PREFACE

Value-education at present is an important agenda in our education system. The word 'value-education' may be recent but the concept is as old as human civilization because value-education was imbibed in our culture and civilization. In ancient age especially in the age of the Upaniṣads value-oriented education was imparted to develop the mind, body and intellect of the young students to make them the most ideal citizens of the country as well as the most ideal member of the entire community. Present-day society is inflicted with growing erosion of values and implementation of Upaniṣadic value-oriented education could prevent social unrest. Value-oriented education of the Upaniṣads is a wide subject. There are scattered references on this subject which are found in different Upaniṣads. However, a systematic and comprehensive approach to analyse the concept of value-oriented education as found in the Upaniṣads has remained so far elusive. Hence an attempt has been made through the dissertation to throw some light on this aspect. The present work encompasses the studies in perspective of different values viz. spiritual, religious, moral, ethical and social as evidenced in the fourteen principal Upaniṣads related to the four Vedas. Efforts have been made to include diversified views of the modern and the western critics of the Upaniṣads and to analyse the impact of value-oriented Upaniṣadic teaching on their literary works in order to bring out a critical analysis of the subject.
The present work which is analytical and comparative in nature comprises six chapters among which the first and the last are introductory and concluding chapters respectively. The other four chapters deal successively with the concept of education in ancient India, Upaniṣadic educational system, value-oriented education in the Upaniṣads and the impact of value-oriented education on the society. However, it can be comprehended that it is too difficult to incorporate the entire relevant documents in such a short dissertation and I am aware of such possible shortcomings in the present work.

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