Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

India holds a culture purely based on traditions. Morality plays an important role in the life of every person here. India can be proud that she had many ancient Rishis who was morally matured and perfect in their dealings. They were not born with it, but they acquired it. But nowadays those values are diminishing. Most of the persons are bothered about neither values nor morality. The introduction of technology and the intrusion of western culture all can be said as the cause of decline of morality. Morality is one of the most popular topics of research in philosophy and Education.

Moral behavior of modern men

A morally matured person is always matured in his or her behavior towards himself and also to the society around. The responsible behavior of a morally matured person enables him to be true to himself and to others. Usually, a morally matured person can be self-confident, empathetic and helping others. He has the ability to solve problems wisely and possesses a stable and controlled emotion. He always thinks of a better life by looking forward with a positive attitude. An immoral person is always a problem to the society around and may not be able to adjust with others. Sometimes such persons become unsatisfied with themselves. This gradually leads to negative thoughts which leads to depression or other mental illnesses as his real self and ideal self are incongruent to each other.

The first and foremost requisite for any society is that its members must be moral. The decaying of morals disturbs the equilibrium of the society. Modern men, while depending on the technology, forgets to live well with the ones that he is living with and avoids them for staying in touch with the ‘distant ones’ through technology. As they get less time to make relation to their family members, the family bonds get weakened as the days go by. They do not feel to mingle with others and they feel inferiority to express their own opinions and to raise questions in front of others. Thus the very personality of human beings is destroyed due to increased
technology use. Internet Surfing Addiction clears the fact that it causes the morality in man to diminish and men are being made mere puppets in the hands of technology. Human values have no power over modern men. Life often becomes tough due to the overuse of technology and human beings are not at all able to leave it, even though he knows that it harms him to a great extent.

The morality of the people depends on the culture in which they develop their morality naturally. But in the present technological realm, morality is not developed naturally because overnight there are high rise buildings with a hundred stories, shopping centers occupying five square miles, cinema centers showing twenty films simultaneously. The condition of a man who lives in such a technological culture is flickering with the blinking of an eye. So there is no time for gradual progress of morality, instead everybody tries to save their own self. Thus man lives as a creature which seeks its own pleasure. No matter what matters to others.

Modern men seem to be pleasure seeking than before. But the technological culture has left nothing for him to enjoy really and naturally. Now there are only a few beautiful places which are naturally blessed. Now Men find pleasure in drinking, gambling, and ‘getting and spending’ as Wordsworth told. They do not have leisure time as they are busy with their works. After their works, they often are tired and nobody gets time for even to talk to their family members. The western people try to relief themselves through their sexual life. When two persons of opposite sex meet only one thought comes to their mind and relaxes them. Indian culture also is turning just the same much faster. Here also people are very busy as technology advances and they move away from the traditional morality and ways of life.

The people who live in mountains and natural places seem to be healthier than the people who live in technologically facilitated world. The former’s mind is so calm and pleasant as they listen closely the singing of the birds, growth and flowering of trees and fresh and green nature. Their tensions are swept away by the cool breeze and the twinkling stars at night. Morality is created thus in their minds
very naturally. Ethics are not created in parliament or by social thinkers, nor are they enforced through educational institutions. But the role of teachers in developing a morally matured person is of crucial importance.

The fundamentals of Morality is supposed to be grounded in family, however the present circumstances of the home environment do not cater moral aspects properly. This creates a need of moral development through the multidimensional learning experiences at the school level. It is a fact that morality includes different dimensions such as cognitive, affective and psychomotor domains.

Variables affecting Moral Maturity Behavior

**Intellectual Styles**

Researches in styles vary such as Learning Styles, Cognitive Styles, Teaching Styles, and Intellectual Styles etc. These variables got much wide discussions in educational research. These variables reflect the change in the emphasis of educational philosophy from Teacher focused approaches to Learner centered approaches. The present study is conducted using Intellectual Style as one of the Independent Variables which affects morality. Usually people do not have a style, but rather a profile of styles. But society does not always judge people with equal abilities as equal. Rather, people whose styles match those expected in certain situations are judged as having higher levels of abilities, despite the fact that what is present is not ability, but fit between those people’s styles and the tasks they are confronting (Sternberg, 1999). Understanding styles can help people to understand better why some activities fit them and others don’t, and even why some people fit them and others don’t.

**Techno culture**

An existing culture always should have a scale enough to have discrimination between the right and wrong. The technological aspects like industrialization and globalization have affected the rural culture which was far better than that of the present. It makes man completely sick. The introduction of
technology in various fields was considered as a great blessing by the modern men. They often seem to blind their eyes to the reality.

Inculcating technological culture makes life smoother. Many a time it seems to pollute both the environment and minds of human being. It is not that everything about technology is bad. When the rural culture was followed, there was much interaction among the people. They worked with united minds and bodies. The big difference lies here that in technological culture one man doesn’t know who lives on the next door and they don’t care about it. Nature is completely neglected and man has developed a certain kind of cruelty towards both the living and nonliving things.

All these problems come as we do not have the right insight into the moral significance of technological artifacts and systems. Over exposure to the technology is harming, even though it makes life smooth and easy. If our ancestors have done mistakes, we need not repeat it. We need to have a corrective mind. We have to keep our mind open for receiving the good and rejecting the bad. Care should be taken not to disturb others. Having a technological culture is good when technology is used in a limited manner. As human beings, we need to take back the lost values and morals and live a true life. Whatever may be the technology we are using, use it after brooding over it twice, firstly considering how it can harm us and then deciding how to use it effectively not affecting our life, especially by preserving the valuable moralities, which our ancestors have passed over to us.

Modern society is characterized by its technological advancement which is the result of the greatest imagination of the modern men. But the studies prove that there is a gradual diminishing of morality due to the advancement in technology. Modern men are mere robots in the hands of technology. Technological advancement, in many ways has proved to be good for the humanity. But it is a truth that ‘men have become the tools of their tools’ as Thoreau (1856) commented. But many times it bites back at the hands that have made and developed it.

Technology is the result of man’s search for a smooth and easy life. The over use of machines harm the welfare of the environment that we live in. But technology, of course, makes the life of human beings smooth and easy as he
expected when he designed it. Computer is one among them. Computer has unlimited scope in different areas of life. It helps human beings by making their jobs easy and relaxing them. Internet is the most modern technique, which is used by almost all the people of the modern world. Internet is thus a valuable source of all kinds of information. The influence of Internet is evident in the way we communicate, do business, entertain ourselves and acquire information. Everyday life is made easier with the help of Internet, even for an ordinary person.

**Goal directed human behavior**

All human behavior is purposeful or goal directed. Everything that a person does is certainly done to satisfy some of his needs or to attain some goal. A goal is anything that a man thinks will lead to the satisfaction of his need. Motivational belief is the process by which a man or student is impelled to seek some goal.

Classroom motivation consists in helping the learner to understand as to what good learning will do to him. The teacher should tell the students repeatedly that how learning activity contributes to the satisfaction of their needs. When the students simply learn some subjects to earn a livelihood obtaining a reward, then the students are extrinsically motivated. Apparently extrinsic motivation is inferior to intrinsic motivation as a learning device. However, intrinsic motivation appears to be the best and most enjoyable approach to the learning process but when it is not possible to attain, a sensible extrinsic motivation is an acceptable substitute.

People are most creative when they are primarily intrinsically motivated rather than primarily extrinsically motivated. Bandura (1997) emphasizes the importance of individual’s motivational processes and he further states that individuals should shape their Beliefs about their abilities, set negative and positive outcome, and anticipate different pursuit and goals for themselves. He points out that self- efficacy Beliefs have a significant role in regulation of motivation in addition to these.

Education aims at multi-faced development of a human being, his intellectual, physical, economic, and moral development. Today’s children are the
mirror in which the future of a nation is reflected. In order to preserve, maintain and advance the position of our country in the world, the present day generation must be catered with strong foundations of values in all realms of life. Personality is what makes one a unique person, and is recognizable soon after birth. A child’s personality has several components: temperament is the set of genetically determined traits that determine the child’s approach to the world and how the child learned about the world. There are no genes that specify personality traits, but some genes do control the development of the nervous system, which in turn controls behavior. Most psychologists agree that these two factors temperament and environment influence the development of a person’s personality the most. Finally, the third component of personality is character, the set of emotional, cognitive and behavioral patterns learned from experience that determines how a person thinks, feels and behaves. A person’s character continues to evolve throughout life, although much depends on inborn traits and early experiences. Character is nothing but a person’s moral development.

Moral maturity behavior is a composite of cognitive, affective and technological life experiences. SB Chavan (1996) identified five core universal values viz., Truth, Righteous Conduct, Peace, Love and Non Violence. These core values represent five domains of human personality viz., intellectual, physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual. This is the hour of technological advancement. Each and every activity of human being is influenced by technology. Technology has become an integral part of modern life. Every society holds its own culture and identity. A modern society can never be devoid of some kind of technology. The most evident fact is that one can never decide that he will not benefit from technology.

Children now have a chance to learn computer from very younger days as a part of their curriculum and they know how to use Internet facilities in the computer. Students use Internet for their study purposes like preparing seminars, projects, etc., almost all the prospective teacher is aware of computer and its applications. It has been seen that many college students are spending their valuable time at Internet cafes.
One of the main tasks of education in a modern society is to keep pace with advance in knowledge. In such a society, knowledge cannot be received passively. It is something that is actively discovered. The main account in education should be on the awakening of curiosity, the stimulation of creativity, the development of proper interest, attitudes and values and the building of essential skills such as independent study and capacity to think and judge for oneself.

Development of morality through various dimensions needs variety of experiences including curricular and co-curricular activities.

**Need and Significance of the Study**

Once a student is prepared to learn, he would enjoy the pursuit of learning. This means that the teacher in the classroom has to motivate the students to learn. Most of the motivation researches are focused on well-adjusted students who are successful in college. However, successful students differ from their less successful peers in many ways. Successful students often have clear ideas of what they want and do not want to achieve in life, perceive many learning things as supportive of their own wishes, goals and needs, and react positively to the teacher’s motivational practices. Research findings reveal that students try to make sense of novel learning situation by referring to their motivation belief. As a matter of fact, motivational belief is at the heart of learning. Without it no learning is possible. The teacher who hopes to promote learning cannot afford to ignore motivational belief.

Children learn best in different ways and at different times, some children may learn better through the use of different learning materials rather than merely listening to an inspirational talk by the teacher. The style of learning may also change according to age. According to psychologists, children learn best if they use their senses in acquiring knowledge. As they grow older, they may be able to learn in a more abstract way. Students, who have a good conception of the learning goals and also have access to a repertoire of strategies to generate an adequate solution plan, use their effort constructively. They can judge which strategies or skills are useful and also monitor whether the selected strategies are effective to reach the goal. Education is the strongest instrument by which we can safeguard society. But
our present system of education born out of colonial ethos fails to orient the mind and heart towards society. It is high time to reshape education so that one responds rationally and creatively to the challenges and responsibilities and develops a third eye among human minds. Thus education can help to form the nucleus of a new civilization.

Education system all over the world during past few decades, has witnessed a transition, with far reaching consequences on the very paradigm of teaching and learning and with manifestation on the very goals of education and means of delivery, educational institutions are trying to adapt themselves to the changes in the teaching learning environment that are placing heavier demands on them in terms of greater responsibility and accountability. Teachers are having a pivotal role in shaping the personality of the learner. Teachers are the pillars of any educational institution. The curricular objectives can’t be fulfilled without the wholehearted cooperation of the teachers at all facets of institutional life. Hence of all the variables that determine the success of educational program is none other than teachers- his/her attitude, competencies etc. A teacher with stable moral behavior can only scaffold the process of moral maturity cementing on the children. Teacher has to be trained and familiarized with the conceptual aspects of morality and the strategies for inculcating high moral codes among the students.

Teacher preparation is critical to every levels of education, particularly at the adolescent stage. Every program of teacher education needs to be pursued on the basis of its educational philosophy. It is universally acknowledged that education can offer solutions to the problem facing society, and thus offer an effective means for social reconstruction. Teachers play a crucial role in building a great nation. Hence, teacher education becomes a matter of vital concern. Teacher education programs are programs for professional preparation of teachers and not programs of general academic study. So they should accordingly be provided with general and specific theories of educational psychology and be acquainting with the technology. In this absence teacher education becomes a hit or miss affair; it also becomes not only a financial waste but also a source of erosion of values.
It is imperative that a comprehensive value education program is to be incorporated in the educational experience of prospective teachers. Teachers are the best tool for inculcating values; hence prospective teacher’s training program must be enriched with strong elements of moral maturity behavior. Reorienting the educational theories and practices with the findings of the study shall help to cultivate and cement the personality of the future teachers with foundations of values. Hence the research envisages to probe into the influence of intellectual style, motivational belief and techno culture on moral maturity behavior.

As B.Ed students are concerned, they are undergoing a program of short duration with active involvements. Teacher education plays a crucial role in structuring the present system of the society and shaping the future of the nation. Teacher education institutions are responsible for supplying good quality teachers to the educational system of the country. The quality of training imparted to the teachers would determine their ability to handle the new challenges. But when they are not understood and guided properly, there is a chance for them to turn immoral.

The widely accepted education concept is that intellectual styles, motivational belief and techno culture have an inter relation with Moral Maturity Behavior. Hence the investigator assumes that there exists significant relationship between these variables. The investigator has an intense experience with Prospective teachers. Most of them are studying for the sake of studying only. They don’t have any motivation behind their choice of courses. From this the investigator assumes that, their intellectual styles, techno culture and motivational belief can be manipulated in the positive direction, so that their Moral Maturity Behavior will be improved. Before making an attempt – the relationship between the three variables with Moral Maturity Behavior is to be established.

**Statement of the Problem**

Nowadays human intellect is replaced by robotic intelligence and computer. Man loses confidence in using his own intellect. Machines replace teachers in many fields. This increases serious issues among students in using their potentials and lacks goal directed human behavior. All these have declined modern man’s morality
and they live merely as living things which act as per the technology demands. The essence of value oriented curriculum and teacher’s existence have questioned in a society with technological culture. Teachers have significant role in moulding the students to become good citizens of the country. It is during the pre-service period the inputs and experiences necessary for developing an integrated morally matured teacher are to be obtained. To redesign the training of teachers at secondary level to materialise the said objectives the gap, if any has to be identified. For this, the different factors; psychological and technological are to be identified. With this purpose the investigator stated the title of the problem as “INFLUENCE OF INTELLECTUAL STYLES, TECHNO CULTURE AND MOTIVATIONAL BELIEF ON MORAL MATURITY BEHAVIOR OF B.ED TEACHER TRINEES IN KERALA”.

Definition of Key Terms

Intellectual Styles

Intellectual style is an individual difference variable in human performance, have been investigated for a long back. It is a preferred way of thinking (Sternberg, 1999). Not ability, but rather how one uses the abilities that they have. It is psychological because the use of particular style is partially contingent upon how one’s personality interacts with one’s environment. Intellectual Style focus on how one prefers to think and describe the way individuals think, perceive and remember information. It is a critical determination of one’s cognitive capacity.

Techno Culture

Techno culture is a neologism, not currently in standard dictionaries but with some popularity in academics. A term that describes the way people view technology and the role technology has found place in their lives. There are four types of uses of technology: unnecessary, necessary good, necessary evil and strategic advantage, depending on the extent and effectiveness of their use as a part and parcel in ones lives.
**Motivational Belief**

Motivational Belief refers to the forces encouraging a person to engage on a task or to pursue a goal. In the college setting, it concerns the reason for which a student works persistently to reach a desirable result (Wotters & Rosenthal, 2000). It is thus the sum total of the factors which push an individual from within and keeps him moving ahead till the desirable goal is attained.

**Moral Maturity Behavior**

Moral Maturity Behavior can be defined as the stage of development when an individual or a group is able, through reasoned judgment of what is right and proper, to implement principles of ethical conduct in accordance with individual or group potentialities and in line with cultural expectations; an end product of the sum total of numerous processes of enculturation and acculturation.

**B.Ed Teacher Trainees**

It refers to the students of the program leading to the degree of Bachelor of Education in the various colleges of teacher education.

**Variables of the Study**

The variables selected for the study are the following:

**Independent and dependent variables**

Moral Maturity Behavior is considered as dependent variable. Intellectual Style, Techno Culture and Motivational Belief are treated as independent variables.

**Classificatory variables**

Gender, type of management of institutions, educational qualification of parents, locality, subject specification and owning of computer are treated as classificatory variables.

**Objectives of the Study**

The present study was conducted with the following objectives:
1. To compare the mean scores of Intellectual Styles, Motivational Belief, Techno Culture and Moral Maturity Behavior of B.Ed Teacher Trainees for the subsamples based on
   a) Gender                             b) Subject of study                             c) Locale
   d) Parental Qualification               e) Type of Management                            g) Parental Employment

2. To find out the main effect and interaction effect of Intellectual Styles, Motivational Belief and Techno Culture on Moral Maturity Behavior of B.Ed Teacher Trainees of Kerala for the total and subsamples based on
   a) Gender                             b) Subject of study                             c) Locale
   d) Parental Qualification               e) Type of Management                            g) Parental Employment

3. To predict the individual and joint contribution of Intellectual Styles, Motivational Belief and Techno Culture on Moral Maturity Behavior of B.Ed Teacher Trainees of Kerala for total sample.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated for the present study;

1. There exists significant difference in the mean scores of Intellectual Styles, Motivational Belief, Techno Culture and Moral Maturity Behavior of B.Ed Teacher Trainees for the subsamples based on
   a) Gender                             b) Subject of study                             c) Locale
   d) Parental Qualification               e) Type of Management                            g) Parental Employment

2. There exists significant main and interaction effect of Intellectual Styles, Motivational Belief and Techno Culture on Moral Maturity Behavior of B.Ed Teacher Trainees in Kerala for total and subsamples based on
   a) Gender                             b) Subject of study                             c) Locale
   d) Parental Qualification               e) Type of Management                            g) Parental Employment

3. There exists individual and joint contribution of Intellectual Styles, Motivational Belief and Techno Culture on Moral Maturity Behavior of B.Ed Teacher Trainees in Kerala for total sample.
Sample of the study

The present study was carried out on a representative sample of Prospective teachers in Kerala State. The sample size is 600. Stratified Random Sampling technique was used on the basis of gender, subject of study, locale, type of management of colleges, educational qualification of parents and Parental Employment.

Tools used for the study

The tools used for the present study are:

1. Intellectual Style Questionnaire
2. Techno Culture Scale
3. Motivational Beliefs scale
4. Moral Maturity Behavior Scale
5. General Data Cum Response sheet

Statistical techniques used for the study

The following statistical techniques have been used for the analysis of data in the present study.

1. Preliminary Analysis (Mean, Median, Mode, Standard Deviation, Skewness and Kurtosis)
2. Two tailed test of significance of difference between mean scores for large sample.
3. ANOVA
4. Multiple Regression

Scope and Limitations of the Study

For measuring the variables appropriate and standardized tools were used. Sample was selected keeping all the parameters of actual representation of the population and the data collection process also conducted in a systematic manner. The obtained data were analysed and interpreted using adequate statistical
techniques. By adopting every precaution at all stages of research the investigator opts that the result obtained from this study is generalizable. The outcomes of this research effort are having wide implication in the current socio-socio cultural realm where the youth are susceptible to the impacts of techno-driven culture. As the present teacher trainees at secondary level are the social engineers of the future citizens, derivatives of this research effort has wide scope and applications both in the theory and practice of education in general and teacher education in specific.

Though almost care has taken by the investigator in each step of the research, certain unexpected limitations has happened in the research work. Due to time constrain the investigator restricted the data collection process by using four standardized tools with more than 50 item each in the same day, Contrary to the planning of collecting data using a single tool per day from an institution. This might affected the response of the sample. But the investigator could not control these because the administrators of the institution were not ready to ‘spoil’ their four working days in spite of the humble request made by the investigator.

All aspects of Intellectual Styles, Motivational Belief and Techno Culture were not considered for developing tools on it. There were limitations in considering all the areas of students’ life for assessing their Moral Maturity Behavior.

Organisation of the Report

The report of the study is presented in five chapters. The details incorporated in each chapter are as follows;

Chapter I present a brief introduction of the problem, need and significance of the study, statement of the problem, definition of the key terms, variables of the study, objectives of the study, hypothesis, methodology, scope and limitations of the study and organization of the report.

Chapter II presents the review of related literature which includes theoretical overview and review of related studies.
Chapter III presents the methodology of the study, details of variables, the tools used, selection of sample, procedure for data collection, scoring techniques used for analysis and statistical techniques used.

Chapter IV brings out the details of the statistical analysis of the data and discussion of the results.

Chapter V deals with the summary of the study, major findings, educational implications of the study and suggestions for further research in it.