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**Environmental Equality and Social Justice Need Emphasis on Religious, Moral and  
Spiritual Education**

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**Abstract**

In the race of modernization, we deplete our environment due to unequal and unfair use resources. In the present time small portion of the present population uses a large portion of resources and their action creates environmental inequality and imbalance. This time we forget our moral value and ethic which we had taken from our ancestors. So in the present time we needs a system that changes the materialistic thinking of present generation and learn them to live in the harmony of the nature. Everything provided to us by nature have an equal right to get its benefits. Our religion and spirituality teaches us to respect, protect and equally get the benefits from nature. Our present generation going to inspire from artificial character which they watching around this materialized world. Spiritual health now becomes a part of our system. Spiritual intelligence and religious knowledge creates a divine qualities and promotes healing of illness, helps overcome addiction, helps overcome sleep disorders, enhances focus and concentration, thoughts and attitude become positive, helps us to make right decisions.

**Keywords:** Environmental equality, social justice, spiritual intelligence.

**Introduction**

“Spirituality is the innate human need to connect with something larger than ourselves.” It may be defined as being connected to two components: the vertical and the horizontal. Vertical component: something sacred, divine, or timeless as a Higher Power, Source, Ultimate Consciousness. Horizontal component: being of service to our fellow humans and to the planet at large.

Religion refers to both the personal practices related to faith as well as to the larger shared system of belief. Many saints say that love for one another (human brotherhood), love for all creation (biotic and abiotic) and love for oneself is religion. Religion is also a formal system of belief in God. Knowledge of spirituality and religion provide a key role in environmental conservation and social justice giving them the power what to do? Or what should not to do?

### **Importance of Nurturing Spiritual and Religious Values in Society**

In the words of Swami Vivekananda, “Religion is the idea which is raising the brute unto man and man unto God.” Religious traditions teach us that the Earth is sacred and this is everyone duty to protect and maintain the natural integrity and live in the harmony of nature. There are many riots created and promoted on the name of religion. Most of the crime done today in the state of kama, karodh, lobha, moha and anhkhar in Indian customs. These crime increases due to degradation of spiritual and religious knowledge in present generation. There are many stringent punishments to cure such heinous and brutal crime. But question arise by making such strict amendments, laws and punishing criminals up to whole life can we really change the mentality of the of that criminal mind and his action?. Here knowledge of spirituality and moral education is in urgent needs in the society. We say anybody criminal because he or she think and then did that criminal action. There are many thought comes in the mind may be positive or negative and when this thought remain so long it become our action and action of any kind in long term become habit. So if we see the working of our mind it’s like the empathy disc we can erase and put any kind of thought and forget something is like the biggest gift given to us by God. India is considered as the generator of knowledge of spirituality since it have first Godly university which give its services free of cost at national and international level free of cost in the form of Rajyog, which is also as the “king of all yoga”.

### **Spiritual and Religious approach toward Environmental Equality and Sustainable Development**

In this highly mechanized world human being collect and discover new goods for their own comfort at the cost of environmental deterioration. Present generation search their happiness in these nonliving things which are made for their comfort now become a part of their life. Due to increase in demand we produce more and more products to fulfill our dreams. So this time we need a system which teaches us the real mean of happiness.

### **Spiritual and Religious Education in Social Justice**

There is crisis of leadership in the nation, today the most of representative of our country does not show good moral example to the present generation. There is many corruption, scam and useless statements creates feeling of guilt, embarrassment, repentance in the mind of common people. The main cause all these events is the lack of spirituality which can create inner strength, positive energy that teach them their role in society. Zimmerman-Oster and Burkhardt (1991) contend that we need a new type of leadership and a new generation of leaders who can bring positive changes to local, national, and international affairs. This new type of leadership should be a spiritual type of leadership that can bring positive changes not only through knowledge and technique, but also through the leaders' inner strength. So that their activity can create sympathy, love and compassion to the common people who had elected them to serve not to become a parasite on impoverished people. Stacks (2000) also contend that this positive life energy increases one's own creativity and gives rise to one's compassion toward others. Yasuno (2004) development of spiritual beliefs and values, such as interconnectedness and compassion, the capacity to feel another's pain and sorrow, and the ability to feel responsible toward others. These leaders could not accept the evils that cause pain and sorrow in our world, which became a source of energy that engaged them in the fight against injustice. Thus, based on this sense of responsibility, they made a commitment to activism. Parker Palmer (1999) has gone even further, suggesting that education is generally so fearful of spirituality that it tends to focus on facts rather than meaning and information rather than wisdom, thereby missing the real issues in life (1998). Palmer makes it clear however that in his vision he rejects any form of religion in public education. Kessler (1998) similarly makes a strong case for the inclusion of education for spiritual development. She has argued that if we are educating for citizenship and leadership in a democracy then spirituality clearly belongs in schools. Tisdell (2002) found that the spiritual commitments of her study's participants required that they actively work for social change. Tacey (2005, 2000) has called for more discussion about spirituality in the modern context. As noted elsewhere Burrows (2006) the physicist Danae Zohar and psychologist Marshall (2000) have provided us with a new way to think about this topic through the concept of spiritual intelligence. Spiritual Intelligence is "the ability to behave with compassion and wisdom while maintaining inner and outer peace regardless of the circumstances." Once the spiritual intelligence is begun it reinforces the growth and development of emotional intelligence.

### **School Ethos, Policies and Practices**

The school environment/ethos represents the hidden curricula. It is determined by the school philosophy, mission, rules, procedures, relationships, working conditions, expectations etc. Education for values has no place in schools that have an environment where there is no clear vision or expectation, where there are nebulous objectives, poor communication, teacher's apathy, low productivity, complaints and complacency, little evidence of respect and trust, lack of creativity, enthusiasm, innovation etc. Research and commonsense tell us that if values have to flourish in a school, these negative factors will counter the efforts. The values which a school decides to promote must permeate the daily life of the school through its rules, codes, curricular activities within the classroom and outside, policies and procedures, symbols, relationships and so on. The first important factor is that physical plant should be safe and clean. It does not have to be shiny and new, just a clean and safe place to work. Research suggests that working conditions that are comfortable and safe contribute to achievement and motivation of staff and students. There are a few key questions which schools need to discuss to improve their disciplinary practices and ethos.

- How does the way we handle discipline in this school contribute to the objectives of promoting value education?
- Are the discipline policies and practices aligned with the values that we are trying to foster?
- Have we effectively involved students and parents in developing and implementing our discipline policies and practices?
- Are our disciplines practices intend to promote self-discipline, selfreliance, self-esteem, and respect for others?
- Have we adequately prepared school personnel and parents to use methods that help students examine their behaviours and take responsibility for their actions?

### **Conclusion**

Religious values are a solid ground on which to base those sacrifices and the knowledge of spirituality provides recognition that spiritual joy and not material goods are the source of real happiness. So we have to reform the present system and to add religious and spiritual values in the present education system. By doing so, we can create a healthy environment and provide social justice to the present and future generation.

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