Pilot Plant) near Carlsbad, New Mexico was designed to be a repository for nuclear waste generated in the USA. It consisted of a system of tunnels bored into underground salt formations which are considered to be extremely stable against water incursion and eventual leakage of nuclear waste into underground water sources. But then what about the risks

of transportation of nuclear waste products to the site at New Mexico?

Utilitarian approach: Solution of this waste disposal problem will benefit society by providing improved health care and plentiful electricity. The slight potential for adverse health effects for individuals living near the transportation routes is far outweighed by the overall benefits to society. So WIPP should be allowed to open.

As this example demonstrates, the utilitarian approach seem to ignore the needs of individuals, especially if these needs seem relatively insignificant.

Another objection to utilitarianism is that its implementation depends greatly on knowing what will lead to the most good. Frequently, it is impossible to know a priori exactly what the consequences of an action are. So maximizing the benefit to society involves guesswork.

- Act utilitarianism / John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)
- Rule utilitarianism

TYPES OF UTILITARIANISM

Act utilitarianism: This focuses on individual actions rather than on rules. Mill felt that individual actions must be judged based on whether the most good was produced in a given situation, and rules should be broken if doing so will lead to the most good.

Rule utilitarianism: This pays great attention to moral rules (do not harm others, do not steal). Rule utilitarians hold that although adhering to these rules might not always maximize good in a particular situation, overall, adhering to moral rules will ultimately lead to the most good.

There is always the opportunity in every profession to make more money by disregarding ethics. There may even be a desperate need for that extra money but it is more important to spare a thought for the innocents whose lives are thrown into danger by our thoughtless actions.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Environment – Whose responsibility is it?

Money first, ethics later

Should celebrities endorse products?

UNIT V

UNIT V

SPIRITUAL VALUES

SPIRITUAL VALUES

"Every great nation and race has its own core philosophy to keep it grounded and when the storms of change and progress rage, those that hold on to these guiding principles stand firm. India's spirit of secularism has welded religions and philosophies born here with those that were adopted making our philosophical fitness equipment even more effective." (*Ranjini Manian, Business Line, Jan. 11, 2010*)

Moral values regulate human conduct at much deeper levels of the personality than most other values do. So moral values tend to take precedence over other values. When we start developing a particular way of life, we encounter situations where our values conflict with one another and we are called up on to make choices. In this kind of situation, our choice of values can be guided by love for our fellow beings.

All religions teach love for other beings. They also advocate universal brotherhood and equality.

The similarity in the ideas expressed in the Hindu Vedanta and the Islamic branch of Sufism can be seen in the following lines of Maulana-Jalal-ud-din-Rumi where he expresses the relation of the creation and creator:

*The invisible lights
Which emanate from the universal spirit are
Like an ocean and the individual souls are
Like waves.*

*If we look at the ocean,
we find that all waves are
in the ocean and that in reality
they are all one.*

*But if we look at the waves
we find that they are many
in numbers and separate from each other.*

Virginia Woolf's novel *Waves* too expresses the same viewpoint.

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF RELIGION

Religion refers to a particular system of faith and worship. Religion has been devised and created for the convenience and benefit of man but unfortunately it has become a tool for wrecking the lives of people.

Misinterpretation of religious texts has led to the manipulation of the gullible and illiterate and ignited the animosity between people, leading to violence in the name of religion.

India is perhaps the only country where people of different faiths worship at a common centre of pilgrimage.

The Sai Baba temple at Shirdi (the complex also houses a dargah), the Ayyappan temple at Sabarimala (the mosque of Vavar here is a compulsory stop for the pilgrims), the Shrine at Velankanni and the Mosque at Nagore are perfect examples of pilgrim centres where Hindus, Muslims and Christians congregate in a spirit of faith.

It is unfortunate that in spite of a long history of peaceful coexistence we allow ourselves to be manipulated by fanatics with vested interests. It is up to each one of us to recognise peace as the absolute objective of life, to rid ourselves of dogmatic self-righteousness and strengthen the core of our beings so that we are not swayed in times of crisis. The story "The Two Old Men" by Leo Tolstoy portrays this clearly.

Two friends Elfim and Elisha were on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. On their way they stop at a famine-struck village. While Elfim decides to proceed with his journey, Elisha stays back and takes care of an ailing family. He spends all his money in treating them and buying work tools for them so that they could earn their living and lead a normal life. He returns to his village without visiting Jerusalem.

His friend Elfim who reaches Jerusalem in the meanwhile feels that he has glimpses of his friend Elisha in the huge crowd near the altar. On Elfim's return, he is helped by the same family whom his friend had helped earlier and he is regaled with stories of a kind man who has put the family back on its feet.

This story tells us that we are first and foremost human beings and our growth lies in the contribution we make to others' growth—physical, social, moral or spiritual. A true human being understands that religions are frameworks within and beyond which the human spirit expresses itself. It is the faith that helps a person tide over the difficult times and the worst crisis in one's life.

The miracle that can be wrought by faith is revealed in a poem titled "The Ballad of Father Gilligan".

The Ballad of Father Gilligan

*THE old priest, Peter Gilligan,
Was weary night and day;
For half his flock were in their beds,
Or under green sods lay.
Once, while he nodded on a chair,
At the moth-hour of eve,
Another poor man sent for him,
And he began to grieve.
"I have no rest, nor joy, nor peace,
For people die and die";
And after cried he, "God forgive!
My body spake, not I!"
He knelt, and leaning on the chair
He prayed and fell asleep.*

And the moth-hour went from the fields,
And stars began to peep.
They slowly into millions grew,
And leaves shook in the wind,
And God covered the world with shade,
And whispered to mankind,
Upon the time of sparrow chirp
When the moths come once more,
The old priest, Peter Gilligan,
Stood upright on the floor.
"Mavrone, mavrone! the man has died,
While I slept on the chair."
He roused his horse out of its sleep,
And rode with little care.
He rode now as he never rode,
By rocky lane and fen;
The sick man's wife opened the door:
"Father! you come again."
"And is the poor man dead?" he cried.
"He died an hour ago."
The old priest, Peter Gilligan,
In grief swayed to and fro.
"When you were gone, he turned and died

As merry as a bird."
The old priest, Peter Gilligan,
He knelt him at that word.
"He who hath made the night of stars
For souls who tire and bleed,
Sent one of His great angels down
To help me in my need,
"He who is wrapped in purple robes,
With planets in His care,
Had pity on the least of things
Asleep upon a chair."

—William Butler Yeats

Spirituality calms the mind and soul. It helps man realize the truth about himself, his fellow beings and the need for peaceful co-existence.

NON-VIOLENCE

Non-violence or Ahimsa is the central principle of Jainism and Buddhism. Gandhiji and Martin Luther King Jr. have proved to the world that wars can be fought by peaceful means. To them the means was as important as the end. Today, in the age of cold wars and actual wars, it seems unbelievable that a country could gain its freedom without bloodshed but Gandhiji was able to do exactly that with his non-violent weapon, Ahimsa.

GANDHIJI ON AHIMSA

"Literally speaking, ahimsa means non-violence. But to me it has much higher, infinitely higher meaning. It means that you may not offend anybody; you may not harbor uncharitable thought, even in connection with those who are considered your enemies. To one who follows this doctrine, there are no enemies. A man who believes in the efficacy of this doctrine finds in the ultimate stage, when he is about to reach the goal, the whole world at his feet. If you express your love – Ahimsa – in such a manner that it impresses itself indelibly upon your so called enemy, he must return that love."

This doctrine tells us that we may guard the honor of those under our charge by delivering our own lives into the hands of those men who would commit the sacrilege. And that requires far greater courage than delivering of blows."

Spirituality also creates purity of speech, thought and action.

PURITY OF THOUGHT, SPEECH AND ACTION

The "Three Monkeys" motif made famous by Gandhiji immediately comes to mind when one considers the best way to attain purity of thought, speech and action.

Seeing no evil, hearing no evil and doing no evil will ensure that thoughts remain pure and evil is exterminated. This is however easier said than done and it requires the concerted effort on the part of every individual. We should

practice weighing our thoughts, words and deeds in order to shape a better today and a brighter tomorrow.

THE WINDOW

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour a day to drain the fluids from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back.

The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation. And every afternoon when the man in the bed next to the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window.

The man in the other bed would live for those one-hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and color of the outside world. The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake, the man had said. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Lovers walked arm in arm amid flowers of every color of the rainbow. Grand old trees graced the landscape, and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance. As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine the picturesque scene.

One warm afternoon the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man could not hear the band, he could see it in his mind's eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words. Unexpectedly, an alien thought entered his head: Why should he have all the pleasure of seeing everything while I never get to see anything? It didn't seem fair. As the thought fermented, the man felt ashamed at first. But as the days passed and he missed seeing more sights, his envy eroded into resentment and soon turned him sour. He began to brood and found himself unable to sleep. He should be by that window - and that thought now controlled his life.

Late one night, as he lay staring at the ceiling, the man by the window began to cough. He was choking on the fluid in his lungs. The other man watched in the dimly lit room as the struggling man by the window groped for the button to call for help. Listening from across the room, he never moved, never pushed his own button which would have brought the nurse running. In less than five minutes, the coughing and choking stopped, along with the sound of breathing. Now, there was only silence-- deathly silence.

The following morning, the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths. When she found the lifeless body of the man by the window, she was saddened and called the hospital attendant to take it away--no words, no fuss. As soon as it seemed appropriate, the man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was

happy to make the switch and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone.

Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look. Finally, he would have the joy of seeing it all himself. He strained to slowly turn to look out the window beside the bed. It faced a blank wall.

MORAL OF THE STORY

The pursuit of happiness is a matter of choice...it is a positive attitude we consciously choose to express. It is not a gift that gets delivered to our doorstep each morning, nor does it come through the window. And I am certain that our circumstances are just a small part of what makes us joyful. If we wait for them to get just right, we will never find lasting joy.

The pursuit of happiness is an inward journey. Our minds are like programs, awaiting the code that will determine behaviors; like bank vaults awaiting our deposits. If we regularly deposit positive, encouraging, and uplifting thoughts, if we continue to bite our lips just before we begin to grumble and complain, if we shoot down that seemingly harmless negative thought as it germinates, we will find that there is much to rejoice about.

AESTHETICS AND SPIRITUAL VALUES

Joy and peace can be attained through experiencing great arts - literature, sculpture, music or painting. The creative spirit finding and following its own discipline, blooms forth as great works of art. That is why Keats says: "A thing

of beauty is a joy forever." Such is the miraculous touch of any art on the one who experiences it, whether as a creative artist or as the rasika, it transports him out of his physical being to some eternal realm filling him with a rare peace and joy. In other words, it connects him to himself and others when he feels in Browning's words "God's in His Heaven, all's right with the world."

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Should religion have a role to play in public life? Can there be a classless society?

Service to man is service to God.

APPENDIX—A